

Small Group Guide: The Seriousness of God

Key Takeaways:

1. God takes His name and glory very seriously and does not share it with others.
2. True worship and praise involve sacrifice and cost us something.
3. We are designed to worship, and what we worship shapes who we become.
4. Praise and obedience go hand in hand; one cannot occur without the other.
5. God calls us to fully commit to Him and not try to have "one foot in both worlds."

Discussion Questions:

1. The pastor mentioned that everyone worships something. What are some common "gods" people worship in our society today? How can we identify what we truly worship in our own lives?
2. Discuss the concept of praise as a sacrifice. What does it mean to offer God something that "costs us nothing" versus something of value?
3. The sermon highlighted several costs of praise: time, pride, will, and submission. Which of these do you find most challenging to sacrifice in your own life? Why?
4. How does the idea of God as the jealous God challenge or comfort you? How does this aspect of God's character relate to His love for us?
5. The pastor emphasized that we cannot serve both God and other "gods." In what areas of your life do you struggle with trying to keep "one foot in both worlds"?

6. Reflect on the quote: "The only thing I contribute to my salvation is the sin that which makes it necessary." How does this perspective impact your view of grace and your relationship with God?

Practical Applications:

1. Daily Surrender: Before getting out of bed each morning this week, ask God, "What do you want me to do today?" Be intentional about listening for His guidance.
2. Time Audit: Review your calendar and spending habits. Identify areas where you can reallocate time or resources to better align with your desire to worship God.
3. Praise Journal: Each day, write down one thing you're praising God for, and note what it "costs" you to offer that praise (e.g., time, comfort, pride).
4. Idolatry Check: Prayerfully examine your life for any "idols" or areas where you're divided in your loyalty to God. Choose one area to focus on surrendering to God this week.
5. Community Accountability: Share with the group one specific way you plan to prioritize your relationship with God this week. Ask for prayer and support in this commitment.