

# WORSHIP

Christianity  
Practices

## Worship

Acts of religious praise, honour or devotion

### Liturgical worship

A church service that follows a set structure of ritual

### Non-liturgical worship

A service that does not follow a set structure or ritual

### Informal worship

A type of non liturgical worship, sometimes spontaneous or charismatic in nature

### Private worship

When a believer praises or honour God on their own

### Worship can take many forms including:

- Prayer
- Singing hymns
- Reading the Bible
- Pilgrimage
- Celebrating festivals
- Going to Church
- Using religious art
- Meditation
- Sacraments such as baptism and holy communion

**Quaker worship is mainly silent.** They believe that through silent worship together, each person can receive the gift of God's presence and truth.

'Sing to the Lord, for he has done glorious things; let this be known to all the world.'  
*Isaiah 12:5*

'Worship the Lord in the splendour of his holiness...' *Psalms 96:9*

'Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs.' *Psalms 100:2*

'It is written: 'Worship the Lord your God and serve him only.' *Luke 4:8*

'All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. *2 Timothy 3:17*

### Why do Christians worship?

Worship allows Christians to **praise** and thank God for his blessings. To **ask** for **forgiveness** of sin or to seek **help** for themselves or others. Worship deepens a Christian's **relationship** with God and gives them **comfort** and **strength** to lead a Christian life.

### Past Exam Questions

**Spec 2:** 'Private worship has more meaning for a Christian than public worship.' (12)

**2018:** Explain two contrasting examples of Christian worship. (4)

### Liturgical worship is important because...

- People receive the living presence of Jesus through Holy Communion
- Jesus taught the Lord's prayer
- Liturgical worship is a ritual that has been passed down through generations
- Tradition

### Non liturgical worship is important because...

- Faith is expressed in a variety of ways
- Christians may have personal interpretations of Bible stories
- People can take an active part in church by praying aloud or speaking without formal training.
- Non liturgical or informal services may have more of an emotional impact
- Personal revelation from God

### Possible Questions

Explain two reasons why Christians worship. (4)

Explain two ways they Christians worship God. (5)

Explain two reasons why liturgical worship is important to Christians. (4)

**Spec 2:** 'Private worship has more meaning for a Christian than public worship.' (12)

### Arguments in support

- an individual Christian can choose how he or she wants to worship in private/whereas in public worship they have to follow what everyone else is saying and doing/this has more meaning because they can put their heart and soul into it
- it has more meaning because a Christian cannot pretend/or just copy everyone else when they worship in private/it is likely to be real worship
- Jesus told his disciples to pray in private because God would see them/and they wouldn't be tempted to show off/it will have more meaning because they are following Jesus' teaching, etc.  
Arguments in support of other views

### Arguments in support of other views

- Christians will feel supported by others when they worship in public / this has just as much (or more) meaning because they are part of a community / they may struggle to worship on their own.
- In private worship Christians may not know what to do or say / but in public worship there will be someone to lead them / this makes sure the worship has meaning.
- Christians need both private and public worship because each has a different meaning / e.g. feeling close to God but also part of God's people / one does not have more meaning than the other, etc.

**2018:** Explain two contrasting examples of Christian worship. (4)

Students may include some of the following points, but all other relevant points must be credited:

- Liturgical forms of worship follow the same set pattern every time / non-liturgical worship has no set form or ritual.
- Liturgical worship is led by a priest, who leads the congregation in prayer (for example) / whereas non-liturgical worship may have an appointed leader or no leader at all.
- Liturgical worship uses set biblical passages (so for example the sermon is usually taken from a specific text) / non-liturgical worship may focus entirely on scripture as the 'word' / scriptural passages may be used as the basis for meditation or for informal extempore prayer.
- In liturgical worship, the priest may perform symbolic actions such as those associated with the ritual of the Eucharist / non-liturgical worship may be less structured and symbolic, being charismatic, free-flowing and 'Spirit-led'.
- Quaker worship is often silent / in contrast to charismatic worship or liturgical worship, where worshippers might exercise the spiritual gift of speaking in tongues.
- Private worship might focus on prayer and meditation / contrasting (for example) with worship in the family through saying grace at meals / having bedtime prayer with children / and by Bible study in small groups.
- Private worship which may involve only one individual and no set form of worship may be contrasted with public worship involving people joining together as a community and often a set order, etc.