

Founts of Grace: Recovering the Spiritual Disciplines

Lesson 2: The Discipline of Worship

Biblical Worship is...

...God-Centered (John 4:23-24)

“Worship is the God-centered focus and response of the inner man. It is being preoccupied with God.” –Donald Whitney

...A Delight

“It is a mark of spiritual barrenness in the church when Christians come to worship to fulfill a duty rather than to satisfy an appetite.” -Eric Alexander

...Evangelistic

“The greatest stumbling block for children in worship is parents who don’t cherish doing that worship. They don’t love it. Children can feel the difference between duty and delight. They know if dad loves being there.” -John Piper

...Heavenly

“And so Christ 'our worship leader' stands before us as we lift our praise to the Father; we actually are allowed through the Spirit to participate in Christ's ongoing communion with the Father. This is true not only because Jesus the perfect sacrifice bought our redemption with his blood, but also because he always lives to make intercession for us (Hebrews 7:25), and because as perfect man he represents us in continuing worship before the Father's throne..Our feeble expressions of worship are taken up by Christ and transformed by him and subsumed into his perfect offering of praise to the Father. Christ is a perfect worshiper, and in him we reap the benefits and blessings of joining in perfect worship because we are dressed in Christ and in his perfect worship.” –Ron Man

...Formative

“What people revere, they resemble, either for ruin or for restoration.” –G.K. Beale

...Theologically-Shaped

“Knowledge of the Lord’s character and His work should inspire heartfelt praise, for why learn about God if we are not moved to fulfill the purpose for which we are created — to worship and glorify the Creator.” -R.C. Sproul

...The Church’s End Goal

“Worship is never a step on our way up to any other experience. It is not a door through which we pass to get anywhere. It is the end point, the goal.” –John Piper

...Our Work

“One of the two most prominent words denoting worship in the New Testament is *latreuo*, meaning “to work or serve.” Worship involves work. It is from this word that liturgy is derived, for liturgy is one’s work in worship.” -Kent Hughes

The Disciplines of Worship:

- **The Discipline of Preparation:**

- **Heart Preparation:** “If you will not worship God seven days a week, you do not worship Him on one day a week.” -Tozer
- **Home Preparation:** “The answer to the problem begins with Saturday preparation. It is advisable that young families have their clothing clean and laid out on Saturday night, and even that the breakfast be decided upon. The whereabouts of Bibles and lessons should be known, and even better, ought to be collected and ready. There should be an agreed-upon time to get up which leaves plenty of time to get ready for church. Going to bed at a reasonable hour is also a good idea. Spiritually, prayer about the Lord’s Day is essential-prayer for the service, the music, the pastors, one’s family, and oneself.” Kent Hughes

- **The Discipline of Focus:**

- “Modern man worships his work, works at his play, and plays at his worship.” –Donald Whitney
- "You may be singing 'Holy, holy, holy,' but if you aren't thinking about God while singing it, you are not worshiping." (Donald Whitney)

- **The Discipline of Sabbath-Keeping:**

- “What if the church took Sabbath-breaking (4th comm) as serious as it took pornography (7th comm)? We might struggle less with pornography.” -Caleb Cangelosi

- **The Discipline of Sermon-Hearing:**

- “Make it your work with diligence to apply the word as you are hearing it... Cast not all upon the minister, as those that will go no further than they are carried as by force... You have work to do as well as the preacher, and should all the time be as busy as he... You must open your mouths, and digest it, for another cannot digest it for you... Therefore be all the while at work, and abhor an idle heart in hearing, as well as an idle minister.” –Richard Baxter

- **The Discipline of Singing:**

- “No matter how spiritual the song you are singing, no matter how poetic the prayer you are praying, if it isn’t sincere then it isn’t worship, it’s hypocrisy.” –Donald Whitney