

Session Two Why Worship?

The Purpose: To increase understanding of and elevate the importance of worship in the lives of those at CPC. We are asking, "Why should I care so much about worship?"

1. Everyone worships something or someone. What or who do we see people worshipping in our culture?

In Revelation 4, we are given a glimpse into the throne room of heaven, and John chronicles the worship of the twenty-four elders.

Read Revelation 4:10-11.

the twenty-four elders fall down before him who sits on the throne and worship him who lives for ever and ever. They lay their crowns before the throne and say: "You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being."

2. What is the primary declaration of the elders worship? Why do they worship him who sits on the throne?

3. In light of this passage, in what ways is our true worship of God different from what or who our culture worships?

The primary reason we are to worship is that He, and He alone, is worthy and is due every bit of our worship and praise. The magnificent worthiness of God stands in stark contrast to any other earthly pursuit or object of our passion and devotion. When we come face to face with the glory, majesty, and magnificence of our God, our only response will be to worship. It is what we were created to do, it is central to our calling as followers of Christ, and it is what we will continue to do throughout eternity.

We also worship because scripture repeatedly models a life of worship for us and commands, instructs, and encourages us to worship (Ps. 29:2, Ps 95:6, Matt 4:10).

Scripture even helps us know how we are to worship. In John 4:23-24 Jesus says, "Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth."

4. What are the two essential elements of true worship that define how we "must" worship?

In _____ and in _____

5. To help our understanding of true worship and the necessity of both, describe or define what worship in spirit but not in truth would look like.

6. Describe or define what worship in truth but not in spirit would look like.

7. Further instruction is found in chapter 15 of Matthew's gospel where he records for us a conversation between Jesus and some Pharisees and teachers of the law. In Matthew 5:8-9 Jesus says, "These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. They worship me in vain; their teachings are merely human rules." What is the core problem with their worship?

Here we see that Christ wants us to worship not primarily out of obedience or obligation—He wants us to worship from our hearts! This speaks strongly to the relational component that God desires to be a part of our worship. Relating to God in worship is an essential component of a healthy relationship with him.

Worship is to be a highly valued and a critical component to our walk as individuals and collectively as a church. John Piper argues for the importance of worship in a quote from his book "Let the Nations be Glad" saying:

"Missions is not the ultimate goal of the church. Worship is. Missions exist because worship doesn't. Worship is ultimate, not missions because God is ultimate, not man. When this age is over, and the countless millions of the redeemed fall on their faces before the throne of God, missions will be no more. It is a temporary necessity. But worship abides forever. If the pursuit of God's glory is not ordered above the pursuit of man's good in the affections of the heart and the priorities of the church, man will not be served, and God will not be duly honored. I am not pleading for a diminishing of missions but a magnifying of God. When the flame of worship burns with the heat of God's true worth, the light of missions will shine to the darkest peoples on earth. And I long for that day to come!"

Getting Personal

8. How is the value of worship expressed in your life as a believer? What changes would you like to pursue in this area?

9. Do you see yourself as someone who God is seeking to be a worshiper of Him?

10. Are you content with the role worship currently plays in your personal relationship with Christ? Why or Why not?

Homework: How would you define worship?