

Worship God's Way part 2

“Our entire being is fashioned as an instrument of praise... when we use body language to express praise, that which is internal becomes visible.”

Don McMinn

The Greek word most often translated as “Worship” is proskuneo.

It is a multifaceted word with several shades of meaning:

- **Proskuneo** = “The concept of prostrating oneself before God, lying flat on one’s face before the Lord.”
- A literal definition is: “To Adore, when we worship God, we are adoring Him, loving Him deeply and respectfully.”
- “To kiss hands toward someone”

- For most American men, it’s this last meaning that is difficult:

We get uncomfortable with public displays of affection.

But we serve a God who has very openly and publicly displayed His affection for us – as His Son died on a cross in public view, bloodied, beaten & naked to demonstrate how much He loves us.

Perhaps it’s a bias we have culturally created that men don’t show their emotions or display their affection publically?

We don’t get it from the Word of God.

A modern idiom for “To Kiss hands towards someone” means to blow kisses to God.

It’s a picture of a father or mother going off to work or leaving the family giving hugs and kisses for the day; but they see the car drive off and stand in the yard and wave and blow kisses as they separate.

Why are the kisses blown – because they adore each other.

Blowing kisses is an expression of love to someone who is a little farther away than you wish they were.

Jesus recognizes kisses as expressions of love: Luke 7:36-50

- A sinful woman comes weeping at His feet, anointing and kissing them.
- The Pharisee reproaches her for publicly inappropriate behavior; but Jesus defends her saying: “You gave Me no kiss, but this woman, since the time I came in, has not ceased to kiss My feet. You did not anoint My head with oil, but this woman has anointed My feet with ointment. Therefore, I say to you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven, for she loved much. But he who is forgiven little loves little.” Vv. 45-47.

Jesus recognizes the woman’s behavior, including her kisses, as expressions of love.

This is the only place in the Gospels where Jesus says someone [beside His Father] has demonstrated love towards Him. SAD!

Worship should include Adoration and it must be physically expressed to be true worship.

Just as is true in human relationships, the more intimate the relationship with God, the more passionate the expressions of affection should be.

Family expressions of affection:

- My family was not too open at expressing affection. The words were spoken, but there was little demonstration or action.
- Sylvia’s family was very open with their affection.
- I had to learn to be more open. I didn’t see it in my family and I was conditioned to be rather distant and non expressivie.
- We have a way of treating our brothers – sisters [family] that is different than how we treat people outside the family –
- But the more intimate the relationship – the more passion we will demonstrate.

The greater the intimacy of a relationship, the more passionately its love is expressed.

So the greater the intimacy of our relationship with God, the more passionate our worship should be.

It’s ok to be passionate – **we just have to learn to get over feeling intimidated to express our passion when we are in public.**

We come from different backgrounds and have different personalities; and our traditions of worship may be different and more reserved.

But – we do not have a stoic and reserved God. He is demonstrative and extravagant in His love for us – demonstrating it on the Cross in an extravagant and passionate way.

That is why the crucifixion of Christ is called the Passion.

Most of us have been trained to approach God by a fallen and emotionally crippled culture.

It is time to come out from under that instruction and sit at Jesus' feet as the woman of Luke 7 did.

If we are going to learn to love, let us learn it from Love incarnate – Jesus.

Jesus doesn't come to church services because He loves church services:

- **He comes because He loves you.**

Jesus doesn't show up in your prayer closet because He loves prayer:

- **He shows up because He loves you.**

He didn't go to the cross because He loves the cross.

- **He went to the cross because He love you. He wanted to win your love.**

He wants us to look at Him that way, with love in your eyes for Him.

Nothing ministers to His heart more than us loving Him.

Why do you come to church, go to Bible studies, go to prayer times?

- Is it because you love the music, message, social life?
- Is it because you love to study the Word?

A worshipper comes because of LOVE.

When love is the motivation of your heart; everything you do becomes worship.

Expression in Worship: Why is physical expression important?

How valuable is it to a child to receive a father's hug and kiss?

Is it enough for the child just to be told: "You know I love you. I provide for you."

The unwillingness to **show** affection leaves a hole in a child's heart that he/she will spend the rest of their life trying to fill?

Question: What woman would want to marry a man who will not demonstrate his love for her?

Who will not hold her hand or speak kindly to her?

Who does not remember her birthday or their anniversary day?

Who ignores her, thinks she is unattractive, doesn't ever initiate a touch, hug?

The woman may end up with a man like this after many years of marriage, but would any rational woman choose a man like that from the beginning?

How many men would choose a woman who is embarrassed to be seen with him?

Who is repulsed by the thought of his touch, has no desire for him?

How many men would want a passionless, loveless, disinterested type of woman?

Of course the answer to these questions is none of us wants a mate like this!

Does any man want to marry a bride like that?

News for us: **NEITHER DOES JESUS**

Jesus Christ did not die on the cross to have a woman – bride like that!

He put His passion on display to win the heart of every one of us with His love.

There are some ways we may think we are expressing love to God and He doesn't see as love:

- God doesn't not feel loved just because we sing Him a song that says we love Him.
- It is just as you would not feel loved if someone simply picked up a Hallmark card and signed their name to it and gave it to you in passing.
We need more than an empty Hallmark card from people.
God needs more from His bride.

Jesus told us how we can not only say but demonstrate how much we love Him:

“If you love Me, keep My commandments.” John 14:15

“He who has MY commandments and keep them is the one who love Me.

And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father. And I will love him and will reveal Myself to him.”

John 14:21

“Anyone who loves Me will obey My teaching, My Father will love them, and WE will come to them and make our home with them.”

John 14:23

“Anyone who does not love Me does not keep My words. The word which you hear is not Mine, but the Fathers who sent Me.” John 14:24

Worship must be expressed God’s way:

- God’s love language is obedience.
- Everything else, if not done on the foundation of obedience, is vanity and futility.
- God is not fooled. He knows who really loves Him.
- His true children demonstrate their love for Him by loving and following His ways.
- **Worship, as with all true love, begins with a motivation of the heart, but it must have expression in obedience.**