

The Way of

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.

Romans 12:1

Worship

What is Worship?



Review

How we generally think of
worship and use the word
in the contemporary
church.



“The worship was great this morning.”

“I love that worship song.”

(or...“I don’t like that worship song.”)

*“I really look forward to the worship
time.”*

That is how the word “worship” is used in contemporary church culture.

Let’s look at the Scriptures to see what worship is.



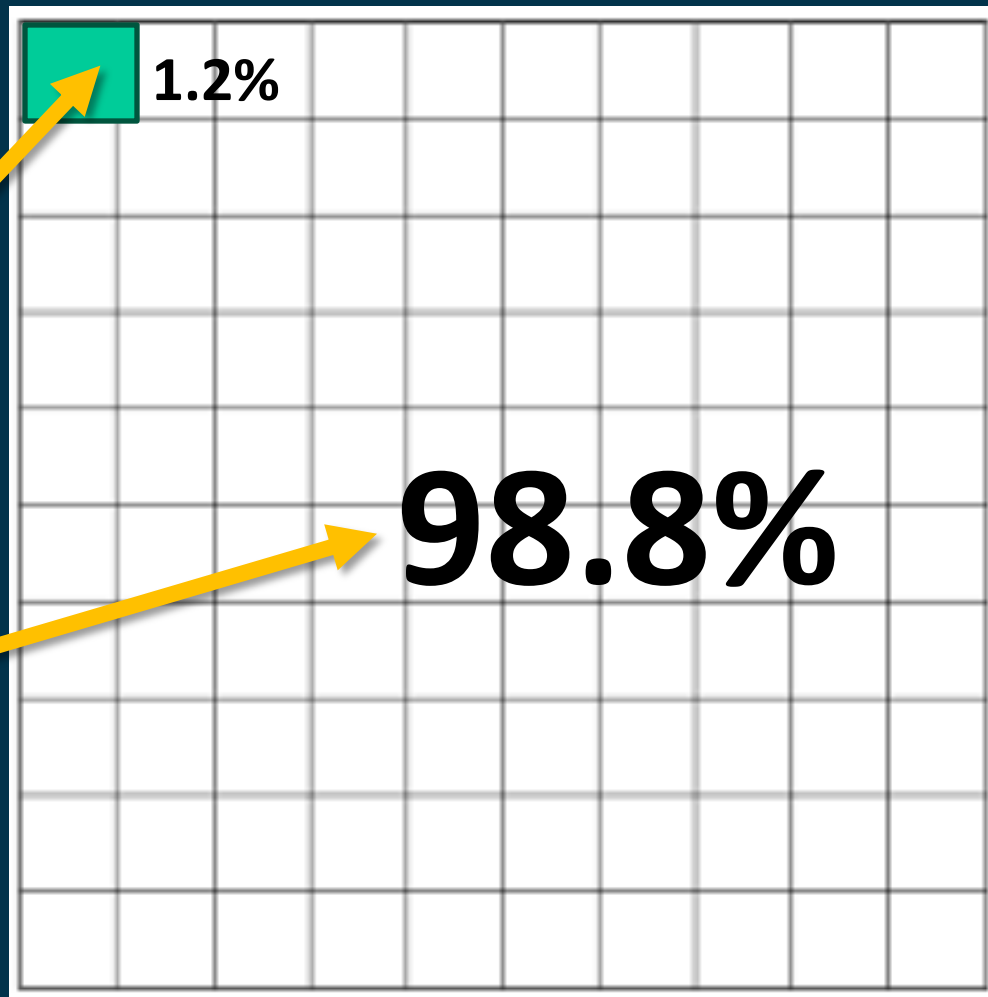
From the list of 254 uses of the word English-translated word “worship” in the Bible, there are only **three** uses of the English-translated word “worship” that are used in the literary context of music or singing.

That’s a $3/254$ ratio, or 1.2%, of any Biblical usage of the word “worship” in correlation to music or singing.

In the Scriptures:

“worship”
with music or
singing

“worship”
happening
other ways



**Throughout the entire Bible we see
singing and music happening –
absolutely.**

We have redefined worship in the contemporary church to primarily be equated with music and singing. Which means we may not be practicing what most of the Scriptures teach what worship is.

Worship in the Old Testament

THE FIRST BOOK OF MOSES, CALLED
GENESIS.

whose seed was in it
kind: and God saw th
13 And the evening
the third d
God

The Hebrew word **shachah** is the most commonly used word to describe **worship** in the Old Testament.



shachah:

שָׁחָה --- verb. = bow down



Bowing down was recognizing that there is no greater or more powerful being than God. The posture was representing **surrender.**

Surrender means yielding our
lives, control, possessions
to another.

We see surrendering
modelled when **sacrifices**
were made showing up a
giving up something of
value.

Joshua 22:27

“..we will **worship** the Lord at His sanctuary **with our burnt offerings, sacrifices** and fellowship offerings.”

Exodus 20:24-30

Make an **altar** of earth for me and **sacrifice** on it your burnt offerings and fellowship offerings, your sheep and goats and your cattle.

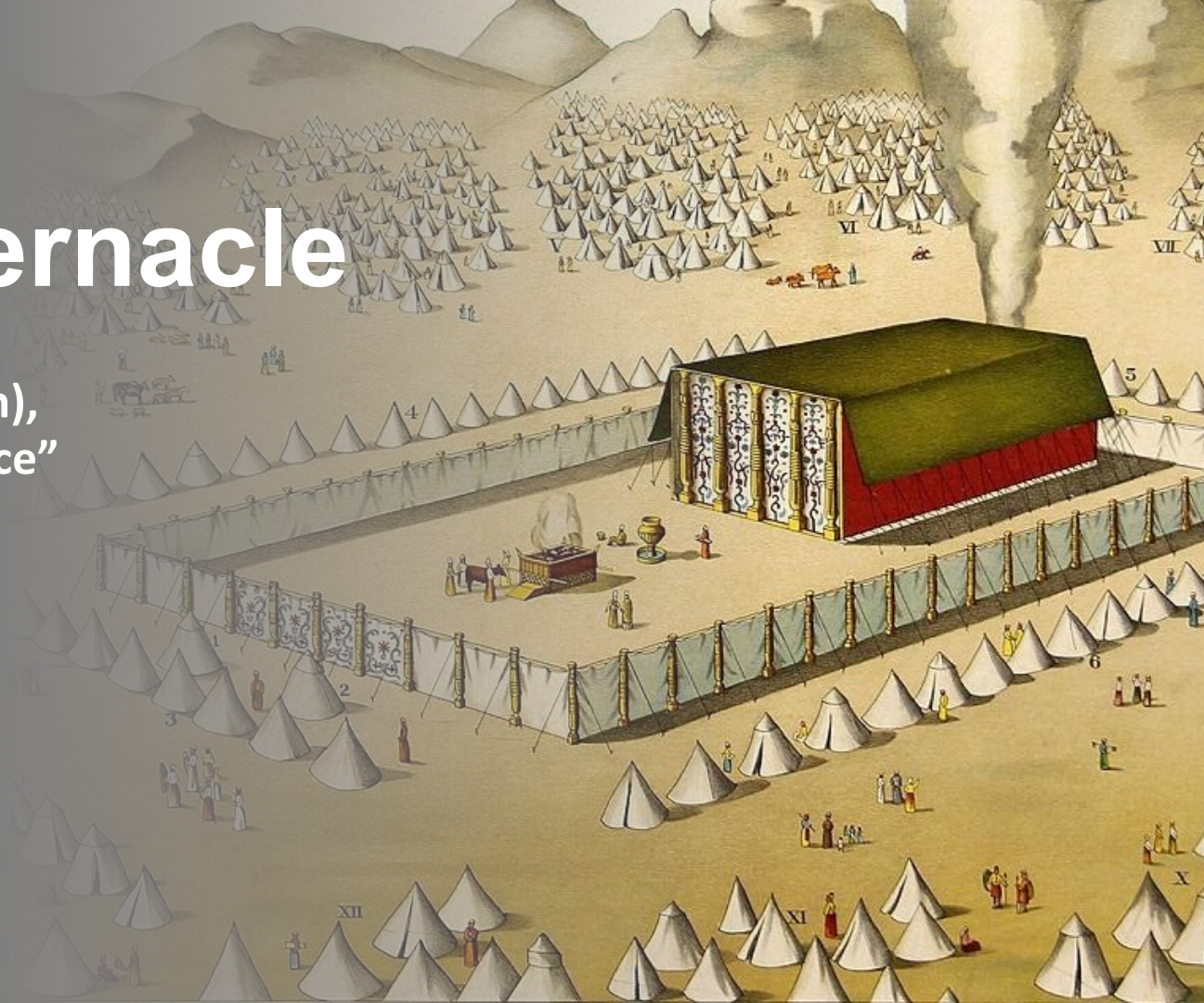
The Hebrew word for “altar” is “*misbeach*,” which is generally translated as “to slaughter” . Greek renders this word as *thusiasterion* “a place of sacrifice” .



The Tabernacle

(Hebrew מִשְׁכָּן miškan),
literally “dwelling place”

Exodus
Chapters 25-27





David understood worship costs something.

David asked to buy Araunah's threshing floor, to build an altar on it. Araunah freely offered the land to the king. But David refused. He insisted on paying for the land, because he could not make an offering of worship that cost him nothing.

2 Samuel 24:24

But the king said to Araunah, “No, but I will buy it from you for a price. I will not offer burnt offerings to the Lord my God that cost me nothing.”

We see a lot of music in
the Old Testament but it
is generally called

PRAISE

10% of the Temple ministries were musicians. David appointed 4,000 members of the 38,000-member tribe of Levi to serve as professional ministers of music and singers.

Praise

= *halal*, in the intensive form *hillel*, “boast about” (1 Chronicles 29:13; Psalms 44:8; 56:4; 84:4; 99:3; 111:1; 150:1–6).

The expression “Hallelujah!” means “Praise the Lord!” and is a combination of *hillel* and a short form of the Lord’s personal name.

Psalm 150

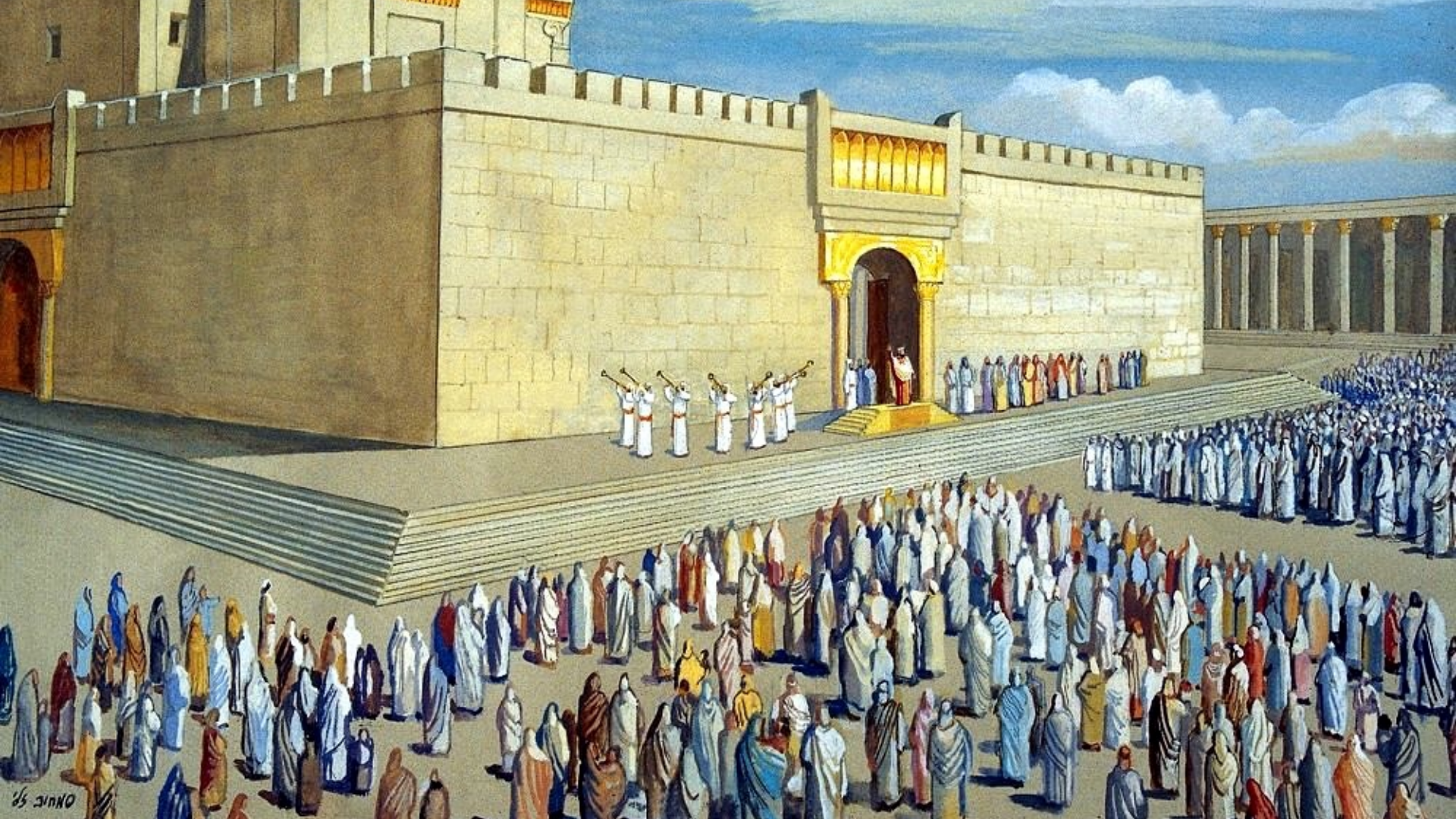
“Hear this, you kings! Listen, you rulers! I,
even I, will sing to the Lord;
I will **praise** the Lord, the God of Israel, in
song.

Psalm 149:1 “Praise the Lord! Sing a new song to the Lord, And His praise in the congregation of the godly ones.”

Psalm 57:9 “I will praise You, Lord, among the peoples; I will sing praises to You among the nations.

Praise is the singing and telling of who God is and what He has done for us.

Different than how we mainly see **worship** happening, **praise** does not require anything of us or cost us.

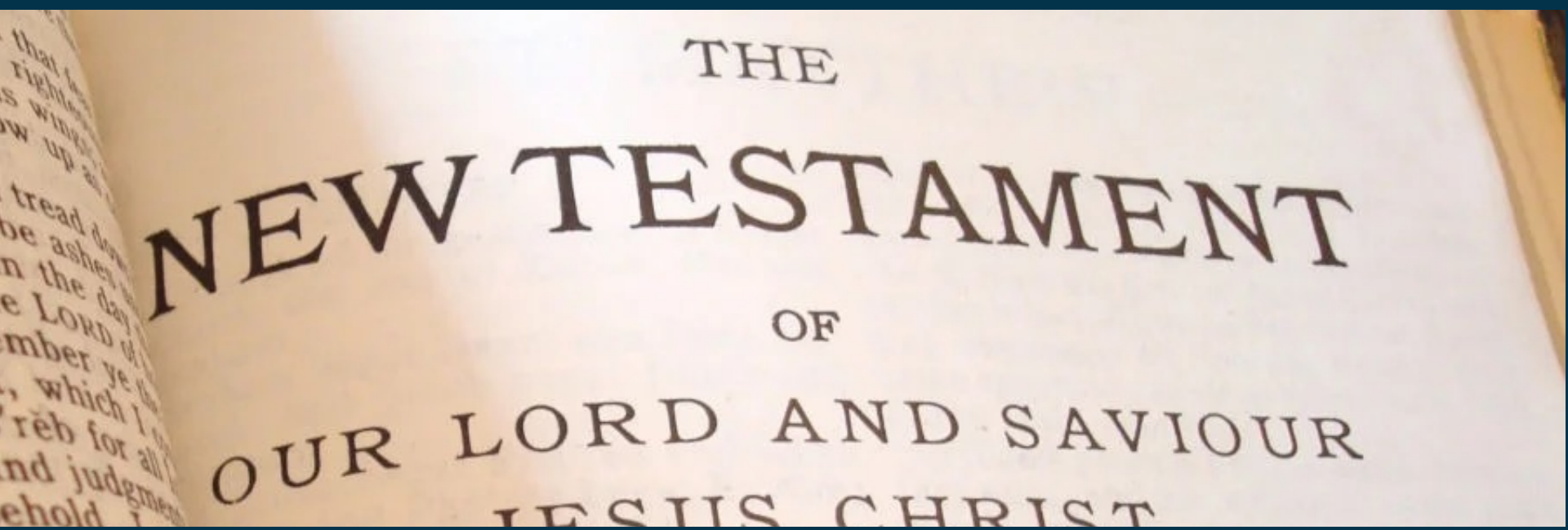


People would gather to praise
and worship God through song,
sacrifice and obedience.

Worship in Scripture almost always involved giving up something of value and cost back to God.

- sacrifice of animals or was a financial cost
 - bowing down shows the cost of when surrender of our rights
- obedience costs giving up our will or desires to be in alignment with God's

Worship in the New Testament



We see the word **worship** in the New Testament 27 times. None of them mention singing or music in correlation with the word. There is singing for sure in the New Testament but we don't see it mentioned as what worship is.

The most common word for **worship** in the New Testament is the Greek word “*proskuneo*”. The root of the word means to “kiss the hand”, as in the honor of someone. The word also means to “*fall down before or bow down before*”.

**We see a clear New
Testament definition of
“worship” in
Romans 12:1-2**

Romans 12:1-2

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship."

2 Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

- offer your bodies as a living sacrifice
- holy
- do not conform to the pattern of this world
- be transformed but the renewing of your mind

this is your true and proper worship.

Worship is the giving of our bodies as a living sacrifice. This means the willing and intentional offering of our entire lives, what we do with our bodies, our thoughts, our relationships, our decisions, our actions and yielding our will to His will is what full true worship is.

Worship is when do not conform to cultural norms and patterns of the world which may go against God's guidance in Scripture and His holiness. To worship means that we are in God's Word, the Scriptures, so there is a "renewing of our minds" in order that we know what his will is and what would be compromise or conforming to the world.

There are parts of culture that directly contradict Scriptural guidance that God gave us. Influences that can transform us not into God's will, but into "patterns of the world" or as James 1:27 says it "polluted by the world".

Offering our bodies as living sacrifices and not conforming to the world usually will mean we have tension when something in the world wants to pull us in a direction contradictory to Scriptural teaching. **Every time we choose God over conforming to culture which may not be in alignment with Scriptural guidance - we are worshiping.**

There are cultural pressures every day that we are faced with that would not be in alignment with holiness and God's will for our lives.

Every time we say no to them and choose to follow Scriptural guidelines over the patterns of this world – it often costs us.

That is worship.

**It is easy to worship by singing songs –
there is no sacrifice or cost.**

**It is not easy to worship by offering God
everything and obeying when it costs us.**

The worship was great today!

**The offering of ourselves as living sacrifices,
honoring God with our bodies and
decisions, holy living, renewing our mind
with Scripture and not conforming to the
world was great today!**

It's going to be a great night of worship!

**It's going to be a great night of honoring
God with our bodies and decisions, holy
living, renewing our mind with Scripture
and not conforming to the world!**

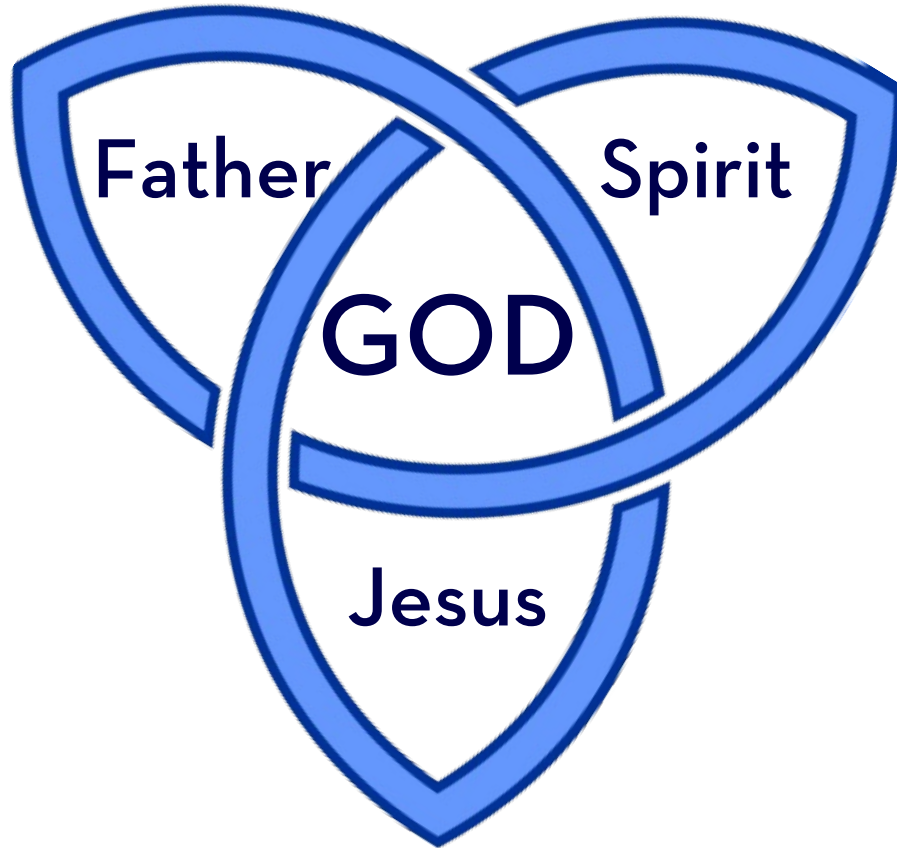
We are now going to worship” , imagine them saying “We are now going to offer our bodies as living sacrifices”.

Or after a Sunday gathering ends you hear *“The worship was really good today”* imagine hearing *“The offering of our bodies as living sacrifices was really good today”*

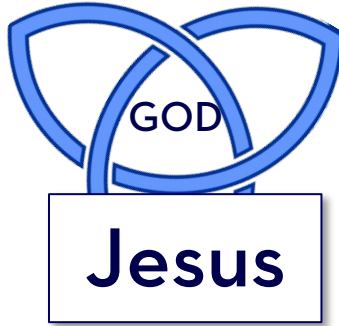
If we keep thinking “I have worshiped” by going through actions of singing, but really haven’t surrendered our will in full obedience, we haven’t really worshiped according to the definition of worship in the Scriptures.

The reason this is important is if mainly think of worship as singing, we are potentially missing all the ways we are to be worshiping according to Scripture. When we worship – our lives change as we are surrendering and making decisions to live in obedience to God's Word vs. what we may want to do or thing.

More on ways of worship next
two weeks ----- but the local
church was designed to help us
worship together.



God exists
eternally as
Father, Son
and Spirit

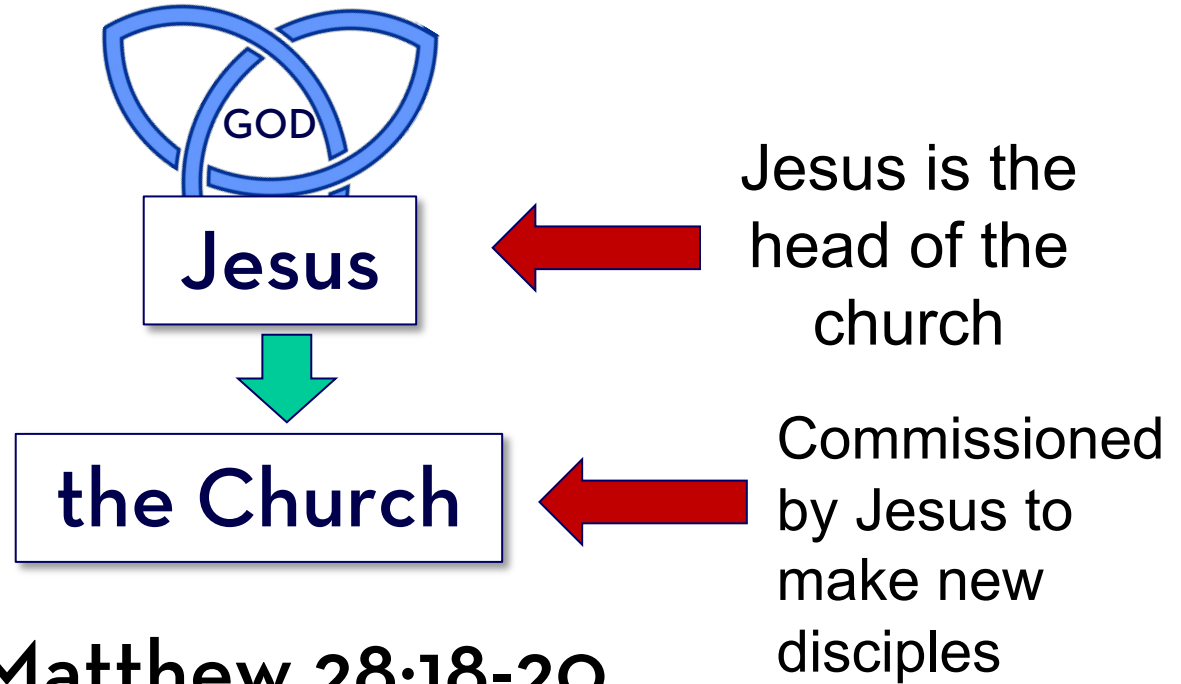


**Colossians
1:18**

**He is the head of
the body, the
church.....**

Matthew 16:18

I will build **my
church**, and the
gates of Hades will
not overcome it.



“...go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you....”

It isn't easy being worshipers of Jesus and living counter-culture. These local churches were important to help followers have community, pray for each other, sing songs of praise, study Scripture to be renewing their minds to know what holy living was and how to surrender to God in worship.

God had many letters written to them to know how to function as local worshiping communities on a mission. This is why much of the New Testament was written and formed.

- Romans, 1 and 2 Corinthians, 1 and 2 Thessalonians, Galatians, Ephesians, Colossians, Philippians, Philemon (had a church in his house), Timothy and Titus (included instruction on how to select local church leaders), Revelation (7 churches)

- The first churches (people) met in homes. But it wasn't casual or unorganized. They had appointed leaders, teaching, prayer, communion, identification of spiritual gifts to use serving, giving finances as acts of worship.

If "I'm a Christian but
I don't need the church"
was a photo.











