



Worship

Recap:

-The Bible is not a prescription

1 John 1:1-4

-joy in sharing

-joy in knowing

-worship is about our joy

-Sometimes we make worship and Christianity as a whole about obedience when its supposed to be about joy

Sometimes in American Christianity we use words different than how the Bible used them

-Church

-Worship

What is worship?

Romans 12:1-2

-three things

-worship is a response

-the entirety of our life

-worship is ultimately a change of mindset and what we value

1) Response

-"therefore"

-Paul has just spent 11 chapters laying out the Gospel and God's mercy and love toward us sinners

*This worship is going to be a response to what God already did

*Worship is never something we generate, it's not a request but a response

-Other religions do things to appease their God (Islam, paganism)

-In Jesus, the sacrifice to appease God's justice has already been made

-In Jesus, all God's affections toward us are already good (Romans 8:14-17)

2) The Entirety of our life

-our response is to offer our "bodies"

-body here doesn't just mean physical bodies but all of who we are

-(Instead of donating my body to science I'm going to donate it to the church)

-1 Corinthians 6:20 (we were bought with a price)

*worship is not an occasional activity, it is surrendering who we are to God

*this doesn't mean we should only do "church" stuff with our life

*whatever it is you do are you offering that to God, are you seeking to praise God and show others the beauty of God

-Paul uses three words to describe this sacrifice (living, holy, pleasing)

-Living

-obviously we aren't saying to drink the red koolaid

-God doesn't just want your stuff or even your time

-God wants all of who you are

*He doesn't need us, he wants us

*He's not a needy God who needs our worship so he can feel good about himself

*He has offered us himself and we respond by giving ourselves to him

Holy

-We are set apart people

-God gave Israel a bunch of laws so they would be set apart to him

-We pursue something different than what the world pursue

-We seek to pursue God and his desires

-There are lots of things to distract us from pursuing God

*I think "toys" are really cool

-God bought you with the blood of Jesus for something more valuable and glorious than "toys"

Psalm 37:4

-When we delight in God, when our heart is set on the things God's heart is set on then God completes our joy

-the point is not to sell all your toys or quit doing the things you love and only do church stuff

-the challenge is to do all that stuff but do it for God and find your delight in something deeper

*JR wanting people to enjoy God's world

-pleasing to God

-this is something I always challenge people to think about when they are deciding to do something or not

*Can you honestly look at what the Bible says and say that God is smiling and pleased with what you are choosing to do?

-we don't seek to earn God's pleasure We please God because he is already pleased with us.

-following a good boss vs a bad boss

3) worship is about a change in mindset and what we value

ver 2

-ultimately all this is about one thing

-not just changing behavior but changing your mindset

-we all worship something

-the pattern of this world is to worship ourselves

-the pattern of this world is to try to do as much as we can to earn things for ourselves, whether that is material things or the favor of God

-Paul says that God offers us a different pattern

-If we seek to worship him, if we focus our lives on him, he will freely give us all we need.

-We don't need to earn things for ourselves. Our focus can be on God, we can live for his pleasure and glory because he has sought out pleasure. He has sought to give us everything that is good for us.

-Worship is ultimately a changing of our mindset from a focus on what we can earn for us to a focus on what God has done for us and how we can enjoy that in surrender to him

-It all goes back then to where we started.

-We must know God through his word. Know the love that God has shown us

-Then we find our joy in that.

-Then our focus becomes on surrendering to the joy God gives us

*The more we know God, through his Word, through prayer, through offering our lives in service to him. The more we get to enjoy all God is and has done for us.

**Know and enjoy your God this week through everything you do

Sermon