

# A Biblical and Theological Foundation for Christian Worship

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## Opening Activity

*Jubilate* (Psalm 100)

1 O be joyful in the Lord, all you lands; \*

serve the Lord with gladness, and come before his presence with a song.

2 Be assured that the Lord, he is God; \*

it is he that has made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

3 O go your way into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise; \*

be thankful unto him, and speak good of his Name.

4 For the Lord is gracious, his mercy is everlasting, \*

and his truth endures from generation to generation.

## Defining

Nichoals Wolterstorff, in *The God We Worship: An Exploration of Liturgical Theology*:

Worship of God “is a particular mode of Godward acknowledgement of God’s unsurpassable greatness...whose attitudinal stance toward God is awed, reverential, and grateful adoration” (p 26).

## Arcadi’s modification:

Worship is acknowledging God’s worship-worthiness with awed, reverential, and grateful adoration

Godward:

Acknowledgement:

Attitudinal stance:

Awed:

Reverential:

Grateful:

Adoration:

God’s unsurpassable greatness / Worship-worthiness:

“Facing God, they acknowledge God’s unsurpassable greatness in a stance of awed, reverential, and grateful adoration” (Wolterstorff, p 26).

## Further specifications

Worship as *relational* and *responsive*

## No one like Him

With whom, then, will you compare God? To what image will you liken him? (Isaiah 40:18)

Among the gods there is none like you, O Lord, nor are there any deeds like yours. (Psalm 86:8)

There is no one holy like the Lord; there is no one besides you; there is no Rock like our God. (1 Sam 2:2)

## When can we worship?

*Any time* you acknowledge a greatness about God can be a time of worship

“Acknowledgement” can occur

*explicitly* (like coming out and saying it)

or

*implicitly* (like acting in a certain way)

*Obedience* or *behavior* as an implicit way to *acknowledge*

## Psalm 51:16-19

16 For you desire no sacrifice, or else I would give it to you; \*  
but you delight not in burnt-offerings.

17 The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit; \*  
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you shall not despise.

18 O be favorable and gracious unto Zion; \*  
may you build up the walls of Jerusalem.

## Toward liturgical worship

Practicing the presence like learning a language

Seven times a day do I praise you, because of your righteous judgments (Psalm 119:164)

Peter and John were going up to the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour (Acts 3:1)