



SHEPHERDS

Reclaiming man's role in the world!

Men and Worship!

Galatians 4:8-10

Men's Breakfast

Sermon given on August 16, 2025



Pastor Rick Lancaster

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Opening Comments

- Today we continue the series: **SHEPHERD: Reclaiming man's role in the world!**
- This series is for men!
- This morning, we are going to talk about something most people in the world are doing wrong.
- I can say that because that is what God's Word says.
- I'm going to say a word, and I would like you to think about the first word that comes to mind.
- Ready? Worship!
- For church people, they might think of what we are supposed to do with God, usually at church.
- For some it is about singing or the musical portion of a 'Worship Service'.
- For those outside the church, the concept of worship is often very self-focused.
- My desire is to talk to people in the church.
- We need to understand what worship is.
- To answer questions, like:
- Do we have to worship?
- Does it matter who or what we worship
- Why should we worship the God of the Bible?
- When do we worship?
- How should we worship?
- And then finally, what is a man's role in worship?
- **Let's pray and we'll talk about men and worship.**
- Before we can understand our role in worship, we need to know what worship is.
- First, it is not the musical portion of the Sunday service, not any more than is the offering or the message.

- Music and singing are a part of how we worship God together, but by themselves they are not worship.
- Unbelievers can do that, but it is not the kind of worship we are talking about this morning.
- What is worship? The dictionary definition is:

Noun: the feeling or expression of reverence and adoration for a deity.

Verb: show reverence and adoration for (a deity); honor with religious rites.

- The AI definition of worship is:

Worship is a way of expressing the value and importance of the object of worship.

- Turn in your Bible to **Galatians 4**.
- From a secular perspective, that is what worship is.
- It is about reverencing something or someone that has value and importance in our life.
- This is how the world views worship.
- And sadly, it is how much of the church understands worship.
- We were created by God to worship.
- It is encoded into our very soul.
- Every culture in every place and time has developed a system of worship upon an object, person, or ideology.
- If you study socialism and communism, worship is directed toward the state/government.
- The latest expression of ideological worship is the gender ideology movement.
- People who have been deceived by this perverse ideology believe with religious fervor.
- You can see that manifest when someone resists or opposes their faith.
- We were created to worship, and we will worship.
- Paul talks about that.
- **Galatians 4:8**
- ‘when you did not know God’ = before you believed in Christ and were saved.
- Because you were created to worship, before you knew God, you found something else to worship.

- It can be almost anything.
 - It can be fame, reputation, money, or building a following.
 - It can be a person, someone famous, powerful, or rich.
 - It can be a sports team or athlete.
 - It can be playing video games or collecting memorabilia.
 - It can literally be anything.
 - ‘those by which by nature are not gods.’ If someone is not worshipping God, they are worshipping something that is not a god.
 - Or Paul says it can be worse than that. **1 Corinthians 10:20-21**
- ²⁰ Rather, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice they sacrifice to demons and not to God, and I do not want you to have fellowship with demons. ²¹ You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons; you cannot partake of the Lord’s table and of the table of demons.
- There are only two kingdoms in the world – the kingdom of God or the kingdom of the Devil.
 - There is no neutral kingdom, or your kingdom, just God’s or Satan’s.
 - If someone is not a part of God’s kingdom through faith in Christ, they are, by default, in Satan’s kingdom.
 - That is what Paul is saying in... **Ephesians 5:8a.**
- ⁸ For you were once darkness, but now **you are light in the Lord.**
- Everyone is worshipping something or someone.
 - Maybe not deliberately, but they are worshipping something.
 - If you are not worshipping God, your worship, either directly or indirectly is directed to Satan.
 - Turn to **John 4.**
 - God created every human with a built-in need to worship.
 - Before the fall in the Garden, our worship was always directed to God.
 - Since our ancient ancestors were kicked out of the Garden, we have chosen who or what to worship to please our fallen nature.
 - There is a right way to worship, and every other way is wrong.
 - Jesus has a conversation with a Samaritan woman at a well.
 - **John 4:19**

- The Samaritans were made up of Jews and non-Jews imported by the Assyrian king after the Northern tribes of Israel were exiled about 700 BC.
 - They mingled both with their race and their religion.
 - They worshipped the God of the Jews and pagan gods.
 - By the time Jesus shows up it has merged into a single religion that resembled Judaism but included many pagan rites and beliefs.
 - The Samaritan woman wants to know which one is right.
 - **John 4:20-24**
 - The way to worship God is spiritually and based in the truth.
 - Truth is what God says is truth – God’s Word.
 - The object of true worship is God and Him alone.
 - It is spiritual in nature and based upon the truth found in God’s Word.
 - That means that true worship takes place in the heart and mind before it is expressed in actions and behaviors.
 - Our thoughts and feelings are involved in true worship.
 - The primary feeling should be love. **Matthew 22:36-40**
- ³⁶ “Teacher, which *is* the great commandment in the law?” ³⁷ Jesus said to him, “ ‘*You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.*’ ” ³⁸ This is the first and great commandment. ³⁹ And the second is like it: ‘*You shall love your neighbor as yourself.*’ ” ⁴⁰ On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.”
- Our worship of God must be based on our love for God.
 - You can’t worship God if you don’t love Him. He is love.
 - Our love of God is based in our knowledge of God and what He has done for us.
 - You can’t love or worship God if you don’t know Him and what He has done for you.
 - As in all things we do with and for God, He wants us to be perfect.
 - But because we have a fallen nature, He knows perfection will elude us.
 - So, God chooses to accept our worship as an expression of our faith and obedience.
 - A definition for Christ-followers of...

Worship: What someone does who loves the One True God with their whole being, expressed in acts of faith and obedience to God's Word.

- Notice – there is no mention of religion or sacred acts or religious rites and rituals.
- None of those things are required to worship God.
- They can be a part of our worship, but only if that definition is already true in our heart and mind.
- Well, if worship isn't all the religious stuff, what is it? Everything!

Colossians 3:23-24

²³ And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, ²⁴ knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ.

- Literally everything you do should be considered an act of worship of God.
- I don't know about you, but that is a bit of a challenging thing to say.
- I have been known to be selfish and carnal.
- I don't do absolutely everything in the spirit, sometimes I let my flesh do what it wants.
- Thankfully, I can repent and get myself back into a right place with God.
- How do we make every moment an act of worship to God?
- It begins by thinking about God in relation to everything you are doing.
- We must remember that we are in a spiritual battle.
- If you are a Christ-follower, you are no longer in the kingdom of darkness.
- You are no longer under the authority and power of the Devil, like the rest of the world.
- Your soul is lost to him.
- But that doesn't mean he is done with you.
- If we allow it, he can still get to our heart and mind.
- Satan wants to be worshipped as God is worshipped.
- If the Devil can't get us to worship him, he will work to keep us from worshipping God.
- There is a spiritual battle going to determine who you will worship. 1

Corinthians 10:3-5

³ For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. ⁴ For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, ⁵ casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ...

- ‘take every thought...to the obedience of Christ’
- We must think about what we are thinking about, what we are saying, what we are looking at or listening to.
- And then ask yourself, is this what someone thinks, says, or does who loves the One True God with their whole being, expressed in acts of faith and obedience to God’s Word?
- If not, repent and try to do better.
- Ask for help from the Holy Spirit and the spiritual people God has placed around you.
- What is your role as a man in worship? Very simply, worship God!
- If you are walking in faith and obedience, then your life will be an example to everyone God wants your life to influence.
- God may call you to specific acts of faith and obedience, but if not, just worship Him.
- There are a number of things we can do to grow in faith and obedience which helps us to worship God.
- You know all these things; pray, read and study the Bible, be generous with the things God gives you, serve the church or the body of Christ, and many other spiritual disciplines.
- It probably won’t come as a surprise that we believe coming together to worship is important.
- When people who are indwelt with the Holy Spirit gather in the name of Christ to worship God the Spirit of God releases His power.
- Just remember, you can be religious about those things, or you can do them as what someone does who loves the One True God with their whole being, expressed in acts of faith and obedience to God’s Word.
- Guys, we were created to worship God.
- And when we do it right, in the power and leading of the Holy Spirit, in the name of Christ, God is glorified, others are blessed, and faith grows.

- **Let's pray!**