

Spiritual Foundations Bible study

Participant's version: Worship. study 3

Introduction

Christianity makes up 32% of the world population, Muslim's 23%, Hindu's 13%, Buddhist's 7%, traditional Chinese religions 6%. Taking into account only these major religions, those who are involved in some form of worship totals approximately 81% of the world's population. Non-religious, which includes atheism makes up 13%. Christianity is growing at 1.2% whereas the non-religious demographic is only growing at 0.7%. Christianity is growing about twice the rate of the non- religious subcultures.

Operation World. Jason Mandryke. 7th Edition.

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Worship

The vast majority of people feel drawn to some form of worship. From a worldwide perspective, atheists are truly in the minority! Christianity is deeply rooted in worship of the one true God. This study will explore the important spiritual foundation of worship.

David more than any other Old Testament character can teach us about worship. He composes about half of the Psalms and many of them are beautiful songs of praise and adoration. In the passages of 2nd Samuel Chapter 6 we will observe 7 principles in worship which we can apply to our own relationship with God and corporate worship times.

Openers

Do you have a preference for a particular style of Christian worship?

How would you describe that expression?

Do you have a brief definition of worship?

As a group read 2nd Samuel chapter 6:1-21.

King David has recently taken possession of Jerusalem, he is now bringing the ark of God to the city to be placed in the Tabernacle. The ark was a little like a large chest, made of wood but covered in pure gold. It contained the golden pot of manna, speaking of the Lord's provision, Aaron's rod that budded, speaking of God's miraculous power and the 10 Commandments engraved in stone which was the O.T. covenant between God and Humanity.

1: Read 1 Chronicles 23:5 and consider again 2 Samuel 6:5. What do we observe here concerning the style of worship exercised by the Israelites?

2: Reflect upon 2 Samuel 6:6-7. Why did the Lord strike down Uzzah? What was his "Irreverent act"? Was he part of the celebration but not one with it? Did he view the ark of God as simply a valuable piece of furniture rather than holy?

What do you think?

3: Consider Psalm 95:6. What place does reverence have in our worship today?

The two cherubim upon the lid of the ark represented God's Glory. They sat upon the "mercy seat" which literally means "place of atonement." It is so called because it was the place where God manifested Himself for the purpose of atonement. In summary the ark was a symbol of God's wonderful presence.

4: Meditate on 2 Samuel 6:11-12. What place does the presence of God have in worship?

5: Read 2 Samuel 6:13. David was so unsure about moving the ark after Uzzah died that he left the ark on Obed-Edom's property for three months. Why is he now confident to move it? Examine 1 Chronicles 15:2 & 13 to clarify your answer.

6: Meditate upon John 4:23. What role does truth play in worship?

7: Read 2 Samuel 6:14-15. What does this passage tell us about King David's approach to worship? (A linen ephod was part of a priest's garment. Exodus 28:6-8)

8: Read the following references and list various expressions of worship. Exodus 15:20-21, Psalm 47:1, Psalm 134:2 and Colossians 3:16b.

9: Reflect upon 1 Samuel 6:16, 20-21. Was Michal correct to disapprove of King David's behaviour?

9b: Can you remember a time when someone disapproved of your approach to worship? How did it make you feel?

Praise and worship songwriter Matt Redman shares in relation to the previous passage, “One of the Hebrew words for praise is Halal.” He explains, “Halal” means to be “clamorously foolish” or “crazy enthusiasm for God!” He adds we get our word Hallelujah from it.

Unquenchable Worshipper, Redman, page 29

9c: Having read Matt Redman’s explanation do you feel your own worship may need to be more expressive? Why or why not?

10: Consider 2 Samuel 6:17-18. What did these sacrifices point toward in the New Testament?

11: Reflect upon Romans 12:1-2. What do you think it means to offer your body as a living sacrifice? What has it got to do with worship?

Conclusion

Consider the following 7 dimensions of worship. Share with the group an area you would like to develop more. Prayer for another and the areas you want make stronger in worship.

1: Worship involves celebration

2: Worship includes reverence

3: God's presence is central to worship

4: Worship must have a Biblical foundation

5: Those close to God are expressive in worship

6: Do not allow your worship to be stifled

7: Sacrifice is a foundation to worship

Finally, take out some time this week to write the Lord a Psalm of your own, expressing love and adoration to Him. Keep this Psalm and use it in your worship.

The following is an example.

Your love is like the sweetest honey,
Soothing to the soul and nourishing to the body; your perfect creation.
My body, paper under my writer's hand,
The most beautiful poetry in flesh, your own image.
Your love is like the sweetest music,
Me as your damaged yet daunting instrument, tuned into Your overflowing
love.
Now my life is sweet like cinnamon,
You have pulled me out of my wreck and gently pulled me safe to shore.
I was stuck, drowning in an endless abyss of lies and destruction. My life is
owed to you, for you have rescued me from the impossible because Your love is
impossible.