



## Notes

### Worship When We Gather

#### Why We Gather

1. It's Commanded
2. We're Needy
3. We're Needed
4. It's Our Heavenly Dress-Rehearsal
  - Gathering becomes more than a mere command, it becomes our joy and privilege. How often do you long for the Day?

#### Healthy Tensions When We Gather

##### God's Transcendence and Immanence

- Ecclesiastes 5:1-3: "Guard your steps when you go to the house of God. To draw near to listen is better than to offer the sacrifice of fools, for they do not know that they are doing evil. Be not rash with your mouth, nor let your heart be hasty to utter a word before God, *for God is in heaven and you are on earth*. Therefore let your words be few. For a dream comes with much business, and a fool's voice with many words."
- Hebrews 10:19-22: "Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water."

##### Heads and Hearts

- Psalm 111:2: "Great are the works of the LORD, *studied* by all who delight in them."
- Psalm 63:5-6: "My soul will be satisfied as with fat and rich food, and my mouth will praise you with joyful lips, when I *remember* you upon my bed, and *meditate* on you in the watches of the night." We worship God with our minds when we study Him more and more. Paul understood this when He wrote this in Col 1:9-10, "And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and



understanding, so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him.” We learn of God and His will in His inspired and authoritative word. That is why the preaching of God’s word is so important, and why we gather to sit under it each Sunday. And that’s why we study God’s word privately as well.

- Worship not only engages the head, but also the heart!
- Psalm 100:1-2: “Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth! Serve the LORD with gladness! Come into his presence with singing!”
- Psalm 47:1: “Clap your hands, all peoples! Shout to God with loud songs of joy!” The Psalms are very loud and energetic at times. The very last Psalm, Psalm 150, mentions trumpets, lutes, harps, tambourines, dancing, strings, pipes, cymbals, and even loud crashing cymbals.

#### Internal and External

- No matter what your external expression of worship is, what matters most is your heart.
- A general rule of thumb in worship to remember is this: it’s not about you.

#### Vertical and Horizontal

- Worship is first and foremost directed upwards to God.
- Horizontal worship refers to the reality that the songs we sing, while primarily for God, are also sung to each other as well.
- Colossians 3:16: “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing *one another* in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.”
  - We’re needy and needed. That applies to when we’re singing!

#### Planned and Spontaneous

- There is no such thing as “not having a liturgy” because having no planned liturgy is a liturgy on its own.
- We ought to plan our Sunday morning gatherings very intentionally and prayerfully. And here at RCF we do.
- C.J. Mahaney once said, “The Holy Spirit helps us plan but our plans are not the Holy Spirit.”
- We need to be consciously aware that there is a constant tension between planned and spontaneous happening every Sunday, even at RCF.

#### For the Church and For Unbelievers

- 1 Corinthians 14:23-24 says, “If, therefore, ***the whole church comes together*** and all speak in tongues, ***and outsiders or unbelievers enter***, will they not say that you are out of your minds? But if all prophesy, and an unbeliever or outsider enters, he is convicted by all, he is called to account by all, the secrets of his heart are disclosed, and so, falling on his face, he will worship God and declare that God is really among you.”
- The Apostle Paul understood that there would be outsiders when the church came together.
  - When you remember this tension, you begin to pray for the unsaved when the preacher is pleading with lost souls to come to Christ.