



# The Third Commandment

Psalm 95:1-7 Hebrews 4:14-16 Matthew 11:27-30

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**UNBELIEVERS *don't* worship.** They don't believe in God; they don't have faith; they do not understand it, it isn't a priority in their lives: they have no connection with God. **UNBELIEVERS *don't* worship.**

**BELIEVERS *do* worship.** **Worship is the single most obvious thing that you do that sets you apart as a Christian. It is public. It is weekly. It includes your family. You are active.** Worship separates you from the world and everyone can see it; it marks you as one who believes in Christ and obeys His Word. **Worship is the single most obvious thing that you do that sets you apart as a Christian.**

**BELIEVERS *do* worship.**

In worship you do things that you probably don't do anywhere else in your life: you sing outloud; you speak collectively and responsively with a group of people; you listen attentively; you alternate between standing and sitting several times in an hour; you give tithes and offerings; and you eat sacramental bread and drink sacramental wine. Worship is a different kind of activity than all the other activities in your life.

Worship is the primary way you approach God formally, publically, and weekly. In worship God is present in unique ways to give you His good gifts.

**Not only is worship the single most obvious thing that you do that sets you apart as a Christian, but worship is also the most significant thing you do in your life.**

Its no wonder that God made worship one of the Ten Commandments.

## THE THIRD COMMANDMENT

**Remember the Sabbath Day and keep it holy.**

*What does this mean?*

**We should fear and love God, so that we do not despise preaching and His Word, but hold it sacred and gladly hear and learn it.**

When you look through Scripture to see how this Commandment is taught, two things stand out: we are to **WORSHIP GOD** and we are to **OBEY HIS WORD**.

FIRST AND FOREMOST,

**Worship is NOT what we do for God;  
Worship is what God does for us in Christ!**

Worship is where God gives us His good gifts of salvation in the Lord Jesus Christ. Everything in worship is focused on Christ --- our Savior and our Redeemer.

- † We remember our **Baptism** that unites us to Him when we begin “in the name of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.”
- † We **confess our sins** and hear the official proclamation that your sins are forgiven because of Christ’s death and resurrection
- † We **listen attentively** to the Scripture lessons, because Jesus has taught us “he who has an ear to hear, let him hear.” Matt 11:15
- † We **“take and eat”** and **“take and drink”** the bread and wine because Jesus has promised that it is His body and blood given and shed on a cross for the forgiveness of our sins.

**Everything in worship is about Christ and the forgiveness of sins that He has earned for us through His death and resurrection.**

Remember that **Jesus is our Mediator**; He has made peace between God and us through His death in the cross. Your sins have been paid for; they have been dealt with when Jesus died on the cross.

For there is one God and one **mediator** between God and men, the man Christ Jesus 1 Timothy 2:5

For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to **reconcile to himself all things**, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by **making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.** Col 1:19-20

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. **No one comes to the Father except through me.** John 14:6

**Jesus is our Mediator**; He has made peace between God and you through His death in the cross. Your sins no longer separate you from God! You now have direct access to God the Father! You can boldly

approach the throne of God's mercy and grace! Because Jesus has opened the way to God the Father, you respond by worshipping.

- † You respond to God's grace by approaching Him in faith each week in **public worship**.
- † You respond to God's grace when you **sing the songs** and **speak the responses**.
- † You respond to God's grace when you are **fully alert and paying close attention** to what happens during this hour of worship.
- † You respond to God's grace with your **tithes and offerings**
- † You respond to God's grace when you **pray for yourself and others**.

The Gospel angle on worship is that **Jesus our Mediator** has opened the way so that you can approach God with confidence and receive His grace and mercy. Jesus death and resurrection has removed your sins; you have peace with God through the Lord Jesus Christ.

**Everything in worship is about Christ and the forgiveness of sins that He has earned for us through His death and resurrection.**

**Three final thoughts on Worship.**

**WORSHIP IS WEEKLY.** The pattern of worship is based on the order of creation: *For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.* Ex 20:11

The Lord has provided a place for you --- **EVERY SINGLE WEEK OF YOUR LIFE** --- for you to receive His gifts of salvation, to be assured of His love, compassion and forgiveness, and to celebrate His Word, His Water, and His Meal. **Worship is weekly!**

**A second thing about the worship is for parents.** If you are a parent, be sure to teach your children the doctrine of worship! **In most churches today, worship is driven by emotion, not the Gospel.** Help your children understand why we worship, and how we worship. Help them understand that *everything in worship is about Christ and the forgiveness of sins that He has earned for us through His death and resurrection.* Talk to

them about Jesus the Mediator who deals with our sins so that we can approach a holy God. Help them see the importance of each part of the worship service, and to identify each part as either God serving us, or our response to God's goodness and grace. Parents, help your children understand the importance of worship: the "why" and the "how" of worship.

Finally, a third thing about worship.

**THERE IS A WARNING IN THE THIRD COMMANDMENT.** The warning is if you are just "putting in your time". If you are just "putting in your time", then you don't realize that you are in the presence of God and that He is actively serving you the words and the food of eternal life. Maybe ...

- † You attend worship, but you don't pay attention.
- † You come to church, but you don't want to be here.
- † You sit in your place and sleep, or day dream.
- † You sing the songs, but you don't know what they mean.
- † You hear the sermon but you can't remember it by the time you get to your car
- † You come to Holy Communion, but you don't examine yourself first.
- † Or maybe you only come to Church and worship the Lord when it's convenient and when you "feel like it".

The Commandment teaches us that not only is worship the single **most obvious** thing that you do that sets you apart as a Christian, but worship is also the **most significant** thing you do in your life. God is present with His grace and mercy for you!

**The core of Lutheran worship is the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. Everything in worship is about Christ and the forgiveness of sins that He has earned for us through His death and resurrection. In Him our sins are forgiven; and because of Him, you can come into God's presence as He continually gives you His grace and mercy through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.**

**Worship the most obvious thing that you do as a Christian; and worship is the most significant thing you do in your life!**