

The Propriety of Worship, Psalm 33

Propriety was important in the home where I grew up. What was fitting, proper, right, seemly, suitable. **A living room no one sat or lived in, because a pastor's house was to be proper.** Propriety demands awareness of context or surroundings. Some things are good all of the time; some depend on circumstances.

Rules for eating: no elbows on table, chewing with mouth open, talking with anything in mouth, knowing basic use of knife, fork and spoon. Not eating utensils in both hands - **until we went to Europe**. Outwardly different, but actually more demanding. The principle had not changed, only the expression.

Worship is indigenous, endemic, to the human animal. Hero ideas are a watered-down versions of worship. In worship, one recounts another's greatness, seeks to gain the approval of the one being worshipped, adores, looks up to, ascribes to that one greatness, sees them as a distinct other.

The idea of man being hard-wired to worship: I believe Time Magazine

- Worship and spiritual experiences can be observed on a brain scan. Did evolution, in all its perceived power, create worshippers?" Not. It is not only a hypothesis, it is a poor one, created from bias and refusal to look at what is. It is the furthest thing from Occam's Razor that can be imagined.

Psalm 33 is a handbook on worship. "Sing for joy to the Lord, O you righteous ones; praise is becoming for the upright". One sentence tells us how, who should worship, who should be worshipped and why: it is becoming. It fits who we are. It is indigenous to us; we are hard-wired. It is natural; it is good for our frontal lobes; it rests them.

This Psalm tells us to worship and tells us of the resulting blessing. Romans 1 tells us what happens when we do not do so.

1. Four good reasons to worship
 - a. The word of the Lord is upright; What else do you know that is upright in character, intent, action, outcome, motive, all-knowing,
 - b. The word of the Lord is powerful
 - c. The Word of the Lord stands against the counsel of those who would do otherwise; His purpose is unchangeable;
 - d. The Lord is aware of those who trust him and hope for his loving-kindness.
2. How then shall we worship. Worship must be spiritual or it is not worship at all. Yet worship that is totally divorced from anything physical, personal or material or even emotional is very limited worship and does not answer to the call of scripture; Three ways the spirit finds expression;
 - a. Outward, not just within: strong emotion will find expression. Whether joy, sorrow, gratitude, surprise, delight, we find a way to express it.
 - b. Worship with joyful gusto, not driven as a slave: Be around a person who is happy in the Lord; you will be amazed.

- c. Public, in community, and let your worship encourage others. *Psalm 116:1 He hears, He has inclined, I shall call upon Him 12ff, What shall I give to the Lord for His benefits? I will lift up my cup of salvation, call on His name and pay my vows in the sanctuary - in front of people.*
- David, bringing Ark to Jerusalem; had failed once, now intent on doing it right: 1 Chronicles 16:8 Assigned Asaph and relatives to praise; perhaps this is the Psalm of theirs or David's: *Give thanks to the Lord; call on His name.... / v34 Give thanks to the Lord, then say, "Save us...."*
- Jehoshaphat, 4th king of Judah, a great reformer, a Martin Luther. Received word of a group of an axis of powers that had joined against Judah and Jerusalem. Led by Moab, Ammon, north to Syria, south to Edom. Were already in Engedi, 45 miles from Jerusalem.
 - His prayer, 2 Chronicles 20:5-13
 - Encouragement, prophetic message, Jahaziel, v14-19 Do not fear; you will not have to fight; go to face them; the Lord is with you. In response, the Levites and sons of Korah began to praise the Lord in a loud voice.
 - God gave the battle plan; station the choir in front of the army, v21. Let them praise; confusion hit the enemy and they turned on each other.

If you want a deeper, richer fuller experience, change your friend. Change your friend, not by finding a new one, but by letting your husband, wife, child, friend see you really worship.

Pictures of worship:

1. What are your three favorite pictures of praise and worship in scripture?
2. How do you express praise in a way that influences and encourages others?