

HBC DSM -Philosophy of Worship

Defining Worship

Worship is our response to who God is and what He has done. It is the act of ascribing worth to Him. We are called to passionately worship our Savior both corporately and individually. We strive to worship corporately through worship services each weekend and through weekly small group meetings.

Worship can occur in many different forms, such as singing, prayer, study of the Word, spiritual disciplines, etc., Worship should be an ongoing response in the lives of Christians.

One of the pillars at Harvest Bible Chapel is lifting high the name of Jesus in passionate worship. Our aim is to give unashamed adoration to our God and King. We do this through preaching, music, art, songwriting, testimonies, video, photography, and any other biblically appropriate medium we can use. God has poured His creativity all around us, and we strive to reflect the glory back to Him.

The worship ministry of Harvest exists to help our people experience the sufficiency and express the supremacy of Christ in all things.

Doctrine of Worship

The chief purpose of mankind is to glorify God by loving Him with the entire heart, soul, mind and might. (Deuteronomy 6:5; Isaiah 43:7; Matthew 22:37) All believing men, women and children are to glorify God and thus fulfill the purpose of their existence. Worship glorifies God through adoration, (Psalm 95:6) praise, (Psalm 99:5) prayer, (Daniel 6:10-11) thanksgiving, (Nehemiah 12:46) and a complete yielding to Him. (Romans 12:1) Worship declares His worth, pays Him homage and celebrates Him in a life of devotion. We seek to worship the Lord in spirit and in truth. (Exodus 15:1-21; 2 Samuel 6:14-16; Psalm 5:7; John 4:23-24; Revelation 4:11; 5:12)

Several convictions guide our worship. We seek to:

1. Lift high the name of Jesus Christ (John 4:22-26; John 12:32).
2. Lead God's people to lift their hearts and voices to Him, giving Him praise and thanks in music and lyric (Nehemiah 12:45-46; Psalm 66:1-4; Psalm 95:1-2).
3. Prepare hearts to hear the Lord speak through the proclamation of Scripture (Psalm 95:6-9; Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 2:41-42).
4. Emphasize fresh and contemporary expressions while retaining traditional elements that recognize the richness of our heritage in the faith (Deuteronomy 32:7; Psalm 33:3; Isaiah 46:8-9; Matthew 13:32, Ephesians 5:19; Revelation 5:9).
5. Pursue excellence in worship, knowing that God is worthy of our best (Deuteronomy 17:1; Psalm 33:3, 1 Timothy 4:14-15; Hebrews 11:4).

Philosophy of Worship

Because God has rescued and redeemed us into a community of believers, we are passionate about equipping and encouraging everyone who comes to our church with a biblical view and practice of worship. Below are the beliefs guiding us to accomplish this:

1. We believe that worship of God is the appropriate response for all of humanity.
2. We believe that only those who have been saved by Jesus Christ can worship God in a manner that pleases Him.
3. We believe that salvation through faith in Jesus Christ is the point of transformation in our worship as we move from spiritual death to life.
4. We believe that our worship is directed to God alone.
5. We believe that our worship is meant to glorify God and edify one another.
6. We believe that worship is both personal and corporate and that it is not healthy or appropriate for a Christian to neglect either aspect of worship.
7. We believe it honors God when believers gather to worship Him.
8. We believe that the environment of the worship service should facilitate congregational singing.
9. We believe that songs that promote congregational singing are to be preferred for corporate gatherings of the church.
10. We believe that worship must be God-centered and not man-centered.
11. We believe the content of worship should be guided by God's Word.
12. We believe that the forms of worship should be guided by God's Word.
13. We believe that God cares about both the external (modes/content) and internal (heart) aspects of our worship.
14. We believe that God is displeased when our external worship is not matched by our internal disposition towards Him.
15. We believe that God is pleased when His people worship Him passionately.
16. We believe that it is good to respond to God with shouts of praise and thanksgiving, arms lifted high, or other culturally-appropriate expressions of worship.
17. We believe that God sets the standard for acceptable worship and that it is unwise or sinful to promote content or forms of worship that He does not approve.
18. We believe that it is the pastor's role to discern and protect the flock from false teaching, including that which comes through singing.