

# “A Church Who Worships Together ... “

## Introduction:

- No coercing, zero pressure
- No new ideas, but a deep conviction, misplaced worship
- Too big of a subject, this is just the start of a conversation
- Music is such a sweet and powerful part of our worship, but we aren't going to focus on that today. We can tend to focus on the musical attributes of worship maybe a little too much.  
**NOT IN THE SENSE THAT WE SHOULD DO IT LESS, BUT INSTEAD, THAT WE SHOULD ADD MORE TO IT. (Different portions of the service)**

## Define:

***Dave Buehring-*** “Worship is our love response to Him, It is ministering to the heart of God. Worship is an intimate and joyous expression, the engagement of our entire beings with the greatness of our Lord.”

- What comes to mind when we hear the word “worship”?
  - Music, prayer? Mountains, Sunsets?
- The question is, not ***if*** we are worshipping but ***who or what*** are we worshipping?
  - We were all created for worship, in our DNA, automatic. Encouraging ... right?
  - ***Anything can be worshipped (SOBERING)***
  - God has given us so many good things ... worship there creator not the created
  - We have to actively pursue the object of our worship, because if left on default we end up worshipping all kinds of other things. **The scary thing is ... if we aren't intentional, we can easily end up worshipping ourselves.**

***Eugene Peterson-*** “Worship is the strategy by which we interrupt our preoccupation with ourselves and attend to the presence of God.”

## Who do we worship?

- Worship starts with an intimate knowing of the character, names and attributes of God. You gotta know Him to worship him. The Word.
- **Micheal Jordan Story**
- We worship a God who has made himself known to us. We don't have to wonder about who He is, or what he asks of us. He tells us.

## ***Jeremiah 29:12-13***

*[13] You will seek me and find me when you search for me with all your heart. [14] I will be found by you” –this is the LORD’s declaration—*

## ***Romans 1:19***

*[19] since what can be known about God is evident among them, because God has shown it to them.*

## ***Psalms 51:6***

*[6] Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being, and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart.*

**He has made himself known. Seek him and you will find Him.**

## How do we worship?

- With our heart, soul, mind and body.
- Biblical expressions of worship include ***singing, shouting, clapping, laughing, leaping, lifting hands, bowing, kneeling, dancing, musical instruments, singing a new song, stillness, etc. (physical nature of worship)***
- Heart posture is also very important. Worship isn't just the outward expression or the physical nature of certain acts of Worship. It's also an inward knowledge and experience with His holiness and worthiness. (WORTH-SHIP)
- Romans 12 tells us we can worship by being "transformed by the renewing of our minds". Thinking rightly about God is worship.
- So, we don't have a nice, tidy definition for worship. However, the God who has made himself known to us will show us what he wants from us in this area of worship, if we just seek him. He will define it on his terms. ***Let the throne set the tone*** ... let's not box God in by placing an earthly definition on what it is to worship Him. Ask God to give you the heart of a worshiper and He will.
- **He does this work in us. He took it a step further by sending us the ultimate Worship Leader in His Son, Jesus.**

## Jesus: Our Priest and Worship Leader

- Beginning of Acts, The Ascension (not a retirement, takes his place in the heavenly temple at God's right hand)
- Hebrews chapter 7 ( Jesus is a new/superior priest, the old priests were imperfect and inferior, they died. )

### ***Hebrews 7:24-26***

*[24] But because he remains forever, he holds his priesthood permanently. [25] Therefore, he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, since he always lives to intercede for them. [26] For this is the kind of high priest we need: holy, innocent, undefiled, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens.*

### ***Hebrews 4:14-15***

*[14] Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens—Jesus the Son of God—let us hold fast to our confession. [15] For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who has been tempted in every way as we are, yet without sin.*

### ***Hebrews 8:1-2***

*[1] Now the point in what we are saying is this: we have such a high priest, one who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven, [2] ***a minister in the holy places***, in the true tent that the Lord set up, not man.*

- Jesus is at the right hand of God and He's serving as a minister ... whoa!
- My imagination goes wild with that; Jesus is leading a heavenly worship service and he invites all of us to participate.
- Do we realize what this means? For every Christian, at all times and in all circumstances, all situations, there has only ever been one Worship Leader, Only one who is worthy to go into that sacred space, enduring the wrath of God, allowing us to enter in boldly, ***through Him*** and ***with Him***.

- This amazing truth isn't just available on Sunday mornings, we can worship anytime, anywhere.
- **Jesus always lives to intercede for us, He is sitting at the right hand of God ministering in the Holy places. He will lead us to the throne room!**

### **A Church Who Worships together (Practical Application)**

- A church who worships together is a church made up of individuals who are fully devoted to worshipping on their own. Committed to regular times of worship in the secret places, at home, at work, in the car, etc. Submitting to our Great High Priest and Worship Leader, Jesus.
- You need regular, daily times of worship. The things we do on Sunday will never reach their full potential and impact unless we are a people who regularly worship in our daily lives.
- **SO SO SIMPLE, BUT SO SO IMPORTANT!**
- I love our worship times together, but if that is the only space and time you are giving yourself over to worship then you are settling for a sliver of the life He has for you. See in this situation it turns out, that the thing that pleases Him most (our worship) is the very same thing that satisfies us most. It gives us joy. It's our lifeline.
- Your voice is needed

### **2 Roadblocks: Can apply to your personal times of worship and worship gatherings.**

#### **1. Relying on Feelings and Emotions**

- This is a choice, not a feeling.
- God gave us emotions ... so they are good. But they were never intended to be the guiding force in our relationship with Him and the certainly aren't a reliable gauge on the state of our worship to Him. Quite the opposite, our relationship with Him should be the guiding force for our emotions and feelings. If we are waiting until we "feel" like worshipping, waiting for an emotive response, we'll be missing out on the beauty of choosing Him. **(Marriage)**
- Actually, one of the most important times we can choose worship is when we don't feel like it. That's true devotion.

**Eugene Peterson** - "Feelings are great liars. If Christians worshipped only when they felt like it, there would be precious little worship. We think that if we don't feel something there can be no authenticity in doing it. But the wisdom of God says something different: that we can act ourselves into a new way of feeling much quicker than we can feel ourselves into a new way of acting. Worship is an act that develops feelings for God, not a feeling for God that is expressed in an act of worship."

#### **2. Relying on our Preferences to stir our passions**

- **Drums, electric guitars, etc.**
  - It's one thing to say I like or prefer those things, but it's a completely different thing to say that I need those things in order to worship.

**Matt Chandler** - "Worship gatherings are not always spectacular, but they are always supernatural. And if a church looks for or works for the spectacular, she may miss the supernatural. If a person enters a gathering to be wowed with something impressive, with a style that fits him just right, with an order of service and song selection designed just the right way, that person may miss the supernatural presence of God. Worship is supernatural whenever people come hungry to respond, react, and receive from God for who He is and what He has done. A church worshipping as a Creature of the Word doesn't show up to perform or be entertained; she comes desperate and needy, thirsty for grace, receiving from the Lord and the body of Christ, and then gratefully receiving what she needs as she offers her praise-the only proper response to the God who saves us."

**A.W. Tozer-** *“The church that can’t worship must be entertained. And leaders who can’t lead a church to worship must provide the entertainment.”*

- If entertainment is what you’re after, you’ve come to the wrong place ... for a couple reasons. One, we just aren’t that good at it (gym, fluorescent lights, etc). Second, to be quite frank ... I’m not even remotely interested in entertaining you. God forbid it. That’s not good for you and its not good for me and it certainly isn’t worship.
- Have our preferences become more important than our desire to truly worship?
- What if instead of constructing a list of preferences, we devoted ourselves to the local body that God has called us into and choose to worship Him there with those people. (*Can’t go to that church because I don’t like the worship*) **CAUTION!**
- What is stirring up your passion? What causes your response in worship? Your preferences being met or the knowledge of who Jesus is and what he has done for you. Only one of those options can ever be true worship.
- **“Heart of Worship” Story - Matt Redman (Might require some extreme adjustments)**

### **Simplify and Purify:**

Christ is asking, “What are your intentions with **my bride?**”

- As we enter this sacred space of worshipping together, What are your intentions? To be entertained, to check something off a list? To be seen by others? (**We have to truly wrestle with this question, take stock, head and heart**)
- Proverbs 16:2 All the ways of a man are pure in his own eyes, but the LORD weighs the spirit.
- Do your intentions lead to action?

### **Acts 2:42-47**

*[42] They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching, to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread, and to prayer. [43] Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and signs were being performed through the apostles. [44] Now all the believers were together and held all things in common. [45] They sold their possessions and property and distributed the proceeds to all, as any had need. [46] Every day they devoted themselves to meeting together in the temple, and broke bread from house to house. They ate their food with joyful and sincere hearts, [47] praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. Every day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.*

**You were created for worship. Every time we choose to truly worship, we get a taste of old eden, before the fall. We are in true communion with the Lord. We are walking with him in the cool of the day, unashamed. We recognize, through Jesus, we are purified and undefiled and we have access to the throne room. Worship is a life fully devoted and surrendered. Everything you say, think or do is an opportunity to worship. When we come together, as one body to worship, we are calling heaven down to earth. We are quite literally getting in sync with the angels and saints in heaven (Revelations). We are stirring up each other’s faith. We are testifying to God’s goodness. Think about how much this makes God smile. His**

**kids, in unity, with one voice celebrating the life and love he has given us. GOD DESIRES THIS, IT MAKES HIM HAPPY.**

A church that worships together ....

- Stays together
- Rejoices together
- Mourns together
- Prays together
- Celebrates together
- Communes together
- Sings together
- Feasts together