

Palisades Community Bible Church

Online Bible Study

What Is Your Worship Language?

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Have you ever been in a worship service and the music, prayer and exhortations somehow captured your heart; and your love for Christ just came gushing out? Have you ever attended a worship service in which you felt a bit lost, or uncomfortable?

Perhaps you have a “worship language.”

Have you ever heard of a person’s “worship language?” Me neither. I combined two terms, which seem to make sense, and I hope it will help us to understand, not only worship, but our own personal approach to worship. It may help us understand why some things folks call ‘worship’ work for you, and others do not.

As Christians, we say we “worship” God. We have private worship, we have Worship Services, we have a Worship Leader, we have a worship time, etc. Worship is something we do that seems to be different from Fellowship, Preaching, Teaching, Praying, caring for kids in the nursery, visiting the sick or elderly, etc. Worship is what we do that is different from those things.

Webster’s tells us that “worship” is showing extravagant respect, admiration, or devotion toward something, or someone, such as God. When we “worship” we adore, deify, glorify, revere the object of our “worship.”

OK, so WHY do we worship God? That seems rhetorical. We worship God because we LOVE him. Well, why do we love him?

John 4:19 “We love because He first loved us.”

We love and worship Jesus because he has saved us FROM our life of sin and INTO eternal life with Him. Christians have a lot of love behind the worship that we give to our Lord. If you were drowning in the ocean and someone in a boat pulled you in, they’d have saved you from drowning, and saved you into safety.

Try this; we love our parents because they first loved us. Because they loved us first, we learned to love others. How do we know they loved us? They GAVE of themselves to nurture us, care for us, protect us, and they continue loving us long after we've left the nest. Likewise, because Jesus first loved us, and gave of Himself for us, we love Him. This love we've received also extends toward others.

Let's define love. In the simplest of terms, love is the opposite of selfishness. When you love, you are motivated to give to the object of your affection. To love is to give. A mother loves her child, and gives up sleep to change a diaper in the middle of the night. A father loves his family and gives himself to his job in order to provide for them.

Because Jesus first loved us, by giving, we also love HIM. We, therefore, give our adoration, praise, admiration, respect, etc. to Jesus. It's not repayment, it's a reflection. We love because we are loved. What is poured into us grows and spills out.

John 3: 16 For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. 17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

OK, So Far? Nothing New, Yet? Stay Tuned...

If we apply our definition of "love," we see that there is emotion that precedes the giving, but that loving is giving. However, suppose you're the drowning victim and someone pulls you into the boat. You feel strong emotion toward the person who gave to you their hand that saved you. That strong emotion motivates you to give in return. What do you do?

1. Do you give them a gift?
2. Do you praise them verbally?
3. Do you befriend them?
4. Do you hug them, hold their hand and stay close to them?
5. Do you clean up their boat, organize the gear, and help them tie up at the dock?

Any one of these demonstrations might be a fine way of showing love toward the person who first loved you. OK, think of your parents. After raising you from an infant, and getting you into adulthood, how do you show your love for them?

1. Do you buy them gifts, like a new loveseat, or a gas grill?
2. Do you tell them what great parents they are, compliment their sense of fashion, tell them how smart they are and how solid their advice is?
3. Do you visit them often, take them to dinner, and have them over to your house frequently?
4. Do you refuse job opportunities that would take you away from them, preferring to remain as physically close to them as possible?
5. Do you mow their grass, wash their car, help around the house?

I hope this isn't making you feel uncomfortable. All we're doing is examining the "Five Love Languages" Dr. Gary Chapman analyzed in his book of the same title.

"The premise of 'The 5 Love Languages' book is quite simple: different people with different personalities give and receive love in different ways." (Dr.

Chapman is a well-known marriage counselor and director of marriage seminars. "The 5 Love Languages" is one of Chapman's most popular titles, topping various bestseller charts for years, selling over twenty million copies and has been on the New York Times bestsellers list since 2007.)

If it's true that we give and receive love in different ways, can it be that we **worship** in different ways?

In other words, you probably give and receive love differently than 80% of those around you. Chapman's book helps the reader understand the five different ways that individuals give and receive love. By understanding your own love language, and the love languages of those around you, a deeper understanding of the expression of love may be realized.

Example: I once worked in a healthcare industry. I had asked an assistant in a customer's organization (in another city) to send me some things that I knew took him over an hour to do. As thanks, I used my expense account to send him a coupon for a dinner at a nice restaurant. When he received it, he called me up, offended. He told me he did not do it for any 'coupon' (there was ice in the word). He said he was simply happy to be of service. So, I asked if he knew of

anyone who might not be able to afford a dinner out, and could he gift it to them. He brightened up and said “Sure! Thank you!” Later, I sent him a heartfelt letter thanking him for his valuable help and for illuminating me to the fact that not everyone works for money. We had many nice exchanges after that – because I’d learned that his love language was “acts of service.”

Do You Worship God The Same As The Next Person?

If you have a ‘love language,’ do you have a ‘worship language?’ it’s a reasonable question, given that worship is an expression of love. Because we are loved, we love (John 4:19). But, do we do it in one of five different ways? Do we do it in all five ways?

To answer that question, let us look at the five love languages:

- 1. Acts of Service:** For these people, actions speak louder than words. Doing things for others is how one shows love.
James 2:18 But someone will say, "You have faith; I have deeds." Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by what I do.
- 2. Receiving/Giving Gifts:** For some people, receiving a heartfelt gift is what makes them feel most loved, and giving a gift is their best way of showing love.
2 Corinthians 8:2 In the midst of a very severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity.
- 3. Quality Time:** This language is all about giving the other person your undivided attention. Focused time is loving.
John 15:5 I am the vine, you are the branches: He that abides in me, and I in him, the same brings forth much fruit: for without me you can do nothing.
- 4. Words of Affirmation:** This language uses words to affirm, build up and honor other people. Genuine verbal validations and expressions of support are loving.
Luke 7: 6 So Jesus went with them. He was not far from the house when

the centurion sent friends to say to him: “Lord, don’t trouble yourself, for I do not deserve to have you come under my roof. 7 That is why I did not even consider myself worthy to come to you. But say the word, and my servant will be healed. 8 For I myself am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. I tell this one, ‘Go,’ and he goes; and that one, ‘Come,’ and he comes. I say to my servant, ‘Do this,’ and he does it.” 9 When Jesus heard this, he was amazed at him, and turning to the crowd following him, he said, “I tell you, I have not found such great faith even in Israel.”

5. **Physical Touch:** To this person, nothing speaks more deeply than appropriate physical touch.

Luke 7: 38 8 As she stood behind him at his feet weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears. Then she wiped them with her hair, kissed them and poured perfume on them.

How Do The Love Languages Translate Into Worship Language?

There is a little of each of these love languages in each of us. However, Dr. Chapman points out that there tends to be a dominant, and a secondary, language in most cases. If you think about it, you’ll probably see the areas that describe yours the best.

If we return to the beginning of this study, I intentionally overstated something:

“Worship is something we do that seems to be different from Fellowship, Preaching, Teaching, Praying, caring for kids in the nursery, visiting the sick or elderly, etc. Worship is what we do that is different from those things.”

Truthfully, if we look at the five languages of love, some of us may very well worship, or show our love for Jesus, through fellowship, or teaching, or preaching, or visiting the sick, etc. Some of us may give a gift that is a true expression of adoration of our savior. Others may give words of affirmation to someone who is depressed, grieving, or in pain in a way that comes only from that well of love from Christ. Others may hold a hand, or give a hug at those times when everything else is insufficient. Some may sing praises and read Scriptures aloud

with deep joy and thanks. Any of these acts can represent one of the five ways you express love...Worship.

Matthew 25: 34 “Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. **35** For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, **36** I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.’

37 “Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? **38** When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? **39** When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’

40 “The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’

If singing a particular song doesn't feel like you are showing love to God, but writing your tithe check does, don't feel as if you're missing a step. If raising your hands in a service feels uncomfortable but holding hands with the person next to you while praying feels normal, don't assume a negative. We are ALL made in the image of our God, and His love contains every dimension. How can we, being imperfect, expect to have perfect love?

There's an old country song written by Ned Miller that can help us to apply our individual love language:

Do What You Do Do Well

He couldn't move a mountain nor pull down a big old tree
But my daddy became a mighty big man with a simple philosophy

Do what you do do well boy. Do what you do do well
Give your love and all of your heart and do what you do do well

Sometimes he'd kiss my mother, and hold her tenderly
Then he'd look across the top of her head then he'd wink and say to me

Do what you do do well boy. Do what you do do well
Give your love and all of your heart and do what you do do well

Well he was a man of laughter but a tragedy came by
The tears ran free and he'd say to me never be afraid to cry

Do what you do do well boy. Do what you do do well
Give your love and all of your heart and do what you do do well

Today I still remember just like yesterday; about a mighty big man with a mighty
big heart

And a mighty few words to say

Do what you do do well boy. Do what you do do well
Give your love and all of your heart and do what you do do well

**Psalm 51: 17 My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart
you, God, will not despise.**

I encourage you to discover your love language and embrace it as your form of
worship.