

WE ARE THE BODY OF CHRIST #2

Learning to Worship

THEME: Perhaps we have been guilty of defining *worship* too narrowly. If it is a life-transforming experience, it must be more than Sunday assemblies or group events. In this study, let's not diminish the importance of "corporate worship." On the other hand, try to expand the idea of worship to embrace your total life.

ICE BREAKER

1. What comes to mind when you hear the term "worship"?
2. What part of the corporate experience of worship at Grace Chapel means the most to you?

THINK

1. Discuss the following statement in some detail: *Everything about a Christian's life is for the praise and glory of God, and the church's worship culture is how we stay focused on that goal.*
2. Now think about the notion of "the church's worship culture." What does that term suggest? Is it about assemblies only? How does a church foster a "culture" for both corporate and private worship?
3. Does corporate worship (e.g., Sunday prayers, the Lord's Supper, etc.) stand to be more meaningful when supported by the daily experience of prayer, Bible reading, and reflection on the meaning of your faith?
4. Question #3 is meant to be rhetorical! If one's disciplined involvement in personal, family, and small-group worship experiences (obviously!) makes all-church worship more meaningful and transformational, why is it difficult for some of us to make it a regular part of our life routines?

EXAMINE

Read [Colossians 3:17](#) and [1 Corinthians 10:31](#) as background to the following questions (*Note: If available, read both texts from a variety of translations*):

1. Are these admonitions to us "too idealistic" to be practical? Explain.
2. Explain how you used last Thursday "as a representative of the Lord Jesus" (Col 3:17 NLT) and "to the glory of God" (1 Cor 10:31 NIV).
3. Name a specific event coming up next week that could be different if you plan for it and perform it as an event of obedience to these two clear biblical instructions. (*Also ask: Is there any way to excuse myself for a failure to plan and carry through on those events in some other way?*)
4. Before moving to the second textual study that follows, pause and pray for God to keep the insight and appeal of these two verses in your hearts during the coming week. If you are dealing with a particularly difficult person or event, you may want to ask your small group to keep that in mind in their personal prayers through the week – and to ask you about it next time you are together.

Read [2 Kings 6:13-17](#) as background to discussing the following questions:

1. Tell your group what you visualize in reading this text.
2. Do you truly believe that the invisible world of spiritual persons and powers interacts with our flesh-and-blood world? Explain.
3. In what ways does (or *would*) your awareness of the heaven-earth interaction comfort and/or challenge you?
4. Discuss this quotation from Graham Kendrick: "Worship has been misunderstood as something that arises from a feeling which 'comes upon you,' but it is vital that we understand that it is rooted in a conscious act of the will, to serve and obey the Lord Jesus Christ."

THIS WEEK: The worship life of the Grace Chapel Church – with all the spiritual blessings intended to come to God's people through worship – will be terribly stunted and unfulfilling for those of us who see Sunday assemblies as "our worship." Sunday (corporate) worship should remind us that every personal interaction, event response, or use of items entrusted to our stewardship is our (personal) worship to God. In the words of an old hymn, make this a prayer with which to end your small-group session this week:

*All to Jesus I surrender,
All to him I freely give;
I will ever love and trust him,
In his presence daily live.*