

10. COMMUNITY

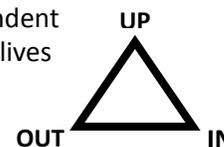
—The Church: Worship & Mission

Throughout Biblical history believers have gathered to 1. worship the God of creation and salvation 2. build up the body and 3. bear witness of God’s reality to an unbelieving world.

In the Old Testament God commanded his people to invite the nations to experience his revealed glory. Israel was to be the epicenter of worship for the entire world. Psalm 105 commands believers to engage in worship and mission by singing to God and by declaring his wonderful acts to both believers and nonbelievers alike. (V.1-2)

In the New Testament, we see Peter commissioning the Gentile Church, “You are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.” (I Peter 2:9). In the Old Testament people came to the center of worship at Mt. Zion (i.e. Jerusalem), but in the New Testament we come to the heavenly Zion through our great and eternal high priest, Jesus Christ (Hebrews 12:22-24).

One simple model of this is the **UP-IN-OUT** triangle.¹ As a body of believers we relate **UP** to God in worship, praise, prayer, and hearing His voice, we relate **IN** to one another as interdependent members of his body, and we relate **OUT** to the world in word and deed to touch peoples’ lives with the kingdom of God. All three must be present.



What do you observe about worship from the following passages? In what ways do you see worship relating to mission, i.e. the advance of the gospel among the nations?

Deuteronomy 5:6-10

2 Chronicles 29:28-30

Nehemiah 8:6, 9:3

Psalm 2:11

Psalm 22:27

Psalm 96:1-6

Psalm 102:18-22

Zechariah 8:20-23

Matthew 2:11

Matthew 28:17, Luke 24:52

John 4:20-24

Romans 12:1-2

I Corinthians 11:23-26

I Corinthians 14:20-25

Revelation 7:9-12

APPLICATION: How would you assess your current view of worship - either privately or corporately? If you are part of a local body of believers, how do you see the style of worship serving the mission of the church, i.e. to build up the body of Christ and to welcome those outside the body? Are there subtle changes you could suggest or implement? **OPTIONAL:** The chapter, “Worship: A Practical Guide” from Adele Calhoun’s *Spiritual Disciplines Handbook*, offers excellent reflection questions to consider and spiritual exercises for you to engage in. Take some time to journal about them and share with a friend.

¹ From Mike Breen and Steve Cockram’s book, [Building a Discipleship Culture](#).