

“Being Whole-Life-All-Week-Long-Eternally-for-God People”

Revelation 5:6-14, John 4:7-30, Luke 7:36-50

Worship in heaven defines our worship (Revelation 5:6-14)

- Lots of falling down, praying, singing...
 - Is there emotion here in worship? YES!!!
 - Is there whole body/life/creation engagement? YES!!!
- Definitions of worship (vv. 12 & 13):
 - Revere—offering the congruent response to what we are before. Responding back to God who He has shown Himself to be. A giving of ourselves to God.
 - Worship begins with glory. Whose glory? God's and His alone.
 - All nations, all angels, all creation, all of our lives are called to be engaged in worship! This means that worship is about so much more than songs and so much more than Sunday mornings. The worship of God is the sole purpose for EVERYTHING on earth. And that makes it really, really, really hard. We can't even keep our minds fully engaged for ten minutes, never mind our heart, soul, mind, and strength. Apart from Christ's finished work we cannot bring any of those things to worship because we/they are not pure. So the first thing that God gives us in worship is the ability to worship Him.
 - Christ is central to Biblical worship.
 - Our most important need is Jesus.
 - Only one thing can be at the center for your worship.
 - Sunday mornings are a “Giving Service,” giving glory to God.
 - God is the point of worship and God is about relationship. Therefore, we matter but we are not the point of worship.
- All nations. All creation. All of life.
 - All nations (v. 9-10)
 - This is the reason that we sing Spanish songs in our English speaking Sunday morning corporate services.
 - Our Goals & Action steps for this year
 - Embrace the cross-cultural life of our church
 - Attend Alianza at least once
 - Attend at least one ministry event (outside Sunday morning worship) that is cross-cultural in nature (ESL, After School Program, Arabic Sunday School, Backyard Bible Club)
 - Help serve in one of these ministries
 - All creation (v. 13)
 - Let creation lead you in worship on Sundays and throughout the week
 - Birds singing, sunsets, mountains, the image of God in people...
 - All life
 - “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.” This is the great and foremost commandment. (Matt. 22:37-40)
 - Study fellowships and home groups help us learn “week-long” worship in different ways.
 - Work is worship
 - It was in the Garden of Eden and will continue to be in the new heavens and new earth
 - Raising children, driving cars, doing your job well...
 - The way we do things shows what or who we worship

Worship in spirit and truth defines our worship (John 4:7-30)

- In spirit – not Jerusalem, not on that mountain
 - Heart full of love for God that spills out into action.

- This not about giving lip service to God while our hearts are removed from Him. (Isaiah 29:13)
- Truth – according to the Word of God
 - False standard: Whether or not a service met my particular likes or dislikes.
 - “If I think it’s good, God must too” – from my home group
 - The standard for corporate times of worship is the Truth of God.
 - Was the Word opened in preaching, in song, in giving, in prayer? Did these things happen according to the Word of God? Were we open to the Word of God as it was preached, sung, etc.?
- Going through the motions...good or bad?
 - Physical, responsive "vocabulary" of worship – **prayer** (Ps. 69:13, 32:6, Prov. 15:8, 1 Thess. 5:16-18), **standing** (1 Chron. 23:29-31), **singing** (Ps. 33:1, 1 Chron. 16:9, Eph. 5:19), **giving** (Num. 18:28, Mal. 3:8, Mal. 3:10, Ex. 20:24, Phil. 4:15-19, Matthew 6:2), **lifting hands** (Psalm 134:2, 63:4, 28:2, Lamentations 2:19), **clapping** (Is. 55:12, Ps. 47:1), **kneeling/bowing** (Psalm 95:6, 1 Kings 8:54, Gen. 24:52, Exodus 4:31, Phil. 2:10), **being still** (Ps. 46:10, 4:4, 62:5, Lam. 3:25-28)
- Questions for daily worship (Lisa Updike):
 - O, Lord, how might I express my love for you today?
 - How might I more fully make your glory known?
 - How might I be more intimate with you?
 - How might I draw ever nearer?

Worship in humility defines our worship (Luke 7:36-50)

- Understanding our desperate need for Jesus allows us to push into potentially awkward places and worship Him with abandon.
- Forgiveness is key (v. 47) to humble worship. And from that forgiveness gratefulness is key!
 - Big sinners who know the true forgiveness of God become big worshipers!
- Bring what you have to worship God – expensive perfume, tears, need, possessions, hospitality, etc.
 - She doesn’t bring demands. Demands flip the relationship upside-down and put us in charge.
 - She brings needs to the One who is greater than her and can meet those needs.
 - Jesus is our biggest need. Reconciliation to our Creator, the Holy, Holy, Holy one is our deepest need.
 - What or who you worship will be shown in your wallet:
 - Jesus says, “for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also...No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.” (Matthew 6:21, 24)
 - God’s tithes and our offerings, part of our corporate worship
 - “Tithes—10th part of one’s income set aside for a specific use, to the government or ecclesiastics. Its origin is unknown, but it goes back far beyond the time of Moses, and it was practiced in lands from Babylonia to Rome. (Gen. 14:20, 28:22, Lev. 27:30-33, Num. 18:21-32)” *Zondervan Compact Bible Dictionary*, pg. 587-8
 - We give back to God to say, “You own it all and I owe you all.”
 - Hospitality as part of worship (v. 44-46)
 - Have a heart of hospitality on Sunday mornings (pursue visitors)
 - Wear nametags
 - Invite to a Study Fellowship or Home Group
 - Help those who look lost find the rooms, classes, nurseries, etc.

Worship boils down to this:

- What is your life about and who do you live if for?
 - Your *LIFE* not simply Sunday mornings
- Worship means “being Whole-Life-All-Week-Long-Eternally-for-God People”
 - Emotionally, spiritually, physically engaged in serving God.