

Worship over Self **Core 10: Week Five**

I. Our Core Value

Worship over Self

We value elevating God to first place in our affections and living a life that honors him. We express our love for God together on Sunday mornings, but we also strive to fill each day with a focus on God instead of a preoccupation with ourselves.

“Worship happens whenever we intentionally cherish God and value him above all else in life. Worship reveals what is important to us” (Calhoun, Disciplines, 49).

“In worship we engage ourselves with, dwell upon, and express the greatness, beauty, and goodness of God through thought and the use of words, rituals, and symbols. We do this alone as well as in union with God’s people. To worship is to see God as worthy, to ascribe great worth to him” (Willard, Spirit, 177)

II. Our Scriptural Mandate

Deuteronomy 6:4-19

⁴Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. ⁵**Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.** ⁶These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. ⁷Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. ⁸Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. ⁹Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.

¹⁰When the LORD your God brings you into the land he swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, to give you—a land with large, flourishing cities you did not build, ¹¹houses filled with all kinds of good things you did not provide, wells you did not dig, and vineyards and olive groves you did not plant—then when you eat and are satisfied, ¹²be careful that you do not forget the LORD, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.

¹³Fear the LORD your God, serve him only and take your oaths in his name. ¹⁴Do not follow other gods, the gods of the peoples around you; ¹⁵for the LORD your God, who is among you, is a jealous God and his anger will burn against you, and he will destroy you from the face of the land. ¹⁶Do not put the LORD your God to the test as you did at Massah. ¹⁷Be sure to keep the commands of the LORD your God and the stipulations and decrees he has given you. ¹⁸Do what is right and good in the LORD’s sight, so that it may go well with you and you may go in and take over the good land the LORD promised on oath to your ancestors, ¹⁹thrusting out all your enemies before you, as the LORD said.

Matthew 4:8-10

⁸Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. ⁹“All this I will give you,” he said, “if you will bow down and worship me.”

¹⁰Jesus said to him, “Away from me, Satan! For it is written: **‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.’**”

Matthew 22:34-38

³⁴Hearing that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, the Pharisees got together. ³⁵One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question: ³⁶“Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?”

³⁷Jesus replied: “**‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’** ³⁸This is the first and greatest commandment.

III. Our _____ of Worship

- Some Aspects of Worship
 - In thought (1 Pet 3:15)
 - In song (Psalm 100:2)
 - In word (Rom 11:33-36)
 - In posture (Job 1:20)
 - With thankfulness (Col 3:16-17)

- Individually

- Most Christians find it helpful to set aside some time every day to “devote” themselves to God, that is, reestablish a posture of worship toward God. Consider “habit stacking,” connecting this practice with another habit you already have, like drinking a cup of coffee in the morning.
- This time usually involves Scripture, prayer, and a variety of other practices. You should focus on what best helps you worship God and love him more.
- Consider using prepared prayers like are found in *The Divine Hours*, by Phyllis Tickle (available online for free: <https://annarborvineyard.org/resources/pray-the-divine-hours/pray-the-divine-hours-cst/>), or *The Valley of Vision*, by Arthur Bennett (though this has some old style “thee” and “Thou” language).
- *Our Daily Bread* is a good devotional book to read as well (available for free at our church’s Welcome Center).



- In Church

- Worshipping together is significant, as the very nature of the church is communal and corporate (church/*ekklesia* = “assembly,” “community,” “congregation”).
- Most typically Christian worship services have included: a call to worship, songs, prayers, reading and teaching of Scripture, confession of sin, assurance of forgiveness, financial giving, the Lord’s Supper, and a benediction or “sending out.”
- Christian worship is intended to be not only expressive, but also formative. As we engage in regular worship, it should be forming our desires and characters.
 - *Tip:* In times of group worship try to keep your thoughts on God—he is the focus.

- In the Family

- Times of family worship can be valuable both for honoring God, but also forming that family (see Deut 6 above).
- This can be short and simple, ideally consisting of three essential components: Bible, prayer, singing. See this video for suggestions on this: <https://youtu.be/v9SUYzSLmrE>



The Bottom Line

“ _____ Jesus, _____ !”

...by focusing on _____, out of which worship flows.

...by taking the _____ of engagement in individual or family _____.

What habit can you “stack” to help make it happen?

...by renewing your commitment to _____ (in multiple senses) in our worship services together.

Grace Bible Chapel Core Values

- Grace over Judgment
- Bible over Opinion
- Worship over Self
- Transformation over Stagnation
- We over Me
- Giving over Getting
- Participating over Spectating
- The Next Generation over My Generation
- Mission over Comfort
- Outward over Inward