



How to Put the Most Into Worship

Lesson Two:

Surrendering Myself To Encouraging
And Edifying Others In Worship

Worship Is Not About Me

- We come to worship services first to adore and glorify God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit
- Secondly, we come to worship to encourage and edify others in order to “stir up love and good works”
- And when we delight in doing these two things, our own needs in worship will be fulfilled and satisfied
- Faithfully assembling for worship is not about me.

Worship Is Designed To Be Joyful

- Psalm 100 - “Make a joyful shout to the LORD, all you lands! 2 Serve the LORD with gladness; Come before His presence with singing. 3 Know that the LORD, He is God; It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves; We are His people and the sheep of His pasture. 4 Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, And into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, and bless His name. 5 For the LORD is good; His mercy is everlasting, And His truth endures to all generations.”

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- Phil. 4:4 - “Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!”
- Luke 2:10 - “Then the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people.’”
- Luke 10:20 - “Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rather rejoice because your names are written in heaven.”
- 3John 4 - “I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.”

Worship Is Designed To Be Joyful

- Singing is a joyful activity
 - James 5:13 - “Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing psalms.”
 - Acts 16:25 - “But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them.”
 - Heb. 13:15 - “Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name.”

Worship Is Designed To Be Joyful

- Bible study is a joyful activity
 - Matt. 5:6 - “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, For they shall be filled.”
 - Psalm 1:2 - “...His delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night.”
 - Psalm 119:148 - “My eyes are awake through the night watches, That I may meditate on Your word”
 - Jer. 15:16 - “Your words were found, and I ate them, And Your word was to me the joy and rejoicing of my heart; For I am called by Your name, O LORD God of hosts.”

Worship Is Designed To Be Joyful

- Giving is to be a joyful activity; it gives us the means whereby we can express our similarity to the Father
 - 2Cor. 9:7 - “So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.”
 - Acts 20:35 - “...Remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’”

Worship Is Designed To Be Joyful

- Praying is joyful
 - 1Sam. 2:1 - “Hannah prayed and said: ‘My heart rejoices in the LORD; My horn is exalted in the LORD. I smile at my enemies, Because I rejoice in Your salvation.’”
 - Luke 1:46-47 - “Mary said: ‘My soul magnifies the Lord, 47 And my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior.’”

Worship Is Designed To Be Joyful

- Partaking of the Lord's Supper, while solemn, has overtones of joy
 - 1Cor. 11:26 - "For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes."
 - 1Peter 1:8 - "Whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory"
 - John 16:22 - "Therefore you now have sorrow; but I will see you again and your heart will rejoice, and your joy no one will take from you."

Worship Is Designed To Be Joyful

- After leading a soul to salvation, is there any greater and more blessed service to render to them than to lead them to the joy of worshiping the Lord Who saved them?

We Must Encourage And Edify Others In Worship

- Encouragement comes often through joint participation in Christ
- This is done often in the assembly
 - Heb. 10:24-25
 - Acts 14:21-22 - “And when they had preached the gospel to that city and made many disciples, they returned to Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch, 22 strengthening the souls of the disciples, exhorting them to continue in the faith, and saying, ‘We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God’”

We Must Encourage And Edify Others In Worship

- Regular times of assembly give us many opportunities to be with one another engaged in joint participation in the Lord's Supper, singing, praying
 - 1Cor. 10:16-17 - “The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ? 17 For we, though many, are one bread and one body; for we all partake of that one bread.”

We Must Encourage And Edify Others In Worship

- Edification - 1Cor. 14:16-17
- Singing
 - Eph. 5:19 - “Speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs”
 - Col. 3:16 - “Teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs”
- If one is not assembling, he is abandoning his obligation to encourage and edify others, hindering them from receiving encouragement gained from his presence and participation.

We Must Assemble So The Church Can Function Properly

- The mission of the church is accomplished through meeting and working together. The church cannot function without assemblies.
- If I don't become actively involved in the functioning unit that God ordained, I'm failing in my responsibility to God.

Collective Actions Of The Church:

- Chooses elders and deacons - Acts 6:2-3; 1Tim. 3:10; Rom. 16:1-2
- Receives messengers - 2Cor. 8:23
- Pays wages - 2Cor. 11:8
- Relieves and enrolls the impoverished saints - 1Tim. 5:9-10, 16
- Listens and speaks regarding erring disciples - Matt. 18:17
- Practices local church discipline - 1Cor. 5:4-5
- Greets and encourages other Christians - 1Cor. 16:19
- Sends out preachers - Acts 11:22
- Is reported to by preachers - Acts 14:27
- Conducts worship services - 1Cor. 11:20, 34
- Makes offerings and maintains its own treasury - 1Cor. 16:1-4; 2Cor. 11:8-9
- Receives teachers - 3John 10

We Must Assemble For Worship To Set A Good Example

- Christians are to set good examples for other Christians.
 - 1Tim. 4:12 - “Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity.”
 - Titus 2:7-8 - “In all things showing yourself to be a pattern of good works; in doctrine showing integrity, reverence, incorruptibility, & sound speech that cannot be condemned, that one who is an opponent may be ashamed, having nothing evil to say of you.”

We Must Assemble For Worship To Set A Good Example

- Christians are to set good examples for those outside of Christ.
 - Matt. 5:14-16 - “You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. 16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.”
 - Phil. 2:15 - “That you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world”

We Must Assemble For Worship To Set A Good Example

- Faithful attendance is essential for good influence.
 - 1Peter 2:12 - “Having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by your good works which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation.”

We Must Assemble For Worship To Fulfill Our Duties To Others

- It helps parents to fulfill their duties to their children.
 - Eph. 6:4 - “And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.”
- It brings us more knowledge so that we can always give the right answers to questioners.
 - 1Peter 3:15 - “But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear”

We Must Assemble For Worship To Fulfill Our Duties To Others

- It helps fulfill the commands of exhorting our brethren.
 - Heb. 3:13 - “But exhort one another daily, while it is called ‘Today,’ lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin”
 - Heb. 10:24 - “And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, 25 not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another...”



Buddha's House

1. I'm Lazy
2. I don't like church.
3. I'm New
4. I'm Worldly
5. I could not come to the church last Sunday because there was a sermon in the radio.
6. I had to miss Church because the kids wanted to sleep in.
7. "I just had this feeling I shouldn't be there."
8. I've worked all week so I'm too tired to go.
9. The preacher moves around too much.
10. There are no people my age so I'm not going.
11. They don't meet my needs.
12. There are too many hypocrites in church.
13. There are too many sinners in church.
14. I'm too young - I'll go when I'm too old to have any more fun.
15. It's boring.
16. I'm not good enough.
17. I'm still a sinner.
18. I'll go to church after I stop smoking.
19. I'll go to church after I stop drinking.
20. I'll go to church after I stop cussin'.
21. I still go to the bars on Saturday night.
22. I like to party.
23. I work seven days a week.
24. I don't have time for God.
25. I work six days a week. The seventh day belongs to me.
26. Ain't got time.
27. I work lots of overtime....so I'm too tired to worship God.
28. The Sabbath day is Saturday, not Sunday.
29. I don't get up in time on Sunday morning.
30. I have nothing to wear.
31. I don't think I really believe in God.... I'm just not sure.
32. I don't believe in God.
33. I listen to church on the radio.
34. I attend church by watching it on TV.
35. I watch Billy Graham every week.
36. I belong to the 700 club; that's good enough.
37. I don't do nothing bad, so I'm goin' to heaven anyway.
38. My family can get me into heaven after I'm dead.
39. I'll get religion when I get to purgatory.
40. I'll get religious in my next life.
41. I don't understand what's goin' on anyway.
42. I can't follow what they do, so why should I just do it?
43. I can't afford to give anything, and I don't want to be embarrassed.
44. I don't want to put anything in the plate.
45. Why should I give my money to some church?
46. I don't want to be around a bunch of bible thumpers.
47. The service is too long.
48. The sermon is too long.
49. I don't like them serving wine every two weeks.
50. I don't like them serving grape juice - they should serve wine.
51. I don't like the songs we have to sing.
52. I don't like the songs the choir sings.
53. The singing is too loud.
54. The church doesn't sing often enough.
55. The singing isn't very good.
56. It's too cold in there, why don't they turn up the heat?
57. It's too hot, why don't they get air conditioning.
58. The air conditioner is too loud.
59. It's too stuffy, why don't they open some windows.
60. The people always try to get me to join the church.
61. I hate it when they ask me to stand up and introduce myself.
62. I'm not religious.
63. I don't believe in religion.
64. I worship God at home when I'm alone.
65. Preachers can't forgive sins.
66. I don't have transportation.
67. My wife doesn't go, so why should I.
68. My husband doesn't go, so why should I.
69. My family never went to church when I was a kid.
70. There aren't any good-looking guys there.
71. There aren't any good-looking girls there.
72. I don't like the pictures of Jesus and Bible characters.
73. Jesus wasn't a blue eyed white man.
74. The pews are too hard.
75. It's uncomfortable in church.
76. I don't know what time I'm going to get home.
77. I can't find a baby sitter on Sunday.
78. The songs are too old.
79. The songs are too European.
80. Why don't they sing black spirituals?
81. They're always asking me for more of my money.
82. I don't like all the hollering and yelling some people do.
83. I should be able to send in money if I want without putting money in a plate.
84. I can't go to church because my bottom hurts from all the sitting and I need joint replacements in my knees from standing.
85. The PA system is too loud.
86. Just because we have a PA system.
87. I don't want to be coming if they are going to have sermons.
88. The whole service is designed for old people.
89. The whole service caters to young people.
90. The choir don't sing the songs I like.
91. Nobody notices when I'm gone anyway.
92. I don't go to church on Sunday because getting the kids dressed in their Sunday Best first thing in the morning makes me angry with the Lord.
93. I'm too tired to get outta bed that early on Sunday.
94. God made Football.....doesn't that cover it?
95. The people I was staying with couldn't tell me where the nearest church was.
96. Three words: Church On Line
97. I atoned for my sins last year.
98. I'm allergic to air conditioning.
99. I'm allergic to grape juice.
100. I'm allergic to unleavened bread.
101. My friend is a prophet, if she doesn't tell me to go to church, I consider myself.
102. I don't go to church cause I have a feeling that God doesn't like agnostics.
103. I must mow the yard, wash the car.
104. What, go to church? Sorry, I'm Catholic.
105. I can't go to church, my name is Judas.
106. My husband and I both work for our church and if he doesn't feel like going into church on Sunday, he'll often say, I just spent 5 (or 6) days there, if we go to church today, I will be in church everyday for the last 12 days. That much church can kill a person.
107. I'm sorry I can't come to church because I'm all out of peanut butter. I don't have anything to do to keep you from going to church but I'll give you good of an excuse as any of the others. Because they are all just excuses.
108. This parish is too politically correct.
109. Church Excuse: Veni, Vidi, NoN-Velcro. (I came, I Saw, I didn't stick around.)
110. "It's against my religious beliefs."
111. Sorry I couldn't go to church last week, the devil is a horrible thing.
112. It is the only day I can get a tee time at the golf course.
113. I am too busy enjoying sin..
114. Here's an excuse for not going to church: The devil made me do it.
115. The line at McDonalds took longer than expected.
116. I did not miss church; in fact I had quite a good time without church.
117. The prayers are too long.
118. It's too far to drive.
119. My house got robbed Saturday night losing everything including all my dress clothes and shoes. Someone stole my wallet taking my credit cards and money.
120. I skipped Church so the Deacons wouldn't ask me to help them with Collection.
121. All the parking spaces close to the door are full.
122. My children are bored at church.
123. There aren't enough activities for the kids.
124. I went last Sunday!
125. My kid has a cold. The whole family has to stay home with him to blow his nose.
126. God never came to my house. Why should I go to His?
127. I got sick last month and I'm afraid of a relapse.
128. I don't want to go to that other church two years ago and I wouldn't want them to get jealous.
129. The last sermon was so vague, I didn't know what to think.
130. I don't like being told what to think.
131. I can't handle crowds, so I'm going to the ball game instead.
132. I've nothing for the offering.
133. They won't let me smoke during the sermon.
134. Service starts at 10:00. That's too early to get up.
135. I won't attend any church that'll let someone like me in the door.
136. It's not Easter or Christmas.
137. I can worship God just as easily at the video arcade.
138. I was forced to go when I was a younger.
139. I need time to think up more excuses!
140. I was forced to go when I was a younger.
141. The roof will fall in.
142. I can't drive at night.
143. The pews are too hard.
144. I can't afford the gas.
145. I have a cold and I may pass it around.
146. I am not going to Church because I am waiting for my husband to come with me.
147. "It's hard to for me get up and move around. I really don't get out much." (Said by her member who dropped by church on her way from having her hair done---and drove herself.)
148. I will not talk about why I haven't been to church.
149. I can't bring my pets.
150. Excuse: I couldn't go to church today because I had a flat on the car and didn't think we could all fit in the truck.
151. It's family reunion day
152. I'm changing jobs
153. I'm changing colleges
154. I'm getting married
155. I have a new baby
156. I'm retiring
157. Christians are judgmental and negative
158. Christians are homophobic
159. Christians are exclusive
160. I don't like organized religion
161. Life is too complicated for religion

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