Session 5: A Biblical View of Worship

Focus Text: Deuteronomy 6:1-7

Part 1: The importance of worship in the Christian's life: God created us to worship Him and to enjoy Him forever.

- **Worship is an important part of our existence:**
  - **Colossians 1:16**
  - **Revelation 4:11**
  - **Romans 11:36**
- **The first sin was ultimately about worship: Genesis 3:5-7**
- **Our greatest problem is a worship problem: Romans 1:21-25**

Part 2: Understanding worship: Worship is a disposition of the heart that moves an individual to express humble gratitude through active submission to a superior.

- **Three important elements to worship:** We are body, soul, and spirit
  - **The mind:** Processes truth about the One being worshipped.
  - **The heart:** Our affections are stirred by these facts.
  - **The physical response:** The heart motivates us to act.
- **Two Examples:**
  - **Nehemiah 8:8-12**
  - **Colossians 3:16**
- **Four Categories of Worship:**
  - **Private worship:**
    - **Psalm 55:17**
    - **Psalm 143:8**
  - **Family worship:**
    - **Genesis 18:19**
    - **Psalm 78:2-5**
  - **Corporate worship: Hebrews 10:24-25**
  - **Christ-centered work: Colossians 3:22-24**

Part 3: Healthy worship starts in our homes:

- **The most significant thing we teach our children is not what they will do but why they will do it.**
- **Reading Scripture:** Worship begins with Scripture.
  - Have a plan.
  - Teaching them how to read the Bible by the way you approach it.
- **Instruction:** Scripture must be rightly expounded.
  - Teach them about God's character and ways.

    - Teach them what it means to reverence God.
    - Teach them practical wisdom so they will know how to make decisions and process their challenges.
    - Teach them the gospel and what it means to trust Christ.
    - Teach them how to give the gospel.
    - Teach them about church life:
    - Explain why we do what we do in the church gathering.
    - Teach them how to minister to others in the body.
    - Teach them about the ordinances.
    - Teach why giving matters and how we should approach it.
- **Singing:**
    - **Historical perspective:** Help your children appreciate church history with its strengths and weaknesses by the way you approach the music you use in worship.
    - **Theological depth:** Worship music should teach sound doctrine with depth, beauty, and passion.
    - **Simple melodies that can be easily sung:** Songs should be singable to the average person.
- **Prayer:**
    - Teach them to pray to their Father through the Son.
    - Teach them that it is not a time to sleep or be silly.
    - Teach them that it is not a time to impress people.
    - Guide them into a healthy pattern of prayer.
- **Some practical Considerations:**
    - **When they are small:** Teach them how to sit still and reverence the scriptures.
    - **As they become older:** Teach them simple truths on their level that they can practically apply.
    - **As they develop the ability to think critically:** Teach them how to carefully interpret and apply the scriptures.
    - **Encourage questions that are in their minds:** Allow them to communicate what they are thinking and engage with their questions.
    - **Encourage them to take basic notes in church:**

Part 4: General thoughts about music in the local church:

- **Music must be congregationally focused:** Resist coming to church with a self-focused mindset. We worship as a community, not individuals. This principle should shape everything about the way we approach music in the church.

- **The message must be theologically sound:** A song's popularity, does not mean we should fail to critically analyze its soundness and the quality of its message.
- **The music must be as message-centered as possible:** The style of the music should paint a consistent picture with the message being communicated and to enhance our sense of that message rather than detracting from it.
- **Music ministry is a sacred privilege:** Music in the church should not be entertainment driven or self-promoting. Rather than thinking in terms of displaying talent, we should think in terms of using gifts to edify God's people.
- **Preparing the next generation:** While being cautious about putting children in visible music roles prematurely, we also want to encourage them to develop music skills when they are young and to begin giving them opportunities to serve as they mature.

Part 5: How our weekly services should uniquely shape our music ministry:

- **The focus of our morning worship service:**
    - Each hymn is carefully selected around a theme with the desire to stir up the congregation to a renewed sense of God's greatness and a passion to live in the light of the gospel.
    - We schedule instrumental specials to aid in directing the congregation's attention to reflect on the Scriptures we will hear preached.
    - Since these specials are designed for reflection, we use slides to focus attention on the message of the song.
- **The focus of our evening worship service:**
    - We strongly desire to see our young people connected to church life rather than isolated from it.
    - To help them be more engaged, we give the congregation and especially the young people the opportunity to select their favorite hymns.
    - We try to make the evening sermons simpler to not just encourage our adults, but also our children.
    - We schedule families and younger teens in the evening rather than morning service to give them opportunities to grow in their musical abilities and to develop a proper understanding of the seriousness of serving in the music ministry.