

Is worship the opposite of sin?

What is sin? In essence it is acts of rebellion to God. This is multi-faceted. There are many words used to describe its effects: lawlessness, iniquity, wickedness, unrighteousness (not doing what is right). But most often the apostles use the word *harmartia* which means 'missing the mark'. It is used of an arrow that fails to reach the target (a mark). Thus sin is not just extreme rebellion, vile wickedness, rampant lawlessness, but also not reaching God's standard in general. Someone who does many moral good works, by human standards, also fails to meet the mark. Sin isn't always obvious and visible.

What is the corporate body of sin? This is the mass of sinners in the world. The fulness of all that is sin, the wicked, the reprobate.

What is God's standard? Not objective (Mosaic) law any more but Christ, hence the law of Christ; perfection as expressed in Jesus' life. Anything that misses or falls short of that standard is sin; it failed to reach the mark.

What is worship? It is *proskuneo* or stooping to kiss the hand of a greater person, as a subject bows before his king. It is recognition of worth, hence 'worth-ship'. Essentially it is willing subjection and submission. This is reflected in obedience and communion.

So, the opposite of missing the mark is meeting the mark. What meets the mark? Christ and only what is in Christ. Thus the body of Christ is that corporate group of elect people who, in Christ, meet God's standard of righteousness.

What is the opposite of sin on the Earth today? It is righteousness. Those who do right because they are in Christ. Their inner life has the righteousness of Christ and their deeds, energised by the Holy Spirit and led by him, are also righteous.

What is worship the opposite of? Well, if worship is willing subjection to God in acts of submission, then the opposite is refusing to submit to God, or rebellion, or considering yourself as good as God (pride); thus: independence, arrogance, pride, selfishness, conceit etc.

Worship is the heart expression of God's subjects.
Pride is the heart expression of God's enemies.

Righteousness is the outward expression of God's subjects in the world.
Sin is the outward expression of God's enemies in the world.

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