

The Oaks Community Church
Worship Guide



October 1, 2023

I. Worship, Praise, & Thanksgiving

“There is no one holy like the LORD; there is no one besides you; there is no Rock like our God.

I Samuel 2:2 (NIV)

II. Family Confession & Greeting

The Oaks Priority #3

We are a prayer driven church. We emphasize seeking God and passionately praying for His kingdom to come and His will to be done on earth as it is in heaven.

“Again I say to you that if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them.” Matthew 18:19, 20 (NKJV)

GOD’S DESIGN FOR THE HUMAN FAMILY

The Cultural Narrative vs. God’s Rich Story
Ephesians 4:17-24, 1:17-23
Minister Bethany Rivera

Introduction to our new series

- How are we going to do this series - We are interested in God’s truth and love.
 - Proverbs 3:3-4
 - 1 Peter 3:15-16

Introduction to Ephesians

Ephesians 4:17-24

17 So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking. **18** They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts. **19** Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, and they are full of greed. **20** That, however, is not the way of life you learned **21** when you heard about Christ and were taught in him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus. **22** You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; **23** to be made new in the attitude of your minds; **24** and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

- Paul's Clear Message - Do not be like them!

Our Current Cultural Context & Narrative

- What is the narrative?
- Secularism, radical individualism, and making our own meaning and truth.

Definitions

- Secularism - a worldview that started as an erasing of God from any public sphere.
- Humanism - the idea that humans can be good without religion, and without God.
- Radical individualism - the view that the freedoms and desires of each individual is above the collective.
- Expressive individualism - In this view you are not only encouraged to fulfill any all desires you have, you are also encouraged to pursue and express your authentic self.
- Authentic self - your identity based on your internal thoughts and feelings. No one outside of you can define you.
- Existentialism - you make up your own meaning and purpose in this life, there is no greater purpose.
- **What is the gospel or the good news in this worldview and how is it holding up?**

Paul's prayer for the Ephesians:

Ephesians 1:17-23

17 I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. **18** I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, **19** and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength **20** he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, **21** far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. **22** And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, **23** which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.'

The cultural narrative vs. God's Rich Story

- We are called to know the full richness of God's truth

God's Truth

1. The universe has a design
2. We are created - we have a creator
3. We are given our identity by God
4. We have a redemptive identity in Christ
5. We are made for community
6. We have purpose and meaning from God
7. We look forward to the greater reality

❖ Family Communion

“Just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love.... to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved. In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace.” Ephesians 1:4, 6, 7 (NKJV)

IV. **Worshipping God through Our Offerings**

Stewardship Principle #4

In addition to God's tithe, we give offerings to spread Christ's Gospel.

As you know, you Philippians were the only ones who gave me financial help when I first brought you the Good News and then traveled on from Macedonia. No other church did this.... And this same God who takes care of me will supply all your needs from His glorious riches, which have been given to us in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:15, 19 (NLT)

3 Ways to Give:

1. Online at www.theoaksweb.com or download our app (The Oaks Bakersfield)
2. Mail Check/Drop Off Cash to: 10200 Campus Park Drive, Bakersfield, CA 93311
3. In person through the worship service offering or using the offering boxes

The Oaks Community Church
10200 Campus Park Drive // Bakersfield, CA 93311
661-663-3888 // www.theoaksweb.com // Email: tocc@theoaksweb.com

Text us to let us know that you are here today or with any prayer request that you have: 661-241-3408