

WHAT TO BRING TO WORSHIP | A Passion for Applause | Week 1 | Feb 1 & 2

1 Corinthians 11:17-34

These study guides are designed for individual or group study but highly encouraged to be experienced in community with a small group or other friends on the journey with Jesus.

Context: What is worship really all about? That's the question we explore this month. Is it one of the optional activities that we try to work into our schedule? Is it worth the time? What attitudes do we bring in to worship on Sunday that hinders or enhances our worship?

- What is your reason for coming to church?
- How do you define worship?
- Journal or share what comes to mind as you ask these questions.

The Purpose of Life: Pastor Dan tells us, “the greatest leaders and thinkers of the seventeenth century gathered at a conference and debated the question: What is the primary purpose of human life? Their final answer was: “The chief end of [humanity] is to glorify God and enjoy him forever.” (*The Westminster Shorter Catechism, 1646, Answer #1*).

- When you read their answer what stirs in you? Thoughts? Feelings? Questions?
- What would you say the “primary purpose of your life” would be?

An Attitude from the Seats: We live in “the most ubiquitous entertainment culture in human history.” When we take a seat we expect to see something, to be entertained, to be given an experience to enjoy.

- Describe your first reaction after a service. Do you evaluate?
- Make a confession, what is the area that most impacts you? Music? Message? Timing?
- What would it take to stop evaluating and simply receive?

An Attitude from the Board Room: We live in a culture of enterprise and economic exchange. If we invest time or money we hope to get something back. We hope to grow a little or learn something new and useful.

- Journal or share what you long for in this case?
- How do you make the balance? What criterion do you use to decide if church was “worth it” or not?
- What better questions can we ask at the end of a worship service than the score card kind?

An Attitude from the Classroom: We live in a culture that values knowledge, understanding and personal edification. We seek to find practical instruction or an inspirational motivation for the week ahead. We might ask, “Did the service meet any of my needs?”

- Are you looking for help at church? Of course you are—we all are. What is the issue?
- What do these patterns or attitudes of enjoying, gaining or learning leave out?

The Father Welcomes: Pastor Dan describes one goal of worship as, “helping people find the living water of God’s Spirit that addresses their deepest needs.”

- How is this description different from the three previous ways of looking at church?
- What does that take to find, “the living water of God’s Spirit?”

Paul’s Instruction on Worship: Read 1 Corinthians 11:17-34. There must be more than satisfying the needs of those attending as Paul states, “your meetings do more harm than good.”

- What worship-killing actions do you see in this passage?
- Where do you see the attitudes of entertainment, enterprise, or personal edification expressed from the church in Corinth?
- How does the way Paul focuses on Jesus, in the Upper Room, help counter coming to worship solely for entertainment, enterprise, or personal edification

Changing Focus: Pastor Dan challenges us with this thought, “The truth, however, is that those up front are actually the prompters; you in the seats are the most significant performers; and the awesome Creator of the Universe - Jesus - is the Audience of One.”

- How does that impact the way you look at worship on Sunday morning?
- What changes in your motivation, attitude and practice? Share or journal for each separately.
- Journal or share what stirs in you when you consider delighting God through your worship.

Practice of the week: As you contemplate worship as a gift to God, what do you want to bring to Him? Often, our first thought is one of humility—I have nothing adequate to bring. That may seem “noble” but what does it say about the Creator God who made you? He gave you something to bring—what do you want to take to Him this Sunday? Meditate on this on your way to work this week.

We’d love to hear from you!

If you have thoughts, questions, comments, ideas on how to make these study guides more meaningful for you or your small group, please let us know.

We also enjoy hearing how God is using these study guides in your lives.

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