

Tea Tree Gully Community Church

Worship (part 2) Why Worship Matters.

Recap

What is worship?

- Examples of worship in the Bible
- Worship is the activity of the human soul
- Everyone was created to worship
- Worship is not what we say (we do) but what we do (which includes what we say)
- Have you checked where / what your trail of bread crumbs led to ? (ie you time, energy, focus, resources, affections, investments etc)

Why Worship Matters – 4 Reasons

1. Because God is worthy of our worship
2. Because you are a worshipper
3. There is war over your worship
4. We become like what we worship

1. Because God is worthy of our worship

Ps 18:3 I call to the Lord who is worthy of praise, and I am saved from my enemies.

Ps 48:1 Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise,....

Ps 96:4-5 For great is the Lord and most worthy of praise; he is to be feared above all gods. For all the gods of the nations are idols, but the Lord made the heavens.

Ps 145:3 Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise; his greatness no one can fathom.

God is worthy of our praise (and worship). We may acknowledge that with our mouths and minds but our hearts can subconsciously say something else.

It's not appealing; it seems incomplete in being attractive to my soul. My soul says "What's in it for me"

If we do not consciously feed on the word of God and be in prayer and fellowship with the Holy Spirit this will be our default response.

We need to tend to the fire of the Holy Spirit in our hearts or it will die out.

(Cf Leviticus re Priests always required to keep the fire burning on the alter of sacrifice).

Question: How real is God to us and how real to us is his worthiness of worship?
(cf Indescribable DVD)

Read: The Unquenchable Worshipper by Matt Redman pg 15 – 17
Read in 3 steps for 3 point below.

1. Water can put the fire out.

Water of the cares of the world – either pressures and trials or prosperous ease.

The heart of man all too readily strays from God to become independent of him.

"Two things I ask of you, O LORD; do not refuse me before I die: Keep falsehood and lies far from me; give me neither poverty nor riches, but give me only my daily bread. Otherwise, I may have too much and disown you and say, 'Who is the LORD?' Or I may become poor and steal, and so dishonor the name of my God. Prov 30:7-9

Rev 3 v 15 – 20 The Church at Laodicea

The need for spiritual health not just physical food and material wealth.

2. Cutting off the oxygen will put the fire out

Quenching or grieving the Holy Spirit.

3. Cutting off the fuel will put out the fire.

The revelation of God and his means of grace.

Read: Ps 145:8-9 & 13-20

Again, "How real is God to us?"

Why wouldn't your heart be captured by such a God as this?

King David said in **Ps 27:4**

One thing I ask of the Lord, this is what I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to seek him in his temple.

Our hearts should not just be captured with his greatness and transcendent characteristics but also his loving and intimate care and forgiveness.

Rom 2:4 (J B Phillips Translation)

Don't you realize God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance?

So in every way God is worthy of worship and of our worship. As the Bible exhorts us we should bring a sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving.

A sacrifice is something that costs us something especially when we don't feel like doing it.

But that's not the end of it.

Quote: Jack Hayford (Leadership Journal Spring 1999)

"Worship is God's gift to us, intended for our blessing and benefit. He doesn't need it we do"

True worship sacrifices and then expects something from God. **Heb 11:6** put it clearly: "He that comes to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who humbly (earnestly) seek him" (This in essence is faith, without which it is impossible to please God as the first half of the verse says).

So God is worthy of praise but we benefit from it.

He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint. Isa 40 v 29:31

This is just one benefit of worshipping the Lord. Worship with God includes communion with him – a heart to heart 2 way thing.

2. Because you are a worshipper

We've already covered this in some detail previously.

We worship whether we acknowledge it, are aware of it or ignorant of our tendencies.

However even once we understand this, it needs to be consciously on our radar. If our goal is to worship and be the worshipper that God wants then we need to assess where we are at from time to time, because the heart is a slippery thing that strays so easily.

Jer 17:9

The heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked (KJV)

The heart is deceitfully wicked (RSV)

We can end up thinking we are worshipping God when we can be doing all sorts of other things in the name of worshipping God.

Even worshipping worship!!

(expand on this re music ministry and even congregation enjoying singing and good music)

3. There is war over your worship

Why?

Because just as you didn't ask to be born into this world, you didn't get a choice whether you found yourself in the middle of a spiritual war. We only have a choice over which side we will be on and who we will serve.

At the heart of the battle is Satan's rebellion against God and his desire to re-direct worship away from God to himself and to belittle God's "worthship" – and to destroy mankind (made in God's image) at the same time.

Matt 4:8-11

Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor.

"All this I will give you," he said, "if you will bow down and worship me."

Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'"

Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.

(Satan looking for worship – the ultimate worship – worship from God and to sabotage the mission of Jesus here on earth.)

Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks.

God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth."

John 4 v 23:24

The next two passages highlight the battle, where we have come from or rescued from and where we don't want to go back to.

"I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt (world), out of the land of slavery (slave to sin)." You shall have no other gods before me. Deut 5 v 6 & 7 (expand as type teaching)

For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves. Col 1 v 13

The battle is very real and is ultimately one of physical and spiritual life and death.

The war for worship is a war over the affections of our heart!

GOD vs SATAN

GOD vs THE FLESH – the sinful / selfish nature of man

(which Satan will use to his advantage if possible)

... for Demas, because he loved this world, has deserted me (Paul) and has gone to Thessalonica. 2 Tim 4:10

The whole area of Warfare and Worship is far too great to do justice here. It is worthy of several sessions to begin to look at it properly which we will do at a later date.

However let me just make the next few points

1. Thanksgiving and fervent praise and declaration proceeding out of a worshipping heart and life are a mighty powerful force in warfare.

If Satan can't get us to totally re-direct our hearts to an idol, he will try to thwart our worship and praise of God.

Read: The Beginners Guide to Praise and Worship by Gary Kinnaman pg 90.
The Top 10 reasons why people can't get into worship.

2. Worshipers make war in Heaven and Earth.

For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds.
2 Cor 10 v 3:4

For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Eph 6:12

Read: Spiritual Warfare in a believers life, Charles Spurgeon, pg 165

Statement:

“There's warfare for our worship & our worship is a form of warfare.”

The giving of tithes, offerings, and gifts are an act of war.

Praising God for who he is and what he has done is an act of war

Prayer (especially fervent) is an act of war.

Fasting is an act of war.

Living a life of holiness and learning to say NO! to ungodliness is an act of war.

Exercising authority in deliverance ministry is an act of war.

Exercising authority in healing is an act of war.

Dying to our selves and crucifying the flesh is an act of war.

Not loving our lives even unto death is an act of war.

Maintaining unity in the bond of peace is an act of war.

Living by God's kingdom principles and values is an act of war.

Preaching the gospel to a dying world is an act of war.

Resisting evil is an act of war

Declaring God's truth and victory to men and spiritual powers is an act of war.

“If you're not part of the solution you're part of the problem.”

Jesus said **“He who is not with me is against me, and he who does not gather with me scatters.” Matt 12:30**

We've only touched briefly on this topic which is worthy of much more attention at another time.

4. We become like what we worship

A logical consequence and follow-on from the previous point.

There's that saying that people start to look like their pets

Show: 4 ppt slides of owners and their pets (as a humorous aside)



We are not immovable, untouchable islands as human beings, we are molded and influenced by our experiences in life, our parents, country, language, friends, spouses, jobs, hobbies etc.

And so it is even more so by what or who we worship.

But their minds were made dull, for to this day the same veil remains when the old covenant is read (re the Jews). It has not been removed, because only in Christ is it taken away. But whenever anyone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away.

Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.

And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit. **2 Cor 3:14 & 16-18**

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. **Rom 8:28-29**

We're a work in progress, as we yield to God's will in our lives via the work of the Holy Spirit.

For we know in part and we prophesy in part, but when perfection comes, the imperfect disappears. When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put childish ways behind me. Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known. **1 Cor 13:9-12**

Statement:

"Whatever you value the most, consumes you, your thinking, passion and energy. Whatever consumes you, conforms you, whatever conforms you, determines your destiny."

This applies in the positive and in the negative.

Read: Ps 115:1-8

(Those who make idols will be like them – dead in spiritual function and senses) – Expand explanation

"When I found Israel, it was like finding grapes in the desert; when I saw your fathers, it was like seeing the early fruit on the fig tree. But when they came to Baal Peor, they consecrated themselves to that shameful idol and became as vile as the thing they loved. **Hosea 9:10**

So why does worship matter? Because:

1. God is worthy of our worship
2. You are a worshipper
3. There is war over your worship
4. We become like what we worship.

Worship matters because it has consequences

Results of our choices in worship

(We will define what wrong and right worship in Worship pt 3)

Wrong Worship:

- Damages us
- Robs God of honour that he is due
- Brings dishonour to God by those who claim to worship / follow him
- Brings bondage (kills, steals & destroys both now and in eternity of wood, hay, stubble)

Right Worship:

- Blesses God and honours him
- Opens a doorway for blessing (& freedom) to us
- Enables us to reach our full potential as God intended
- It's a powerful form of warfare

Choose this day whom you will serve.... as for me and my house we will serve the Lord. Joshua 24:14 & 15