



Renewed Life Church

JESUS > RELIGION • WORSHIP > RITUALS • 2 CORINTHIANS 5:18-19 • 6/22/2020

MAIN POINT

Because worship is a natural affection of your heart, everyone, whether they realize it or not, is worshipping something. The question is, to what are you giving your affections?

INTRODUCTION

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

Think back to our group last week. What was one thing that you heard or learned that stuck with you?

Today's session will lead us to examine the practice of worship. What do you think of when you hear the word "worship"? Why?

In particular, we will discuss the fact that worship is greater than rituals. What do you think is the difference between worship and rituals? Why is worship greater?

There are certain elements or rituals that may be included in worship, but worship is more than just doing something at a certain time or place. In fact, worship is a posture for all our lives. Because worship is an affection of your heart, everyone is worshipping even if they don't realize it. The question is not whether we are worshipping; the question is what we are worshipping.

| WATCH THE SESSION FIVE VIDEO FEATURING JEFFERSON BETHKE.

UNDERSTANDING

Unpack the biblical text to discover what the Scripture says or means about a particular topic.

What was your biggest takeaway from the video?

Jefferson helped us understand that worship is more than a religious service. Worship is the way you live. Because of the nature of worship, we must live intentionally and creatively to honor Christ. This idea permeates every sphere of our lives, but first and foremost, it makes us examine what is central in our hearts.

What have you lived for in the past?

Where else do people seek meaning and purpose in life besides Jesus?

When have you wondered or even worried about God's will?

How has seeing God's will as a dot or a circle affected you and your view of God?

How do our previous discussions about freedom and God as a loving Father help you understand that His will is more like the boundaries of a circle than a precise point we have to get right?

As Jefferson explained, we can often overcomplicate God's will and what's right, holy, or considered "ministry." God's will is specific about our general purpose but allows freedom in the practical, everyday details. This is why we must view our lives as opportunities for worship, so that we can live and move throughout our daily activities to seek God and honor Him in all we do.

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ 2 CORINTHIANS 5:18-19.

What do these verses identify as God's general will for our lives?

God's general will for our lives, no matter what we do for a job or where we live, is to be an ambassador for Him and His kingdom. The responsibility of all Christ followers is to represent Christ in every situation they find themselves in. This reality means that every single Christian is in ministry.

HAVE TWO VOLUNTEERS READ 1 CORINTHIANS 6:19-20 AND 2 CORINTHIANS 6:16.

How does your body being a temple influence the way you see your life?

What does it mean that you are not your own?

How does being a temple shape your understanding of worship?

We don't have to go somewhere to worship; the presence of our holy Creator and Savior is with us right now. We are living, breathing, eating, sleeping temples. Because of our reality as temples of the Holy Spirit, everything we do is an act of worship. As such, we can either give glory to Jesus or to something infinitely less worthy of our worship.

APPLICATION

Help your group identify how the truths from the Scripture passage apply directly to their lives.

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ 1 CORINTHIANS 10:31.

How does this verse frame our vision for our activities in life?

What do you like to do? How can you worship God in that pursuit? How can you share the gospel and advance the Kingdom with that activity?

Is there anything in your life right now that you cannot do for the glory of God? If so, what are some action steps you need to take to remove that thing from your life?

PRAYER

Pray to close your group and ask the Lord to give you and your group members a bigger vision for what worship really is. Pray that the greatest desire of your hearts would be to worship Him and to see His glory spread.

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COMMENTARY

2 CORINTHIANS 5:17-21

5:17-18. The words “in Christ” refer to being in union with Him. Genuine conversion begins life transformation, but not by reforming the old nature. The indwelling Spirit creates divine life in believers (Rom. 8:8-10), enabling a life of new things. Other New Testament passages communicate this truth by using language such as “born again” or “regeneration” (John 3:3-8; Titus 3:5; 1 Pet. 1:23). Those who were enemies of God have now become friends by being reconciled to Him. God’s wrath against sin was satisfied in the death of His Son. Sinners—who formerly put self-interest above God’s glory (Rom. 1:21; 3:23)—have been brought to cherish God as their highest treasure (2 Cor. 4:6). The ministry of reconciliation—being an agent of this good news—was Paul’s special responsibility, but the task belongs to all who have received this ministry.

5:19-21. What Christ did, God did. Christ’s death mainly affected the world, that is, human sinners (rather than evil supernatural beings, for whom no divine provision for reconciliation has been made). Christ’s death upholds God’s righteousness. Trespasses were placed on the One who did not know sin. In return, the righteousness of God is credited (imputed) to all who are in Him. The message of reconciliation is known to others only when ambassadors for Christ spread it. The Great Commission is the responsibility of reconciled human beings, not angels (Matt. 28:18-20).