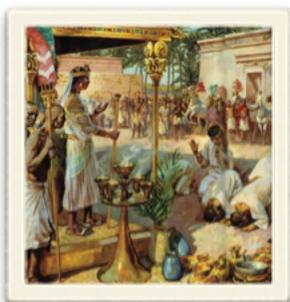


Bible on...Worship (to God)

Do we really need to come together for formal worship?

Sometimes called "corporate worship," the time that we gather together as Christians to worship our God is formal in the sense that we have an appointed time, an order to the service and it is public - open to any who wish to gather together.



The word "worship" in our Bibles literally means "to kiss" - the idea of bowing down and kissing the ground before a higher authority or deity. Basically, it is how someone shows reverence, glory and honor to someone (or something) else. We can "worship" many different people or things. Another word we might use in the same way is "idolize." You might hear someone say, "She worships Justin Bieber."

However, our focus is on God. The reality is that we can (and should) worship God as we go about our daily lives. The thoughts we have each moment should glorify God. Our actions should constantly show our reverence and honor for God and His place in our lives.

This leads some to say that worship to God in our daily lives is enough; we should not feel obligated to participate in formal worship. However, the Bible clearly teaches the concepts and importance of both an individual, daily worship and a periodic, formal, corporate worship.

We can find God's desire for formal worship throughout the Bible. The very first example is in Genesis 4 with the story of Cain and Abel. We can see very plainly from God's reaction to their worship that he not only desires formal worship but cares about how the individual participates in that worship.

What other attitudes do you find among your friends about worship?

What benefits do you think exist for someone practicing periodic, formal, corporate worship?

What other examples in the Bible can you think of that support the idea of formal worship?