

**An Exciting Worship Experience**  
**John 4:20-24**  
**By Russell Earl**

Thesis: I want to show what is true exciting worship.

- Intro:
1. “A place to experience God through awesome services, fun events, etc.”  
“We believe that church should be exciting and fun.”
  2. Contemporary & Traditional worship, Celebrate Recovery & Children’s Bible hour/church (“Where kids experience God through worship, skits, and more.”)
  3. All designed to provide an “exciting worship experience.”
  4. Many or all of these phrases can be found when denominations describe their worship services. Sadly, even congregations of the Lord’s church have some of these events and ideas as well (Celebrate Recovery, Children’s Bible hour, and lessons with little to no substance being taught. Instead, lessons are only aimed at emotional responses with use of stories, illustrations and little or no scripture being used).

**I. Unscriptural exciting worship experience beginnings.**

\*Notice the similarities found in Aaron’s situation and with people today (Ex 32:1-6, Ex 32:19-22).\*

1. “the people gathered to Aaron” – they came together as a group to Aaron. One man may not have got it done, a large group came before him. \*Perhaps Aaron would rebuke a single man but not the masses.
2. “we do not know what has become of him” – they claimed they didn’t know what was going on with Moses and then take advantage of Moses absence (Ex 24:1-3, 7, 15).
3. “And Aaron said to them” – Aaron didn’t question them, didn’t rebuke them, and didn’t second guess his decision, he simply did as the group of people asked. Many times those who stand for truth are outnumbered, this doesn’t give us a reason to give in to unscriptural ideas or teachings (Ezek 22:30).
4. “Then they said, “This is your god, O Israel, that brought you out of the land of Egypt!”” – The people are now pleased because they are doing what they desire worshipping a useless false god and worshipping as they please in general.

---

**A. The desire to attract young families.**

1. Young families today have grown up during a time of 24hr, 7 days a week entertainment.
  - a. These families have become used to entertainment at a click of a button and for that reason many expect the same thing in their worship to God.
  - b. While entertainment today has a big part to play in this problem, the real problem is that many do not know what kind of worship is pleasing to God. It’s clear in recent debates that even leaders of denominations have no understanding about what God demands in worship to Him (Jn 4:20-24).

2. The desire to create a fun place for children.
  - a. While the parents are entertained in the auditorium the children are being entertained in a separate area by snacks, puppets, and basically anything that will keep these kids wanting to come back. Sadly children often run the show. If the children aren't being taught what true worship is, then children want to be entertained. They have not been taught what true teaching and worship is because their parents do not know what it is either.

B. The desire to become attractive to people who have become “bored” with their current services.

1. Many “worship leaders” can create an atmosphere that is filled with emotions. Worship that is simply aimed at emotional experiences is a substitute for biblical worship (**Ps 96:7-8**).
2. Many are being shown the idea that unless the service is emotional that it's not scriptural.

In reality its genuine scriptural worship that pierces our heart, which causes us to respond to the gospel and we experience emotion as our sins are washed away and we are placed in the body of Christ. Similarly emotions are felt when we ask for prayers of the congregation or for forgiveness from others.

Emotional worship doesn't result in spiritual worship, but spiritual can result in emotion in our worship to God.

C. The desire for wealth, size and popularity (Mt 16:26).

1. Many “churches” which use the exciting, emotional or worship experience attitude use many events, “ministries”, and even membership qualifications which generate a large flow of money.
2. Fund raisers that raise large sums of money-unscriptural, ministries that generate funds by charging “fees” to attend their events and even churches requiring members to contribute certain percentages every week, many are able to ensure this is done by “drafting” contributions directly from the bank accounts of their members (**2 Cor 9:7, Lev 1:3, Lev 19:5, Lev 22:19, Lev 22:29**-“of your own free will”).
3. Where there is great wealth there is great size and numerous buildings being uses for unscriptural reasons-A gymnasium-UNS, A multi-purpose building-SCR, A Café or coffee shop (the L.I.F.T. Coffee Shop-“*Feeling a little sluggish before service? Get wound up! Stop by the coffee ship for a hot cup of coffee and a donut*”-All proceeds benefit the Lift402 Youth Group)-UNS, A pantry stocked with food for the needy-SCR. A church ran thrift store-UNS, a clothing closet where clothing is GIVEN away to the needy-SCR.
4. Naturally these events & ideas make these “churches” and their “leadership” popular, very popular.

## II. Unscriptural exciting worship results in false worship.

### A. Worship focused on excitement, fun activities, etc; is self-centered worship.

1. When we find ourselves saying things like “I like it, let’s do that” instead of asking “is that scriptural?” We have crossed the line.
2. Self-centered worship is the opposite of what God desires (**Jn 4:20-24**).

### B. True worshippers want God and not an exciting experience.

1. Those who worship expecting an “experience” may have one, but it will not be what God wants us to get from songs, prayer, preaching, giving, and communion.
2. True worship has gotten lost in ministry, music and entertainment. No one has been “called by God” to entertain. Just because someone has a “talent” doesn’t mean it has a place in worship to God (**Ezek 33:31-32**).

## III. What is true exciting biblical worship?

### A. True worship is selfless worship.

1. When we realize worship is not about us but we focus on God, then our worship is Biblical (**Rev 22:9**).
2. True worship is worship that is centered on God; focusing on Him, learning of Him, praising Him, praying to Him, and giving to His church.

### B. Are you bored?

1. If you get bored in services most times it’s not because of the lesson, it’s because of our hearts aren’t focused on gaining spiritual knowledge.  
\*One of the best preachers I’ve ever heard is mono-toned and presents every lesson the same way, but the material presented is rich with Biblical truths. For this reason his lectures draw large crowds and his books are some of the mostly highly sought after books today.
2. If we are bored and desire to be entertained, we should get a hobby.  
- As a sister in Christ once said “if you want to play with something get a toy, you do not play with God and His church.”

### Conc:

1. Are we seeking exciting worship experiences? Or are we seeking true biblical worship?
2. When we worship God in Spirit and in truth, our worship can become emotional.  
- We can become emotional while worshipping the God who loves us beyond measure.  
- We can become emotional without becoming unscriptural (**Acts 2:37**).
3. Full Invitation