

## WARMING UP TO WORSHIP

Romans 12:1-8 ESV

Everyone who comes to church to worship God should be taking steps beforehand to ensure that they are p\_\_\_\_\_ to enter into worship, so that our worship may be a \_\_\_\_\_ to the One who is worthy of our praise.

Often when we say, "I got a lot of out of the worship service today," we mean it in one specific way, and it's not necessarily what we should want or what we should expect to get out of the service.

Music is a key part of praise and worship, but it's not all there is to it.

As it turns out, better f\_\_\_\_\_ doesn't always equal better \_\_\_\_\_.

The real key to "getting more" out of the worship service is not to create a "better" worship service, or to find a church that can produce a "better" worship service; but rather, the key to getting more out of worship is to come to the service better p\_\_\_\_\_, with a better a\_\_\_\_\_.

### THREE ATTITUDES TO ADOPT

1. An Attitude of Surrender. Ref: Romans 12:1

By using the word b\_\_\_\_\_ Paul is saying that we are to present all of ourselves Ref: Romans 12:1: John 3:30 ESV

The Greek word translated present means to make a\_\_\_\_\_, to offer, to give, or to give up — so Paul is talking here about the idea of letting yourself go, of surrendering yourself completely to God.

2. An Attitude of Sacrifice Ref: Romans 12:1

Paul used the term *sacrifice* because his ancient readers would understand the concept of sacrifice, not only because it appears in the Old Testament, but also because it was a central part of all ancient religions. Ref: Romans 12:1

Today we think of religion as a system of belief and corresponding b\_\_\_\_\_. In ancient times, however, religion was primarily about sacrifice.

Worship is our time to give to God that which he is due. Ref: Romans 12:3

Worship isn't something that we do for ourselves, for our own entertainment, to make ourselves feel good. Worship is our time to give to God that which he is due: the praise and the honor and the glory he deserves.

The paradox is that the more we surrender to him, and the more we offer ourselves as a living sacrifice, the more he blesses us.

But it's essential that we remember that our time of worship is not for us. It's a time when we come to give to God — and we are to come with our hands lifted up, not with our hand held out. We come to give, not get. Hebrews 13:15

That's what our worship should be: a sacrifice of praise. It means that we come with an attitude of paying a price: What can I give to God today? Which part of myself can I leave behind?

### 3. An Attitude of Service. Romans 12:5-8

Paul is saying that we all have different gifts, so let's use them to serve the church and to serve one another. Because when we serve, we worship. Serving God and serving one another is an act of worship. Ref: Romans 12:5-8

Before we can enter into an experience of worship — whether it's Sunday morning or Monday through Saturday — we need to come with an attitude that says: I'm not here to be served, but to serve.