

October 12, 2025 – Order of Worship

TIME OF REFLECTION

“We have smoothly transitioned from one form of feminine subservience to another, but we pretend that this one is liberation.”

“...Western sexual culture in the twenty-first century...promotes the interests of the Hugh Hefners of the world at the expense of the Marilyn Monroes.”

~Louise Perry, British journalist in *The Case Against the Sexual Revolution*

“For we were the purpose of [Christ’s] embodiment, and for our salvation he so loved human beings as to come to be and appear in a human body.”

“He became what we are so that he might make us what he is.”

~Athanasius of Alexandria (c.296-373), *On the Incarnation*

“The dignity of human nature, fashioned in the divine image, is such that God can take it for himself—and keep it.”

~Nigel Cameron, bioethicist

“[The] central doctrines of Christianity prompted and sustained attractive, liberating, and effective social relations and organizations.... [P]erhaps above all else, Christianity brought a new conception of humanity to a world saturated with capricious cruelty and the vicarious love of death.... [W]hat Christianity gave to its converts was nothing less than their humanity.”

~Rodney Stark (1934-2022), Professor of Sociology and Comparative Religion

“It is a serious thing...to remember that the dullest most uninteresting person you can talk to may one day be a creature which, if you saw it now, you would be strongly tempted to worship, or else a horror and a corruption such as you now meet, if at all, only in a nightmare.... There are no ordinary people. You have never talked to a mere mortal.... But it is immortals whom we joke with, work with, marry, snub, and exploit....”

~C.S. Lewis (1893-1963), *The Weight of Glory*

“Christianity’s success is to be found in its inclusiveness. More than any other of its [ancient] competitors it attracted all races and classes.... Christianity, too, was for both sexes.... The Church welcomed both rich and poor.... No other [religion]...took in so many groups and strata of society.”

~Kenneth Scott Latourette (1884-1986), historian at Yale University

SERMON – “Christ Causes Us to Value and Care for People” – *Pastor Don Willeman*

SERMON PASSAGES – *selected passages (ESV)*

Genesis 1

²⁶Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”

²⁷So God created man in his own image,
in the image of God he created him;
male and female he created them.

²⁸And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”

Matthew 22

¹⁵Then the Pharisees went and plotted how to entangle him in his words. ¹⁶And they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, “Teacher, we know that you are true and teach the way of God truthfully, and you do not care about anyone’s opinion, for you are not swayed by appearances. ¹⁷Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?” ¹⁸But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, “Why put me to the test, you hypocrites? ¹⁹Show me the coin for the tax.” And they brought him a denarius. ²⁰And Jesus said to them, “Whose likeness and inscription is this?” ²¹They said, “Caesar’s.” Then he said to them, “Therefore render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s.” ²²When they heard it, they marveled. And they left him and went away.

Matthew 22

³⁴But when the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together. ³⁵And one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. ³⁶“Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?” ³⁷And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. ³⁸This is the great and first commandment. ³⁹And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. ⁴⁰On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.”

1 Corinthians 6

¹⁸Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body. ¹⁹Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, ²⁰for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

Hebrews 2

¹⁴Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, ¹⁵and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery. ¹⁶For surely it is not angels that he helps, but he helps the offspring of Abraham. ¹⁷Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.