

## **Why Worship?**

Why do we worship God? I can give four reasons:

First, God acts. As we see His creation and, most importantly, as we understand His grace in Christ Jesus, our Lord and Saviour, we recognise the dynamic involvement of our creating, redeeming, and sanctifying God. Worship begins with God entering our world in love.

Second, as a result of God's actions, we want and need to respond to Him. There is a natural human desire to express feelings of awe and wonderment in particular ways. According to many modern sociologists, ritual is an important part of the human experience. Worship, therefore, is a proper response to God's activities for us, to us, and in us.

Third, God commands that we worship Him. This may be more obvious than we think. God has given many commands, some of which we do not always understand. As we mature in the faith, we find that God's commands are good. He has commanded that we worship Him, that we take time to be with Him, and that we come together with other believers to respond to His work in our lives. This quality time with God is His gracious will and loving wish for us.

Fourth and finally, in obedience to God, we worship. Because of our sinful condition, we do not always "feel" like worshipping. However, despite our feelings, God wants our physical, emotional, and spiritual selves to come into His presence. Our worship is not merely for ourselves but for Him who loved us enough to send His Son and Spirit.

Thus, our worship is multidimensional: Our worship is from God to us and from us back to God. Our Lord speaks and we listen. The rhythm of our worship is from Him to us, and then from us back to Him. He gives His gifts, and together we receive and extol them. We build one another up as we speak to one another in psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs.