

## Harvest Church

Sunday school 3/8/20 Worship pt. 1

### Foundations for Worship (Pt. 1)

#### I. What worship is

##### **Some definitions:**

Ligon Duncan 'Worship is declaring with our lips and our lives that God is more important than anything else in the world to us. He is our deepest desire, his inherent worth is beyond everything else we hold dear.'

David Peterson 'worship is engaging with God, on the terms He proposes, and in the way that he alone makes possible.'

William Temple: 'Worship is the submission of all our nature to God. It is the quickening of conscience by His holiness; the nourishment of mind with His truth; the purifying of imagination by His Beauty; the opening of the heart to His love; the surrender of will to His purpose – and all of this gathered up in adoration, the most selfless emotion of which our nature is capable and therefore the chief remedy for that self-centeredness which is our original sin and the source of all actual sin.'

Me 'Worship is the gifted response of our whole being to who God is and what he has done revealed to us in Christ, by his Spirit, and through his Holy Scriptures.'

#### A. **Why is worship important?**

##### 1. Worship shapes who we are

Greg Beale says, 'What people revere, they resemble, either for ruin or for restoration.'

Psalm 115:4-8 *'Their idols are silver and gold, the work of human hands. They have mouths, but do not speak; eyes, but do not see. They have ears, but do not hear; noses, but do not smell. They have hands, but do not feel; feet, but do not walk; and they do not make a sound in their throat. Those who make them become like them; so do all who trust in them.'*

##### 2. Worship shapes what we believe

Dt 4.15-18

##### 3. We are worshippers

Augustine, 'our heart is restless, until it rests in you.'

#### B. **Why do we worship?**

##### 1. We were created to worship

Psalm 95.6 *Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the LORD our Maker!*

##### 2. We were redeemed to worship

Exodus 19.4-6 *'You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on*

*eagles' wings and brought you to myself. 5 Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine; 6 and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.'*

*Ephesians 1.3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing... to the praise of his glorious grace...so that we...might be to the praise of his glory...*

3. God is worthy of our worship

*Psalm 95 Oh come, let us sing to the Lord...For the Lord is a great God, and a great King above all gods.*

John Webster says, 'Worship recognizes the supreme worth of God. It is the astounded cry which is drawn from us when we know ourselves to be in the presence of the one who sums up in himself all goodness, all truth and all beauty. Worship is the repetition and celebration of the utter fulness and aliveness and holiness of God. In the end, worship says only one thing: God is God. God is this one, supremely great. Worship doesn't ascribe anything to God; it is no statement of the value that we think God has. Nor is it flattery, hoping somehow to win favors. Worship acclaims that from all eternity, in all his ways and works, God is the perfect one.'

4. We worship because we need worship

*Numbers 6.23, 'Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying, Thus you shall bless the people of Israel: you shall say to them, "The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace." So shall they put my name upon the people of Israel, and I will bless them.'*

5. Ultimately, it brings glory to God

*Isaiah 60.21 Your people shall all be righteous; they shall possess the land forever, the branch of my planting, the work of my hands, that I might be glorified.*

**C. What or whom do we worship?**

1. We worship God

Ligon Duncan says, "The very purpose of assembling together as the people of God in congregational worship is to give the Lord the glory due his name and to enjoy the blessing of his promised special presence with his own people in obedience to his instructions set forth in the Bible."

God, above all, must be our goal and focus, the object of worship, and he must be the subject of all the content.

2. Man-sensitive worship

Worship is for our edification. 1 Cor 14