

The Heart of Worship Mt 22:37

Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC Sunday, Jan 31, 2021

Reflection: When you separate the “Heart” from the Art of Worship, you end up with a vain worship that dishonors (and even disgusts) God. Isaiah 1:10-15; 29:13. Jesus revealed how God felt about such worship in Mt. 15:8,9 *“This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honor me with their lips; but their heart is far from me. But in vain they do worship me...”* Mat’ēn: empty manipulation! At the heart of true worship is genuine Devotion! (Love) Pr. 23:26 *“My son, give me thine heart,”*

(Lēb: heart, mind, feelings, will, effectively the very Center!)

If God isn’t at the Center, we’re not really worshipping Him! (See Ex. 20:3)

Genuine Devotion leads to Dedication (Commitment!)

Pr. 23:26 *“give me thine heart, and let thine eyes observe my ways.”* Rāṣā’: to delight in!

According to Mt. 22:37 God wants to be loved/worshipped:

- **Passionately:** *“with all thy heart (Kardi’a: thoughts, feelings, center!) and with all thy soul”* (psychē’: soul 58x; life 40x; mind 3x; heart 1x)

God also wants to be loved/worshipped:

- **Thoughtfully:** *“With all thy mind”* (dian’oia: mind 9x; understanding 3x; imagination 1x) from dia’: by, through, because and nous: intellect, mind, understanding

1. This is how God loves us! (Thoughtfully)

Ps. 40:17 *“I am poor and needy; yet the Lord thinketh upon me.”*

(Hāshab’: Considers, regards, values!)

Jer. 29:11 *“For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD,*

(Note: He also knows the thoughts we think toward Him! See Heb. 4:12,13)

thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.”

2. This is how God wants us to love (and worship) Him!

Romans 12:1 *“I beseech you therefore, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.”*

Logikos’: logical, rational Latrei’a: service (expression) of worship

How can complete surrender be “rational”?

A. God deserves our Devotion/dedication (1st place in our lives) for:

1) What He’s done. Col 1:12-14 *“Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet*

(Hikano’ō: qualified, able) *to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: Who delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:*

In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins:”

2) Who He is! Col. 1:15-18 *“Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature:*

For by him were all things created... all things were created by him, and for Him!” (See Rev. 4:11)

“And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, (archē’: first in order, time place and rank) the firstborn from the dead;”

- 3) What He **Does!** Col. 1:17 *"He is before (pro: above, superior) all things; and by him all things consist. (synista'o: hold together) (Example: Laminin Proteins) (See Heb. 1:1-3)*

While God certainly deserves our Devotion (1st place) He doesn't "Demand" it!

B. God desires our devotion! Col. 1:18 *"that in all things he might have the preeminence."* Prōteuō: first in rank and influence! (See Pr. 23:26)

John 4:23 *"the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh (zete'o: desires) Such to worship (proskyne'o: reverence, adore) him."*

Conclusion: God deserves and desires to be loved/worshipped:

Passionately: *"With all thy heart... soul"* and Thoughtfully: *"With all thy mind"*

When it comes to our devotion & dedication:

- 1) **Love and Reason are compelling cousins!** 2 Cor 5:14-15 *"For the love of Christ constrains us; (Synech'ō: Holds together, compels, preoccupies.) because we thus judge, (Krino: determine, conclude, reason!) that if one died for all, then were all dead: And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again."*

- 2) **This realization should motivate our Devotion, and dedication.**

God wants to be loved (and loves us) Passionately and Thoughtfully.

When we truly do so, our devotion and dedication become, not just a duty,

But our delight and "reasonable service" (Ro. 12:1; Jn 5:3; Gal. 2:20,21)

Application: Consider God's design for marriage:

- 1) Is it "reasonable" for us to expect complete devotion and dedication from our spouses?

Is it unreasonable for them to expect to be at the center of their hearts and thoughts?

Isn't this part of God's design? (1 Cor 7:33,34; Eph. 5:21-32; 1 Pt 3:1-7)

- 2) What happens when we allow other people/things to take priority over our spouses?

What's our natural human emotional response?

Where might this response come from?

Why do you think God speaks of himself as "Jealous"? Ex. 20:5; 34:14; Dt. 4:24; 5:9;

6:15; Josh. 24:19; Ezek. 39:25; Joel 2:18; Nahum 1:2; Zech. 1:14; 8:2; 2 Cor. 11:2

- 3) How do we correct this "shift" or drift in our devotion/dedication? See Rev. 1:13-2:5

Rev 2:4-5 *"Thou has left thy first love. Remember from whence thou art fallen, and repent,*

and do the first works;" (Protos: Foremost in time, place, order, & importance)

- 4) What will happen if we fail to prioritize this? Rev. 2:5 *"or else I will come ... remove thy*

candlestick out of his place, except thou repent." What does this mean?

We'll lose our light and love, effecting our testimony and effectiveness.

See Mt. 5:13-16; Eph. 5:21-33.