

Worshipping

We were made to worship

“Worship is not limited to singing songs, but is a life poured out in holiness, obedience, service, almsgiving, mission, sharing the Gospel with the lost, sharing our bread with the poor, sharing our lives with one another. I believe God receives glory by the very birth of an infant, by bees making honey, by husband and wife making love, when the painter paints, the singer sings, the architect designs, the teacher teaches, the athlete competes. Worship in song, in verbal praise is one part, a significant part of worship, of glorifying God, but not the only one.”

- Simon Ponsonby

The intention of the artist — read about Van Gogh — a man who wanted to use his art for the kingdom

Colossians 1:15,16

Revelation 4:11

Simple, yet profound; natural, yet divine

Everybody worships something. Whatever captivates our heart's affection, mind's attention, and soul's ambition effectively has our worship. The English word 'worship' comes from the Anglo-Saxon 'weorthscipe,' which literally means to ascribe worth to something.

1. How has God created you to worship? What in God's world makes your heart turn toward Him, glorify and enjoy Him?

Worship is about encountering the reality/presence of God and reordering our priorities in response to who He is.

“To worship is to quicken the conscience by the holiness of God, to feed the mind with the truth of God, to purge the imagination by the beauty of God, to open the heart to the love of God, to devote the will to the purpose of God. All this is gathered up in that emotion which most cleanses us from selfishness because it is the most selfless of all emotions – adoration.”

- William Temple

The way of worship is identifying He who is worthy of worship!

Psalm 29:1,2

1 Corinthians 10:31

Occupation is mentioned over 5000 times in scripture - your work is your worship!

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2. How can your work be worship? What does that look like? How can you love others as an effect of your worship?

It's not if we worship, but what we worship

A story of Misdirected worship

Read Exodus 32:1-8, 15-20

3. What kinds of things are you making into an idol for your worship? Even good things can be made into an idol!

What things are getting your worship other than Jesus? Sports teams, entertainers, your family, politics, God's people instead of God Himself, yourself

As Jesus followers our only focus should be God, not ourselves!

We must make worship a priority

“If the Lord is to be Lord, worship must have priority in our lives. The divine priority is worship first, service second.” - Richard J. Foster

The divine priority is worship first, serve second

If we truly understood what it looks like to worship God, we would be walking in a way that serving, sharing about Jesus, and serving others would naturally be flowing out of us every day.

Worship is our response to what we value most.

Read Luke 10:38-42

4. How could you shift some things to make worship a priority this week? This month? This year? In our personal lives? In our families? In our small groups?