

## Doctrinal Summary of Worship: Honoring God as God

In Romans 1:21, Paul identifies those who worship creation as failing to honor God to be God.

“For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened.”

The word “knew” is translated from the Koine Greek word γνόντες (“gnon-tes”) which more literally means, “performing the action in a point in time as a matter of principle to know through experience resulting in personal understanding of how fact relates to experience based on their own initiation.” It describes those who have recognized God’s existence through their experience with the created world that reveals His attributes, power, and nature (cf. Rom 1:20). Having come to experientially know that God exists as a result of the created world they failed to honor God as God.

The phrase “they did not honor” is translated from the Koine Greek words οὐχ ἐδόξασαν (“ouk e-dox-as-an”) which more literally means, “not they really performed the action in a point in time to magnify the character of another resulting in a good opinion being held of that individual.” It identifies a mentality that comes as a result of recognizing who someone is and holding that individual in high esteem. Consequently, that individual’s attributes are then magnified by one’s activity that reflects who that individual is. Those who came experienced the reality that God exists through their interaction with His creation did not develop a mentality that magnified God for who He is. Consequently, they did not magnify Him by their activity, but instead magnified His creation (cf. Rom 1:23). Paul identifies that they worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator in Romans 1:25

“For they exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.”

The word “worshiped” is translated from the Koine Greek word ἐσεβάσθησαν (“es-eh-bas-thae-san”) which more literally means, “they really participated in being acted upon in a point in time to have an attitude of reverence for something resulting in acts of devotion being offered to it.” It identifies that those who failed to worship the Creator instead respected His creation and carried out acts of devotion to creation. They participated in being put into this attitude by their failure to honor God to be God. That failure, consequently, caused them to worship creation from an attitude of reverence for what God created that resulted in them carrying out acts of devotion toward it instead of God.

Believers are to honor God as the sovereign and supreme authority of all things. Worshiping God requires that the believer hold Him in the highest regard, respecting Him above and beyond anything else. This requires that the believer maintain his focus on who God is and not be distracted from revering who God is by anything else which might demand his attention. Consequently, everything that the believer does is to be done in relationship and response to who God is.

As the believer honors God to be God, he gives God His rightful place as the pre-eminent authority over all things in the believer’s life. While the believer does this he holds an attitude of reverence for God that results in him being devoted to carrying out those acts that God has assigned to him in his part of the body of Christ. It is only while the believer honors God to be God over his life, days, and moments, that the believer will magnify the attributes of God to those around Him and bear fruit that does the same.