

Worship – What is it?

Points to Consider

1. Definitions in Old and New Testaments
2. The original usage of the word
3. How the usage of the word “worship” has evolved

Definitions in the Old and New Testaments

Old Testament

OT:7812 shachah (shaw-khaw'); a primitive root; to depress, i.e. prostrate (especially reflexive, in homage to royalty or God): KJV - bow (self) down, crouch, fall down (flat), humbly beseech, do (make) obeisance, do reverence, make to stoop, worship. (Biblesoft's New Exhaustive Strong's Numbers and Concordance)

OT:7812 1. bow down, prostrate oneself, before a monarch or superior, in homage, etc. 2. before God, in worship, etc. 3. before other gods. (from Brown-Driver-Briggs Hebrew and English Lexicon, by Biblesoft,)

New Testament

NT:4352 - proskuneo (pros-koo-neh'-o); from NT:4314 and a probable derivative of NT:2965 (meaning to kiss, like a dog licking his master's hand); to fawn or crouch to, i.e. (literally or figuratively) prostrate oneself in homage (do reverence to, adore): KJV - worship. (Biblesoft's New Exhaustive Strong's Numbers and Concordance)

NT:4352 - from Aeschylus and Herodotus down; the Sept. very often for (to prostrate oneself); properly, to kiss the hand to (toward) one, in token of reverence... hence, among the Orientals, especially the Persians, to fall upon the knees and touch the ground with the forehead as an expression of profound reverence ("to make a 'salam'"); Latin veneror (Nepos, Conon. 3, 3), adoro (Pliny, h. n. 28, 5, 25; Suetonius, Vitell. 2); hence, in the N. T. by kneeling or prostration to do homage (to one) or make obeisance, whether in order to express respect or to make supplication. It is used a. of homage shown to men of superior rank: ...explaining it by the (Egyptian) custom of bowing upon the magistrate's staff of office in taking an oath; cf. Chabas, Melanges Egypt. III. i., p. 80, cf. p. 91 f; but see below). b. of homage rendered to God and the ascended Christ, to heavenly beings, and to demons... (from Thayer's Greek Lexicon, PC Study Bible)

The thought behind worship is to _____ down as a sign of respect and reverence for the one you are worshipping.

The original usage of the word

Old Testament

Gen 18:1-5 - Abraham _____ (bowed himself to the ground before) the three men who came to his tent.

Gen 27:29 - Isaac's blessing to Jacob included nations worshipping him and his mother's _____ worshipping him.

Gen 37:5-11 - Joseph dreamed that brothers would _____ him. His brothers understood that that word meant _____ over and having _____ over.

Gen 42:6 - Here we discover that worshiping often went to the point of putting your face to the _____ in front of someone.

Joseph worshiped his father (Gen 48:12).

Jacob blessed Judah with the blessing of having his brothers worship him. (Gen 49:8)

Ex 18:7 - Moses worshiped his father-in-law, _____.

New Testament

Matt 18:23-27 - The borrower came and _____ the lender asking for time to repay an unpayable debt.

How the usage of the word “worship” has evolved

Acts 3:11-16 - Peter wanted everyone to know right away that it was not because of _____ power or godliness that he and John were able to heal the lame man.

God can do what no one else can do, even _____ the dead.

Jesus was the _____ One and the Prince of Life.

Acts 10:24-26 - Luke 5:5-11

Peter realized the Jesus was different than him. Jesus could do something that Peter couldn't do. Jesus could _____ nature.

Matt 14:29-33 *So He said, "Come." And when Peter had come down out of the boat, he walked on the water to go to Jesus. 30 But when he saw that the wind was boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink he cried out, saying, "Lord, save me!" 31 And immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him, and said to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?" 32 And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. 33 Then those who were in the boat came and worshiped Him, saying, "Truly You are the Son of God." NKJV*

The apostles worshiped Jesus because they realized that he was not _____ by nature.

Acts 14:8-18 After Paul healed a crippled man in Lystra, the people of the city worshiped him as a **god**.

Paul made at least three arguments on why the people should not worship him in that manner. They are:

1. Paul's _____ was not the same as God's nature.
2. God is the only one who can _____.
3. God is the only one who can _____.

Acts 16:29-34 When the jailer fell down before Paul and Silas, they immediately took the focus off of themselves and put it on Jesus _____.

Conclusion:

It is acceptable to honor and show respect to men, even if it means bowing before them. However, it is never and has never been acceptable to elevate a man to God's level or bring God down to man's level. Why? God's nature is different from ours and God can do things that we can't do.