

Who should we worship?

“The true worshippers will worship the Father”

(John 4:23). Jesus very clearly and unmistakably said that we should “worship the Father”. Trinitarians often claim “we should worship the Trinity” as their Athanasian Creed says. Most often they talk about worshipping Jesus, and sometimes they even claim to worship the Holy Spirit.

But, the Bible is crystal clear on this subject. This is not a gray area. There are no accurately translated scriptures that either direct us to worship, or have anyone worshipping, Jesus, as is often heard. Jesus said in prayer that his **“Father”** is **“the only true God”** **(John 17:1,3)**.



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So, who should we worship? There are some verses that are often translated as though people actually “worshipped” Jesus. However, as mentioned above, accurate translations do

not reflect that idea. Let's look at these scriptures with accurate translations:

"On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage"—Matthew 2:11 NRSV

"Those who were in the boat did him homage, saying, 'Truly, you are the Son of God'"—Matthew 14:33 NAB

"And the men in the boat fell at his feet, exclaiming, 'You must be the Son of God'"—Matthew 14:33 REB

"Suddenly Jesus was there in their path, greeting them. They came up and clasped his feet, kneeling before him"—Matthew 28:9 REB

"When they saw him they fell down before him, though some hesitated"—Matthew 28:17 NJB

"When they saw Him, they worshipped *Him*; but some doubted"—Matthew 28:17 LSB. Note that the LSB puts "*Him*" italics, thus marking "*Him*" as not in the Greek text. This is why some translations render the verse as:

"When they saw him, they worshipped, but some doubted"—Matthew 28:17 CSB. This is a literal translation of the Greek text.

"They did him homage and then returned to Jerusalem with great joy"—Luke 24:52 NAB

“‘Lord, I believe,’ he said, and fell on his knees before him”—John 9:38 REB

“The man bowed in front of Jesus and said, ‘I believe, Lord’”—John 9:38 GWT

“Again, when he presents his firstborn to the world, he says, ‘Let all God’s angels pay him homage’”—Hebrews 1:6 REB

When we look at the historical accounts of the early church, Acts through Revelation, do we find any valid instances of anyone worshipping Jesus? No, we don’t! Here are some examples of what we do find:

“A worshipper of God”—Acts 16:14 NASB; 18:7 NASB; LSB

“Worship God”—1 Corinthians 14:25; Revelation 19:10; 22:9

“Worshipped God”—Revelation 7:11 NASB; LSB; 11:16 NASB; 19:4 NASB; LSB

What clinches it is Jesus’ own testimony as to who should be worshipped:

“The true worshippers will worship the Father”—John 4:23

A survey of the entire New Testament finds evidence of God the Father alone being worshipped, and no evidence of Jesus or the holy Spirit being worshipped. May we be guided by Jesus’ words above therefore!