

The Discipline of Worship – Growing a Heart of Worship
VEFC Men's Life June 12, 2010

INTRO

- What distracts you from focusing on God in worship?
- How do we grow a heart of worship? How do we cultivate and maintain a heart that delights in praising God and genuinely enjoys worshipping Him?

THE BIG PICTURE - EVERYDAY

- We grow a heart of worship by learning to worship everyday of the week
- According to the Bible worship should encompass the totality of a Christian's life. We should view everything we do, say, and think, in public and private as opportunities for worship. This should be our approach to life every day of the week, not just Sunday.
- We are always "on" for worship.
- ✓ Matt. 23:36-40
- ✓ Col. 3:17
- God is always "on" for worship
- ✓ Acts 17:28
- ✓ Heb. 4:13
- ✓ Psalm 139:1-12

- We grow a heart of worship by embracing God's purpose for my life - which is to be a worshipper.
- The supreme joy and purpose of my life as a disciple of Jesus is to increasingly live to love and please and know God -Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, with all that I am at all times. Worship forces me to think about where I am in my relationship with the Lord. Do I really love Him more than anything else? Am I more concerned about His will, and what He wants than my own will and what I want? Is my heart warm or cold toward Him?

- Jn. 4:23-24 – This is one of very few things that the Bible says God seeks – worshippers. If we see ourselves as existing not for ourselves, but for God, to worship Him with the totality of our life, many difficulties and problems we struggle with disappear.

- We grow a heart of worship by filling our minds with examples and words of worship.

Examples from:

- Psalms
 - ✓ Ps.9:1 I will give thanks to the Lord with all my heart, I will tell of all Your wonders, I will be glad and exult in You, I will sing praise to Your Name O most High.
 - ✓ Ps. 16:8 I have set the Lord continually before me
 - ✓ Ps. 16:11 In Your presence is fullness of joy, in Your right hand there are pleasures forever.
 - ✓ Ps. 18: I love You, O Lord my strength
 - ✓ Ps. 27: One thing I have asked form the Lord, that I shall seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord and to meditate in His temple.
 - ✓ Ps.34:1 I will bless the Lord at all times, His praise shall continually be in my mouth.
 - ✓ Ps.42:1 As the deer pants for the water brooks, so my souls pants for You, O God
 - ✓ Ps. 63: 3 Your loving-kindness is better than life
 - ✓ Ps. 103:1 Bless the Lord, O my soul and all that is within me, bless His holy name.
 - ✓ Ps. 145: 1-2 I will extol You, my God, O King, and I will bless Your Name forever and ever. Everyday I will bless You, and I will praise Your Name forever and ever.
- NT
 - ✓ Phil. 3:8 I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ...
- Worship songs lyrics
 - ✓ Take my life and let it be consecrated Lord to Thee...
 - ✓ With every breath I breathe and every heartbeat , from now till forever I'll praise Your Name...
 - ✓ Love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life , my all...
 - ✓ Amazing love, I know its true, its my joy to honor You in all I do...
 - ✓ All to Jesus I surrender, all to Him I freely give...

THE FOCUSED LOOK – SUNDAY

- Why we gather – Worship policy I B
- What we do when we gather – Worship policy II A. B. C. content, structure, style
- Learning to love Sunday – or “how to be glad when they say to me let us go to the house of the Lord.” Being intentional about Sunday worship.
- Prepare for Sunday by growing a heart of worship M, T, W, Th, F, S. (see above)
- Remind yourself that Sunday is primarily for the Lord. (Ps. 115:1, Eph. 3:20-21)
- Pray sometime Sat. night or Sunday morning for the services and all who’ll attend and for your own heart.
- Think about the great “wave” of worship encircling the globe as people gather in every time zone to praise God (Ps.113:3) and that you are part of it.
- Come with expectancy that God will minister to you and through you. (Ps. 34:8 O taste and see that the Lord is good) (Eph. 4:15-16)
- Engage your body during singing/prayer Deut. 6:5 ...all your might(strength)
“Many evangelicals could leave their bodies in the car and just bring their heads to the service and it wouldn’t make much difference” unknown quote
 - ✓ Clapping Ps. 47:1
 - ✓ Raised hands Ps.63:4, 28:2, 134:2, 141:2, 1 Tim.2:8 – expression of childlike faith, surrender, letting go/receiving (empty hands), offering/giving
 - ✓ Bowing/kneeling – Matt. 8:2, Acts20:36, 1 Cor.14:25, Phil. 2:10, Rev.4:10, 5:14
 - ✓ Shouting praise Ps. 47:1, 66:1