

The Power of Spirit-Filled Diverse Worship

John 4:19-26; Romans 15:1-7

Big Question How Can We Grow into Mature, Spirit-Filled Worshipers.

What is True Worship? (John 4:19-26pp)

- Not religion, ritual or the right place. (v. 20-21pp)
- Not consumerism. (v. 22pp)
- Not Scarecrow or Tinman.

But the time is coming – indeed it's here now- when true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth. The Father is looking for those who will worship him that way. For God is Spirit, so those who worship him must worship in spirit and in truth. (vv. 23-24 NLT)

We need to let go of our intellectual idea of worship and realize there is more to worship than a sermon... we must let go of our entertainment expectations and remind ourselves that we are not in church to watch a Christian variety show. We have gathered together in worship to be met by God the Almighty. God the creator of the universe, the One who sustains our lives, our Redeemer and King, is present in proclamation, music, prayer, and the table. He wants to communicate to us, to penetrate our inner self, to take up residence within us. And as we go through the experience of meeting with him in this mystical moment of public or private worship, we are to respond. But response, is not just singing a hymn or song, not just saying a creed or prayer. Response, from the very beginning of worship to the end must be a powerful inner experience of actually being in the presence of God. When we sing or confess or pray, we are not singing or saying words, but expressing a feeling, bringing our souls, truly responding and communicating to the living and active presence of an all loving and merciful God. (Robert Webber)

Credo Definition: I constantly worship God in my personal life and regularly join in the worship of God's Church.

How Do we Worship?

A Biblical Foundation for Diverse Worship Styles and expression:

- 1) Don't quarrel about Disputable matters. (Romans 14:1-5; 10pp)
- 2) Maturity moves us from a Me First to a You First Mindset. (Romans 15:1-4pp)

Video: It's all about me. (Peoples church – 1:26)

- 3) Being of the Same Mind. (Romans 15:5-7pp)

The Biblical Hope: Authentic worship in spirit and truth that glorifies God and Honors each other – in our unique styles and expressions.

Toward some Biblical Values that Guide our corporate worship:

- 1) God-Centered.
- 2) Free.
- 3) Passionate.
- 4) Diverse and uniquely us.