Spiritual Disciplines

Lesson 9: Wednesday November 3, 2021

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**TEACHING NOTES**

**Spiritual Discipline: Worship**

* **You shall worship the Lord!**

Tonight, our focus is on the spiritual discipline of worship.

It may be that when you hear the word “worship” you think *singing to God*. Or maybe even more specifically, *singing to God together in the gathering of the saints*. But worship doesn’t simply mean singing to God. Singing God’s praises *is* a wonderful form of Christian worship; it is not *the* exclusive form of it.

In our study tonight we will seek to define and understand worship of God *generally*, then, we will seek to understand worship of God as a *spiritual discipline for the redeemed*.

When it comes to anything, the foundational and most important consideration to give it is, “What does God say?”

So, I hope to show you tonight foundational truths *from the word of God*.

Jesus declared plainly and powerfully, “You shall worship the Lord…” (**Matthew 4:10**).

This was not a new command—No, Jesus was decaling what *has been* so since the beginning. We could spend all night seeing this in Scripture, all the way back to Adam, mankind was made to live according to God’s design, in worship to God alone.

From the beginning and through all of creation’s history, this has been creation’s duty and should be our delight: “You shall worship the Lord.”

We were created for this. You’ll see this from much Scripture tonight.

The good design and command to worship God is *primary and first* in His expression of the Universal Moral Law. The first commandment:

**Exodus 20:3** “You shall have no other gods before me.”

**Q45. Why does God give the first commandment: You shall have no other gods before me?**

So we will worship only God. He is the one true God.

And the second commandment:

**Exodus 20:4-5** “You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the Lord your God am a jealous God ...”

**Q46. Why does God give the second commandment: You shall not make for yourself an idol?**

So we will serve, worship, and glorify God and nothing else.

**Isaiah 42:8** I am the Lord; that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to carved idols.

The words of Christ from Matthew chapter 4 you have heard me declare already are built on the same, unchanging design for and command on creation.

The context in Matthew 4 is the exchange between Christ and Satan, when Satan seeks to tempt Jesus. See a portion in verses 4-10:

**Matthew 4:8-10** 8… the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. 9And he said to him, “All these I will give you, *if you will fall down and worship me*.” 10Then Jesus said to him, “Be gone, Satan! For it is written, “‘You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve.’”

So powerful. Christ is always our perfect teacher and perfect example.

There are many temptations for wrongly focused worship or a lack of genuine worship, yet here is our loving Savior, our perfect example denying those temptations and declaring God’s good will.

It is no surprise to those who’ve studied God’s law, that, Christ *unchangingly* holds up the good design and command to worship God.

See Jesus’ further summarized expression of the Universal Moral Law:

**Matthew 22:37-38** 37 … “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. 38This is the great and first commandment.”

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind” is worship language, as we’ll expand on in a bit.

Before we move on, know that this is not merely a human thing. *All* of creation exists for God’s glory, for the worship of God.

Surely, not all of creation worships *in the same way*, but all of creation is designed to play a role in the worship of God.

Non-human created things, *even* things without personhood, have a role in and

serve a purpose in the worship of God, that’s seen in Scripture (for example in portions of Romans 1 and Romans 8).

Consider also the special beasts, the “four living creatures” described in

**Revelation 4:6-8** 6… around the throne, on each side of the throne, are four living creatures, full of eyes in front and behind: 7the first living creature like a lion, the second living creature like an ox, the third living creature with the face of a man, and the fourth living creature like an eagle in flight. 8And the four living creatures, each of them with six wings, are full of eyes all around and within, and day and night they never cease to say,

“Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty,
    who was and is and is to come!”

And we certainly see the vastness of the angels (who have personhood but are not human) having a role in and serve a purpose in the worship of God. The elect angel surely worship God,

**Hebrews 1:6** “Let all God's angels worship him.”

Church, ALL of creation should worship God—everything in creation should do this in a way fitting to its nature. All of creation was made by Him and FOR Him…He deserves the proper worship of ALL of creation.

**Psalm 96:9** Worship the Lord in the splendor of holiness; tremble before him, all the earth!

It is God’s perfect will that the fall of some angels and the fall of man and the corruption of the rest of creation *would occur*, **but** that doesn’t change the fact that all of creation has a duty to worship Him (even if much of creation refuses that duty).

And the fact is, *God will* have all the people He has chosen for salvation, along with all of elect angels and all of the rest of creation (the way He sees fit), worship Him. He is the one and only *omnipotent* One—He is God.

**Psalm 66:1-4**

1Shout for joy to God, all the earth;
   2sing the glory of his name;
    give to him glorious praise!
3Say to God, “How awesome are your deeds!
    So great is your power that your enemies come cringing to you.
4All the earth worships you
    and sings praises to you;
    they sing praises to your name.” Selah

With that biblical foundation, with our theology strengthened, let us consider now, how shall we worship?

* **How shall we worship?**

In this portion of our study, we consider what genuine worship is….and what it is not.

Our constant and guiding passage for this is another great declaration from our King. We will be grounded in this much tonight. Hear Christ’s words from:

**John 4:23-24** 23”… the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. 24God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.”

We cannot properly consider the spiritual discipline of worship without being grounded in and informed by these words of Jesus.

Church, “**true** worshipers … worship the Father in spirit and truth … those who worship him **must** worship in spirit and truth.”

This passage deserves more time than we can spend on it tonight, but with our time, we will focus primarily on these portions. I trust you are seeing already how significant this is.

Jesus speaks of “**true** worshipers” … it likely goes without saying that one must be IN Christ to be a TRUE worshipper.

**Romans 14:23** … whatever does not proceed from faith is sin

By grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ Jesus alone is a person set free from the bondage of sin and made to be a true worshiper of God.

One is only a true worshiper of God if God has redeemed them and resides in them.

So then, let there be no doubt that we are talking about the *Christian* spiritual discipline of worship.

See then that true worshipers, “worship the Father in spirit and truth … those who worship him **must** worship in spirit and truth.”

Spirt and Truth—what important and helpful clarities. Let’s consider each of them and be encouraged in our worship of God.

As we do that, know that these two specific things the Lord highlighted are *mutually critical* to true worship of God. One is not worshipping God if not done both in spirit *and* truth.

First, Spirit.

* **Worship in spirit**

I believe there are two primarily realties within Jesus’ use of the word “spirit” in our passage. The first being about the Holy Spirit and the second being about our God-ward genuineness in our inner being. (Inner being meaning our heart/our spirit…the deepest aspects of human nature, known completely by God.)

To the reality of the Holy Spirit in this, theologian Donald Whitney helpfully says,

“Before we can worship in spirit (and truth) we must have within us the One whose name is the Holy Spirit and the “Spirit of truth” (John 14:17).

He lives only within those who have come to Christ in repentance and faith.

Without Him true worship will not happen. We’re told in 1 Corinthians 12:3 that “no one can say, ‘Jesus is Lord,’ except by the Holy Spirit.”

That doesn’t mean no one is capable of speaking such words apart from the Holy Spirit, it means no one can say them as an act of **true** worship unless motivated by the Holy Spirit.

He is the One who reveals God to us and makes Christ irresistible, who teaches us the truth of Scripture, who makes alive hearts that were dead toward God. [The Holy Spirit] is the One who makes hearts that were cold toward worship flame with passion for Christ.

Having the Holy Spirit residing within does not guarantee that we will always worship in spirit and truth, but it does mean we can.”

So, in order to worship God truly/spiritually, we must have the Holy Spirit in us. As we said, One is only a true worshiper of God if God has redeemed them and resides in them. That’s a perquisite and ongoing part to worshipping “*in spirit*.”

Now, in addition to that, Christ’s command to worship “*in spirit*” is about a required genuineness from our inner being.

In contrast to being for appearances and/or for works-based righteousness (if such a thing where even possible), worshipping “*in spirit*” is about it being authentic from our core and from faith in God.

Worshipping God “in spirit” means to be sincere in our worship. This is so important.

No matter how beautiful or emotional your prayer is, or how much money you give to the ministry, or how biblical the song lyrics are, or how regular you gather with the saints, or how many notes you take or amens you say in a sermon, or how much you do in God’s name in service to others, on and on….if it isn’t sincere then it isn’t worship to God.

It may be worship—It may worship to self, or worship to the praise of others, or worship to something else created. ….When it isn’t sincere for God then it isn’t worship to God, it’s hypocrisy.

When it isn’t worshipping “in spirit” (that is authentic from our core and from faith in God) then it isn’t worship *to* God, it’s hypocrisy. Worshipping God “in spirit” is to worship from the inside out—from God-ward **genuineness** in our inner being.

And, because these go hand in hand, now let us focus on worshipping in *truth*.

* **Worship in truth**

Can you think of any thought that is more important than your thoughts of God?

No…of course not.

There is nothing sweeter than to be saved by grace because of the Gospel of Jesus Christ *and to* ***know God for who He truly is***!

True worship involves reverent awe for God, as He is.

**Hebrews 12:28-29** **28**Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe, **29**for our God is a consuming fire.

The main focus of Jesus’ highlighting truth is that one must worship God for who God truly is and what God actually does, in the ways He has ordained for mankind to properly worship. Any other worship is worship of an idol. Any other worship is not true worship at all.

Jesus said, “**true** worshipers … worship the Father in spirit *and truth.*” People who do not worship *God for who God truly is and what God actually does, in the ways He has ordained for mankind to properly worship* are not “true worshipers”—they are not worshipping God; they are worshiping something created or someone altogether no-existent.

That may seem obvious and straightforward…but…it is very common that this is missed, not known, or outright denied. So, we need to consider more fully the depth, beauty, and significance of what is included in what Jesus is declaring here.

*We need to know God truly*. And, this has always been the case:

**Deuteronomy 6:4-9** 4“Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. 5You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. 6And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. 7You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. 8You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. 9You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

**Psalm 145:18**The Lord is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth.

See the importance of a commitment to the truth of God in the people of God!

And, in our time, we have even more revealed truth, having lived after King Jesus came and completed His work!

**John 1:17**For the law was given through Moses; grace *and truth* came through Jesus Christ.

The highest, clearest, most informative, and ultimate source for knowledge about God is the word of God. In our time, we have the blessing of Scripture, to read Christ and the other prophets who spoke for God.

We have the blessing to hear a lesson like this or a sermon and say, *where in Scripture did God teach what I am hearing*? We have the blessing to hear from others who are seeking to obey God’s command to “instruct one another” (Romans 15:14), and say, *where in Scripture did God teach what I am hearing*?

We have such a blessing to live in a time like this, having the access to the revelation of God, *detailed in Scripture*.

So, when, we learn that Jesus said that we, “**must** worship [God] in spirit and truth,” we can be filled with joy(!) and thankfulness(!) that we have such an informative and ultimate source for knowledge about God—the Bible.

The Bible is how God chose to make Himself and His commands known to us in the fullest way. Thank God we have the Bible!

What follows, then, is that we must worship God *as He is revealed in the Bible*, not as some might *want or assume* Him to be.

As we have previously considered here at Disciples; great theologians and other Christians that have gone before us have devoted themselves to the biblical study of God and encouraged others to do likewise.

They have seen the unfortunate trend that has tempted so many to get away from a biblically grounded growth *in a right understanding* of who God is.

For example, in 1930 theologian Arthur W. Pink wrote:

“The [so-called] god of this century no more resembles the Sovereign [God] of Holy [Scripture] than does the dim flickering of a candle the glory of the midday sun.

The god who is talked about in the average pulpit, spoken of in the ordinary Sunday school, and mentioned in much of the religious literature of the day... is a figment of human imagination, an invention of [foolish emotion].”

In one of his letters to Erasmus, Martin Luther said, “Your thoughts of God are too human.”

Through the psalmist, God gave rebuke like this.

**Psalms 50:21** “…you thought that I was one like yourself. But now I rebuke you and lay the charge before you.”

In this Psalm, those God was speaking of did NOT know and understand Him *rightly*.

They underestimated Him, thinking that He was one like them; their thinking of Him was too human!

This cannot be the case for “true worshippers.”

Our desire must be to know God truly, based on the Bible. We should even eagerly hope that the Bible would correct any incomplete or wrong thoughts we may have about Him.

The study of God, His works, and His good law is the wonderful calling for all Christians and is of great importance and practical value.

Look at a powerful passage with me:

***Jeremiah 9:23-24*** *(NKJV)*

***23****Thus says the Lord:*

*“Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom,*

*Let not the mighty man glory in his might,*

*Nor let the rich man glory in his riches;*

***24****But let him who glories glory in this,*

*That he understands and knows Me,*

*That I am the Lord, exercising*

*lovingkindness, judgment, and*

*righteousness in the earth.*

*For in these I delight,” says the Lord.*

We see here that the Lord God has commanded us to glory (to delight) in a right understanding of HIM!

And this puts us in alignment with God’s design for our worship. This allows us to “worship [God] in…truth,” as Jesus declared.

God is holy, He is good, He is love, He is wrath, He is just, He is wise, and He is in control of all things. God is the almighty Creator, Sustainer, and Ruler of everything. He is perfect, and the standard by which all things are measured.

We must worship God 1) for who God truly is and 2) what God actually does, 3) in the ways He has ordained for mankind to properly worship.

…I want you to see how serious this is—all three elements of that statement.

* **Flee Improper and Vain Worship**

The reality that God calls for worshipers who worship in spirit and truth, means that there is a *wrong* and *right* way to worship God.

We see the importance of proper worship all through on in Scripture.

Consider first the account of *Aaron’s sons*.

Aaron offered the first sin offering ever made (in the tabernacle), and the ceremony was punctuated with a miracle.

**Leviticus 9:24** And fire came out from before the LORD and consumed the burnt offering and the pieces of fat on the altar, and when all the people saw it, they shouted and fell on their faces.

Moses goes on to record what followed this:

**Leviticus 10:1-2** **1**Now Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, each took his censer and put fire in it and laid incense on it and offered unauthorized fire before the Lord, which he had not commanded them. **2**And fire came out from before the Lord and consumed them, and they died before the Lord.

WHOA

What Scripture makes clear here is that their worship was not in truth. They sought to act in a way that was against God’s design, or, to say precisely, “not authorized” by God. They used unauthorized fire in their worship.

They approached God in a careless or self-willed or otherwise inappropriate manner. And the Lord’s response was swift and deadly.

Church, while God does **not often** *immediately* strike dead those who worship Him improperly, He does tell us clearly in His Scripture that even worse punishment is coming for those who unrepentantly deny, disregard, or mock God and His commands.

God put occasions like this one about unauthorized worship in Scripture for us to know and learn from. Based on this situation (and all the rest of Scripture), we should take VERY seriously the command to “worship [God] in…truth.”

We must worship God for who God truly is and what God actually does, in the ways He has ordained for mankind to properly worship.

Consider some more examples of Improper and Vain Worship:

In Genesis 4, we learn that both Cain and Abel brought offerings before the Lord, but Cain’s was rejected by God—it was not worship *in spirit and truth.*

Similarly, we see God reject vain worship in Isaiah 58. The people of Israel noticed that their fasting was not producing what *they* hoped for.

Their disposition became, “What good is it?”

God rebuked them, and we can see in this account that their worship was not *in spirit and truth.*

See just a portion of that chapter, verses 3 & 4:

**Isaiah 58:3-4** NIV

3‘Why have we fasted,’ they say,
    ‘and you have not seen it?
Why have we humbled ourselves,
    and you have not noticed?’

“Yet on the day of your fasting, you do as you please
    and exploit all your workers.
4Your fasting ends in quarreling and strife,
    and in striking each other with wicked fists.
You cannot fast as you do today
    and expect your voice to be heard on high.

All who hear my voice, know that: *You cannot worship God any old way you please and expect your voice to be heard on high.*

Church, each of us must not commit Improper and Vain Worship.

Another example…when people tried to offer subpar worship sacrifices to the Lord, we see Him reject their vanity.

**Malachi 1:14** Cursed be the cheat who has a male in his flock, and vows it, and yet sacrifices to the Lord what is blemished. For I am a great King, says the Lord of hosts, and my name will be feared among the nations.

God rejected worship offerings that they were offering because they offered the lame and the blind animals, instead of offering a lamb without blemish.

Promised to give the best, then kept it for themselves. Their worship was not *in spirit and truth.*

There are far more examples of improper and vain worship in Scripture than we can fit into one lesson, but we must see at least one more.

As I read this next passage, have in mind Christ’s declaration about worshipping *in spirit and truth.*

**Matthew 15:1-9** 1Then Pharisees and scribes came to Jesus from Jerusalem and said, 2“Why do your disciples break the tradition of the elders? For they do not wash their hands when they eat.” 3He answered them, “And why do you break the commandment of God for the sake of your tradition? 4For God commanded, ‘Honor your father and your mother,’ and, ‘Whoever reviles father or mother must surely die.’ 5But you say, ‘If anyone tells his father or his mother, “What you would have gained from me is given to God,” 6he need not honor his father.’ So for the sake of your tradition you have made void the word of God. 7You hypocrites! Well did Isaiah prophesy of you, when he said:

8“‘This people honors me with their lips,
    but their heart is far from me;
9in vain do they worship me,
    teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.’”

Church, see the same folly. They were not worshipping *in spirit and truth.*

Jesus said, “For the sake of your tradition you have made void the word of God. … their heart is far from me;in vain do they worship me.”

What heavy judgements from our perfect Savior. Feel the weight of this. Understand the wickedness and folly of improper and vain worship.

Let this be an encouragement to each of us; to be sincere in our worship, being authentic from our core from faith in God. Be careful to worship God for who God truly is and what God actually does, in the ways He has ordained for mankind to properly worship.

We must worship God “in spirit and truth.”

True worship is of the light of truth and the genuineness in spirit.

The light of truth shines into our minds and instructs us about who God is and His majestic works. And such light, by the working of the Holy Spirit, ignites a worshipful authenticity, passion, affection, joy, love, gratitude, and satisfaction in and for God. We must worship God “in spirit and truth.”

With that, let’s make this increasingly practical then, since this is a *spiritual discipline* lesson. (To be clear, all of that was significantly practical as well, since you learn in that how to worship in the way that God will accept. If you don’t already have takeaways and feel the glorious weight of this discipline, you’re not paying close enough attention.)

* **When shall we worship? Ceremonial worship and common worship**

We need to make sure there is not a misunderstanding about *when* we worship God.

To make this clarity it is helpful to realize there are, what we might call, *categories* of worship.

In this you have two categories, ceremonial (or organized) worship and common worship.

We can see these two categories throughout Scripture, and we can see that God has issued various positive laws for how these happen, especially ceremonial worship.

* **Ceremonial worship**

In this lesson, we have seen some of the positive law ways people ceremonially worshipped in parts of the Old Testament.

But for our New Covenant practical application, let’s consider what God requires of us, in our time.

(This topic could be one or many lessons in itself, but since our focus needs to be multifaceted, we can’t speed that kind of time devoted exclusively to it.)

New Covenant ceremonial (organized) worship includes things you’re used to on Sundays here at Disciples Church.

For ceremonial/organized worship, we have the congregation *together* doing things like:

-Singing praises to God

Since singing to God is a form of Christian worship it’s right and okay to call our singing “worship”…but I’d like you to know that all of what we do when we formally gather as a body can and should be understood as “worship.”

Don’t only call or think of our time singing to God together as “worship.” When done in spirit and truth, the other elements of our organized time as a body are worship. And that is one of the many reasons, the gathering of the saints is such a blessing and so important—what an awesome gift from God, to instruct us to gather to worship Him…for His glory and the good of those who love Him. Do not forsake the gathering of saints, brothers and sisters.

So, consider some of these other worship actions….

-Giving finically to the ministry of God

-Praying together in our gathering

-Hearing and studying Scripture

-Baptisms

-Partaking in the Lord’s Supper

-Serving one another

-The special fellowship with one another that happens when we formally gather together corporately

Notice that you can (and should) do *many* (not all) of those things individually or even gathered at other times, BUT, there is something set apart (special, unique, different) in the formal, organized, ceremonial time a local church gathers.

Now, apply our 3-point biblical summary statement to ceremonial worship….We must worship God for who God truly is and what God actually does, in the ways He has ordained for mankind to properly worship.

In our day, it’s very common for many churches (who claim to be Christian) to NOT worship God for who God truly is and what God actually does, in the ways He has ordained for mankind to properly worship.

Many so-called churches do NOT teach rightly WHO God is or HOW God actually works. They’ve twisted the Bible (or outright disregard it at points) and instead they have determined by their own human feelings, desires, and senses, what they will (so-called) “worship” their (so-called) “god” for.

In the same way, they worship in ways in contradiction to how God has ordained for mankind to properly worship Him.

Many of you have come from places like that. I’ve been blessed by all the lives in this place that have come out of that sinful foolishness, to discover truth!

And, many of us still have loved-ones in places like that.

You know some of what I am talking about: places that water-down Scripture in attempt to soften its boldness and clarity, places that try to put on a show from the stage in order to entertain a crowd, places that encourage people to call out in unintelligible noises and call it biblical, places that put women in biblically prohibited situations of teaching or authority, places where people are running around with flags, or physically hitting one another, or other sorts of chaotic happenings.

Things like high energy, emotionalism, exciting engagement, good looks, or politically acceptable do not make something God-glorifying—do not make something true worship. God’s word tells us what true worship is.

Scripture calls for our ceremonial worship to be biblical, doing the things commanded and modeled in Scripture; being orderly (1 Corinthians 14:40), led by qualified men (1 Timothy 2:11-12), all with love for God and one another, in humility, out of the genuineness of our made-new hearts.

So, thank God for the work He has done in this local church to cause us to put off things not biblical and to put on true worship.

We must, do the things commanded and modeled in Scripture, not do things that contradict His commands, and always worship in spirit and in truth.

* **Common worship**

In effort to make sure there is not a misunderstanding about *when* we worship God, we need to turn now and focus on what I’ve called “common worship.”

Remember, this is the *other* “category” of worship.

By “common” I do **not** mean casual or flippant. Nor do I mean low grade or dull or dreary.

With some distinction from ceremonial (or organized) worship, common worship is a Christian’s worship of God that happens every day, throughout the day, most often personally (by oneself), but sometimes with others.

It is the worship that happens commonly in the time of our days—the worship that happens at times other than the ceremonial, formal gathering of the church.

Look with me at a critical passage for our consideration:

**Romans 11:36-12:1** **36**For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen. **1**I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.

Often, we consider *one* of these verses without the other.

And it’s also likely that the added chapter break creates even more division of the flow of thought in our minds. So, consider it *together* with me…

The apostle Paul makes the all-encompassing HUGE statement about God and creation’s existence and purpose:

**Romans 11:36** For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.

Okay, we know this right—ALL of creation was made BY God, FOR God. Praise God! (I always what to say WAY more about this, because of how foundational it is….but we don’t have time in this lesson!)

So, ALL of creation was made BY God, FOR God—to HIM be the glory!

….**Based on THAT**, what does God have Paul say…what is the APPLICATION for US?

**Romans 12:1** I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.

Based on the FACT that ALL of creation was made BY God, FOR God—to HIM be the glory—YOU (person created by God, and even better REDEEMED by God) YOU “present your bod[y] as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship”!

Church, this is HUGE. God’s word tells us that our bodies (our physical bodies yes, but not MERELY our physical bodies—it means our WHOLE LIFE…our heart, our minds, our desires, our actions, our everything!) must be lived for God, which is WORSHIP! See that? “Present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, ***which is your spiritual worship***”!!!

This has HUGE implications. Church…**all** of what you are and what you do, should be lived in such a way that is acceptable WORSHIP to GOD!

For a Christian, the things you do and worshipping God are not to be divorced. No! Your existence—the way you think, feel, and act—is **to be** WORSHIP to God!

**Colossians 3:23** (BLB) Whatever you might do, work from the soul, as to the Lord and not to men

Brothers and sisters, we were made for this! We were redeemed for this! ALL of what you are and what you do should be lived in such a way that is WORSHIP to GOD!

**1 Peter 2:9** … you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that ***you may proclaim the excellencies of him*** who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

**Exodus 15:2** The Lord is my strength ***and my song, and he has become my salvation***; this is my God, ***and I will praise him***, my father's God, and ***I will exalt him***.

**Psalm 100:4** Enter his gates ***with thanksgiving***, and his courts ***with praise***! Give ***thanks*** to him; ***bless*** his name!

We’re talking about a mindset here, a passion, a purpose, a heart love…God-ward genuineness in our inner being—it’s the undergirding and way we must go about our days.

Everyday! Not just on Sundays.

All day! Not just in your time reading Scripture or praying in your living room, or singing along to the Gettys in the kitchen. No, all day! Your whole life lived worshipfully for God in spirit and truth is your spiritual worship!

Christian, are you thinking this way? This is the spiritual discipline of worshipping God.

In this common / everyday worship, don’t forget that we must worshipfully live in spirit and in truth according to what God has commanded, and not do things that contradict His commands.

In all of your doing, resting, waiting, and thinking. Is it in worship to God, for His glory?

Are you working your job, in worship to God? -----That means you work hard, with integrity and a good attitude, seeking to do good to others. Why? Because Scripture calls us to do life that way—it glorifies God.

Mothers, are you managing the home job, in worship to God? -----That means you do it diligently, with integrity and a good attitude, seeking to do good to your husband, kids, and others. Why? Because Scripture calls you to do life that way—it glorifies God.

Students, are you schooling, in worship to God? -----That means you work hard, with integrity and a good attitude, seeking to learn and grow for your good and the good of others. Why? Because Scripture calls you to do life that way—it glorifies God.

On and on…

**1 Corinthians 10:31** So, whether you eat or drink, ***or whatever you do***, do **all** *to the glory of God*.

What about the way you have friendships? Manage the body God has given you? Lead others? Approach the holidays? Manage the finances God has given you? Serve others? Enjoy a meal or glass of wine? Raise your kids?

**Romans 11:36-12:1** **36**For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen. **1**I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.

**1 Corinthians 10:31** So, whether you eat or drink, ***or whatever you do***, do **all** *to the glory of God*.

Church, don’t box “worshipping God” into a tiny box of only praise singing, or even the whole blessing of the gathering of the saints for organized worship….No….**all** of life should be lived for God, as worship to Him.

* **Closing encouragement**

Whether we are in the Sunday gathering of the saints or living our lives otherwise, let us be thanking Him for who He is, what He has done, sharing that with others, and intentionally worshipful in our doing.

Worship is indeed a glorious calling, encompassing all of life. And remember, it is not casual, flippant, low grade, dull, or dreary. *Live with true purpose, as a blessed worshipper of King Jesus*!

We must worship God with our entire lives, in everything we do.

We must worship God for who God truly is and what God actually does, in the ways He has ordained for mankind to properly worship.

That should encourage you and cause you to think carefully about what you need to do or how you can grow in a right understanding of God. And in learning more of the depths of His amazing work. Both come from earnestly seek His word—Scripture and being discipled according to Scripture.

We must worship God in spirt and truth with our entire lives, in everything we do.

**Psalm 27:4** One thing have I asked of the Lord, that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to inquire in his temple.

Whether in God’s church, God’s earth, God’s heaven, or God’s new earth, let us live with this mentality. A worship mindset. A worshipful life.

**Psalm 95:6** Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!

**Psalm 29:2** Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; worship the Lord in the splendor of holiness.

**Psalm 99:5** Exalt the Lord our God; worship at his footstool! Holy is he!

**Psalm 96:9** Worship the Lord in the splendor of holiness; tremble before him, all the earth!

**Psalm 145:1-3**

1I will extol you, my God and King,
    and bless your name forever and ever.
2Every day I will bless you
    and praise your name forever and ever.
3Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised,
    and his greatness is unsearchable.

Let’s pray…