

Connecting with God through Worship

Review

We have been talking about being able to accomplish the mission that God has called us to-
"Make more and Better disciples."

We have been saying that it an impossible mission for us to accomplish unless we stay
connected to God.

We discussed staying connected with God through (1) prayer (2) obedience (3) reading God's
Word.

Intro.

Tonight, we want to look at staying connected to God through Worship

I. Everyone of us is a worshiper.

The question isn't **if** we worship.

The question is **what** we worship.

Think about it, even people who don't go to church worship.

What do you call an adult or teen for that matter who?

They wear green and yellow clothes and paint their faces.

They put a block of cheese on their heads

They spend big bucks to attend games.

They sit in freezing cold weather for hours.

They jump up and down.

They sing, scream, and shout

They pump their fists in the air.

They memorize all the players names and know all the stats.

They buy memorabilia and wait in long lines to autographs of their heroes.

What do we call an adult/teen who does that? A Green Bay Packer fan

Why do people do crazy stuff like that and think it is normal?

Because we were all created to worship.

II. Defn of Worship

A. Worship in a very broad sense, is our response to what we value most. It is the
act of ascribing value to someone that engages you entire person: mind, will,
and emotions.

B. What do you value most?

That may be a relationship, a thing, a pleasure, an experience, or whatever matters
most to us.

C. Whatever is of greatest worth to you, is what you worship.

D. You want to know what you worship?

Follow the trail of your time, energy, money, loyalty, and thoughts. At the end of the trail you'll
find a throne and whatever you have on that throne is what you worship.

1. it could be a possession
2. it could be your grades or accomplishments
3. it could be your girlfriend or boyfriend
4. it could be your athletic abilities or musical talents
5. Whatever you look to that defines you and gives you a sense of worth.

When I was your age it was my grades. Whenever I got my report card with all A's on it then I knew I was ok for another term. The problem was that I had to prove myself again every semester.

III. Why do we crave something to worship?

A. Because we were created by God to be worshipers.

Col 1:16b "All things were created by Him (God) and for Him." The fact of the matter is that we were created as worshipers to worship God first and foremost.

B. See, God knew that we were going to worship something. That is why the beginning of the Ten Commandments says

"You shall have no other gods before me and you shall not worship idols."

C. That is why Jesus said, the greatest commandment is to worship God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength (being). Matt. 22:37

IV. Our problem with the worship of God.

A. We don't ascribe to God the value He is worth.

B. Worship literally means "worth-ship". It is to see what God is worth and give Him what He is worth. This in turn impacts how we live.

C. Illustration of Assigning Value to Something

Suppose a lady has a brooch that has been passed down for generations in her family. One day, she is cleaning out her desk and she discovers it in the back of a drawer. She is curious about it, and so she takes it to a jeweler to be appraised.

Up to this point, she doesn't have any strong feelings about the brooch. It doesn't mean much to her. It's kind of interesting. She is curious. But just the fact that she didn't really even know where it was and hadn't thought about it, tells you what she thinks of the brooch.

She arrives at the jeweler's, and he puts his magnifying eye piece in and begins to examine the brooch. As he does, she notices that he begins to tremble. She notices that he is having a strange reaction to this brooch. When she asks him about it, he can hardly talk. He goes on and explains that this brooch was made by a master craftsman of centuries ago, and that the craftsmanship of this brooch is a lost art that no one has seen in at least two centuries. It is priceless. He had studied about it, but never seen it in person.

The reason that this brooch impacts his mind, will and emotions is because this brooch, with its construction of gold and diamonds, is worth more than all the jewelry he has ever touched in his entire life. It is worth more than all the jewelry he has in his store combined.

When the woman comes to understand what the jeweler is saying, she realizes that she has not been living according to the value of what she has had. Because she didn't understand the true value of it, she was not living at all according to how she should have been living. Her entire life is changed, now that she sees the value of it.

That illustration helps us understand what worship is. The scriptures call us to do exactly what the jeweler does. We need to begin rationally by understanding who God is and what He has done. We need to begin to grasp how magnificent and amazing God is.

D. Ps 96:7-8 "Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; bring an offering and come into his courts. Worship the Lord in the splendor of his holiness; tremble before him, all the earth."

E. When we come to see who God really is, it changes everything.

F. The Problem in our Culture

1) Most people in America believe in God and pray to God, but they have God the way the woman had the brooch. They are completely unaffected and completely unaware of the value of God.

2) The difference between a "get by" kind of life and a "transformed" life is not the difference in believing in God and not believing in God. The difference is worship.

G. Worship is the act of ascribing ultimate value to God - seeing who He is and what He's worth and living in accordance to it, so that it transforms our life.

H. The world is not divided into people who worship and people who don't. Everyone is a worshiper. The world is divided into people who worship what ultimately will distort their life and people who worship the only proper object that is worthy of their soul.

I. Psalm 95:3 "For the Lord is the great God, the great king above all gods."

Why should we worship? Because God is the great God above all gods.

The very essence of worship is to recognize where your worship already is and transfer it to God alone. It is transferring what you ultimately believe gives you value and worth and placing it on God. That is what will change your life. That kind of worship will transform your life.

1) Why do some people get freaked out when they break up with someone and others don't?

2) Why do some people get freaked out when they lose their money and others don't?

3) Only when you know God's love and are seeking after Him, will you not be freaked out when someone breaks up with you. Only when God is your ultimate treasure will you not be freaked out when you lose your wealth.

4) The answer is when we worship God, He is the one we ascribe ultimate worth to. Worship is the activity of pulling our hearts off these inordinate desires and placing them back on God, who needs to be our ultimate desire.

J. In 2 Cor. 5:9 Paul says, "So we make it our goal to please God."

Paul says his ultimate goal in life is to please God- to worship God with his life.

V. Worship expressed in our lives.

Review: Worship is ascribing value to God that impacts what we say and do.

A. Heb 13:15-16

"Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise – the fruit of lips that confess his name. And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased."

B. How often are we to worship?

Continually not just Sunday morning and Wed. pm but 24/7. Worship is to be part of our everyday life.

How are we to worship God?

C. by what we say "the fruit of our lips"

- 1 This would involve telling God we love Him
2. This would involve singing songs of praise to God.
3. But it is more than just words. The worship God desires involves words that come from a sincere heart that is backed up by how we live our lives.

4. You can't have fruit without a root. The root of our words is our heart.

5. Therefore, we must allow God's Word to penetrate our hearts so that we have words of praise that are acceptable to God.

6. On a practical note, what do you do if you are singing a worship song like "I love you God with all my heart" and that is not true of your heart right now?

I want to suggest that you could stop singing or maybe better would be for you to make that song a prayer and ask that God would make that true of your heart.

D. by what we do "by doing good and ministering to others".

1. True worship of God will also be demonstrated by our actions.
2. we will be willing to serve others
3. We will be willing to love others and do what is best for others.

4. The question comes down to not so much **what** you do (as long as its not sin) but **who** you are doing it for. The challenge is to do whatever you do in a way that will please the Lord and reflect God's heart to those around you.

Conclusion

Worship is ascribing value to God that engages your entire person: mind, will, and emotions.

How does worship help us to connect with God?

1. Worship helps us to pull our hearts off inordinate desires and place back on God, who deserves to be our ultimate desire.
2. As we spend time in prayer and God's Word and grow in our relationship with God, God will show us things that we say and do that show our allegiance to other things. When this happens, we need to repent and transfer our allegiance back to God.

Application

Are there other things in your life that you are looking to other than God for your identity, worth, and significance? These things may not even be bad things, like getting good grades, but when they become more important to you than God, they are idols that need to be repented of.

Make your greatest desire to be pleasing to God in all of life. If you have areas that you have turning to other than God, acknowledge them, repent, and worship God by what you say and do.

Small groups

1. What things do you tend to look to other than God for your value and worth?
2. In what ways do you ascribe worth to God?
3. What happens when you look to things other than God? How does this impact you negatively?
4. What do you think about corporate worship? (attending church services, singing worship songs) Why?
5. If an unbeliever observed your words and actions what would they say about how much you value God and love Him?
6. What can you do to grow to value you God even more?

