

Worship - Spirit & Truth

November 8, 2020

Scriptures: John 4:19-24; Romans 12.

Bottom Line: We worship God best by becoming like Him.

Asking "why" keeps us from having lifeless traditions, helps us push past the plateaus in our faith, and brings new life to old traditions.

From Praise to Worshipping in Spirit & Truth

We tend to put worship into a box. It needs to be an expression of praise to God, in a few specific ways, at a few specific times, in a few specific places.

John 4:19-24

Our worship of God should correspond to who He is. God is Spirit, so we shouldn't tie our worship to a specific place or time.

Romans 12:1-2

True worship is letting God transform our minds and hearts to be more like Him.

Old Testament Witnesses

Deut. 30:1-6 - One day God will change the hearts of Israel so they can obey Him.

Ezek. 11:19; 36:26 - God promises that, one day, He will gather them and take away His people's stony, stubborn hearts and give them tender hearts of flesh.

Jeremiah 31:33 - God promises a new covenant where His laws are not written on stone or paper, but on His people's hearts.

Hosea 6:6 - God's would rather His people worship by being merciful than by giving sacrifices.

Worshipping in Spirit & Truth in Winkler, 2020

1. Sunday worship gatherings are shutting down, **but worship continues**
2. In a time of tension and fear, **we worship by being gracious and kind**
3. In a time of division and extremes, **we worship by pursuing peace and unity**

LISTENING

Have someone in your group share something about their week. They could answer one of the following questions:

- What was a big challenge or problem you faced this week? How did you handle it?
- Where did you experience God this week? Or where do you wish you had experienced God this week?
- Based on your life experience this week, what do you think God is trying to teach you right now? What is He trying to build in you?

After the person shares, the group can respond. Make sure you let them know you heard them: tell them what you heard, offer wise advice where it's asked for, share from your own experience as well.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Review Sunday's message. What stood out to you? What challenged you? Are there any lingering questions?
2. Are you comfortable asking questions of your traditions and beliefs? Why or why not?
3. How does this expanded understanding of worship change the way you understand what God "wants" from you?
4. What is the biggest challenge for worshipping for you in 2020?
5. How can you worship God in Spirit & Truth this week, and moving forward in a pandemic?