

Worship by Design: Context of Worship (Ephesians)

Welcome Students & guests! We are in the middle of a mini-series on worship called “Worship by Design”. Our normal diet here for preaching is expository by nature (the meaning of the text is the meaning of the message) usually going through books. We are in our second year in John’s gospel and will pick up in Chapter 14 on Sept.7th.

Created for Worship

- A. The Triune God is the Object of Worship
- B. The Triune God created all to spread the glory that is within the Trinity
- C. The Triune God has then re-created for the same end (the redeemed) – So, what then is the primary context for the spreading of the glory of God (the happiness within himself?) – Ephesians 1:3-14

Context of Worship: The Church...A Family of Families

“The Church is to be...”

- A. Grounded in Christ (**Ephesians 1:15-23**)
 - a. Prayer
 - b. Seeing the Supremacy of Christ
- B. Rooted in Grace (**Ephesians 2**)
 - a. Remember who you were (vv.1-3)
 - b. Remember who saved you (vv.4-7)
 - c. Remember how He saved you (vv.8-10)
 - d. Remember why He saved you (vv.11-22) – to be a dwelling place for His present glory (spreading)
- C. Shrouded by Mystery...the Gospel (**Ephesians 3**)
 - a. Exclusivity of Christ (vv.1-6)
 - b. Inclusivity for ANYONE in Christ (vv.7-13)
 - c. Strengthened to know His love (vv.14-19)
 - d. For His glory (vv.20-21)

- D. Ordered for Life (**Ephesians 4**)
 - a. Everyone is to order their life (vv.1-3)
 - b. Order promotes Christ centrality and church unity with intentionality (vv.4-10)
 - c. Ordered by Varied gifts with a Unified Purpose (vv.11-16)
 - d. Ordered for mutual sanctification (vv.17-32)
- E. Driven by Love (**Ephesians 5:1-17**)
 - a. As Children imitating their Father (vv.1-2)
 - b. Love drives us to forsake sin (vv.3-7)
 - c. Love drives us to bear fruit (vv.8-14)
 - d. Love drives us to NOT waste time (vv.15-17)
- F. Focused on Worship (**Ephesians 5:18-21**)
 - a. Expression of what’s been said thus far
 - b. Spirit-filled worship
 - c. Speaking the Word
 - d. Corporate Singing
 - i. Varied types of music (not styles: the psalms, gospel songs?, personal testimony)
 - ii. Making melody (lit. plucking a stringed instrument)
 - iii. With great passion
 - e. Gratitude toward God for EVERYTHING
 - f. Mutual submission
- G. Imaged in Marriage (**Ephesians 5:22-33**)
 - a. An Image, not an Allegory
 - i. *The Shack* - I’ve not read the book, but have read excerpts. The tendency is to over-humanize the relationship within the Trinity in order to relate, but it becomes problematic as the book changes John 14:6 to say “best way” instead of “the way”; says that God (a woman in the story) does not punish sin, but sin is a punishment itself and that Christ is entirely limited in His exercise of divine power and did not exercise His own, but only God’s authority. Throughout, experience is elevated over (or at least complimentary) to biblical revelation.

- ii. So, allegories of the Trinity lead to wrong theology in part or whole. Images of God's redemptive work in and through the Trinity, however, are essential to understanding how to Worship because we see the righteous acts of God put on display, proving His worthiness to be worshiped.
- b. Familiar context for all time
 - i. Adam & Eve (**Genesis 2:18-24**)
 - ii. Abraham & Isaac (**Genesis 22**)
 - iii. Boaz & Ruth (**Ruth 4**)
 - iv. Hosea & Gomer (**Hosea 3**)
- c. Distinct roles
 - i. Men – Spiritual headship with sacrificial leadership – ACT OF WORSHIP (“as Christ”)
 - ii. Women – Joyful submission with humble response – ACT OF WORSHIP (“as unto Christ”)
- d. Guard the context
 - i. Guard your time – v.16
 - 1. Pray for wisdom
 - 2. Order for God's Glory
 - ii. Guard your perspective
 - 1. The Family of God
 - 2. For Worship
 - 3. Displaying the Gospel of Grace
 - a. Justification
 - b. Sanctification
 - c. Glorification
 - iii. Guard your roles - Satan attacks roles to dismantle the gospel (SATAN ATTACKS TO GET THE ATTENTION OFF OF GOD. IN A SENSE, EVERYTHING SATAN DOES IS AN ASSAULT ON BIBLICALLY AUTHENTIC WORSHIP)
 - 1. Husbands / Fathers are to protect the most essential commandment for worship: There is ONE God!
 - a. Whether intentionally or unintentionally, are you allowing idols in your home?

- b. Think about your office or company – what's in your home that declares what you value the most?
 - c. Heart, Soul, Mind, Strength?
- 2. Wives you are to pray for your husbands and encourage their leadership, not replace it – this is regardless of personality types
 - a. Help with his guarding the home
 - b. Illus: Jan and the bedroom TV
- 3. Voddie Baucham (*Family-Driven Faith*), *“If there was ever a time for families to engage in simple, heartfelt, participatory, community-based, new Testament worship, it is now. If you are in a church that has resisted the temptation to professionalize worship, you are blessed. If not, my heart goes out to you. IN any event, family worship will deepen your appreciation for biblical worship and make the corporate experience that much richer. However, I must caution you – family worship also has tendency to open your eyes to the shallow, mundane, worldly aspects of the modern ‘worship’ scene.”*
- iv. Guard your love - Practical protection of the marriage, therefore the gospel, therefore the glory of God spreading in the church
 - 1. Cherish
 - 2. Respect

H. Modeled in Relationships (**Ephesians 6:1-9**)

- a. Children (6:1-4)
- b. Slaves and Masters (6:5-9)

I. Strengthened to Battle (**Ephesians 6:10-20**)

- a. The church together – as a family
- b. Armed with the Whole Gospel

J. Cared for by Shepherds (**Ephesians 6:21-24**)

- a. Provision of gifted leaders (leaders of worship)
 - i. Elders/Pastors (1 Timothy 3)
 - ii. Deacons
- b. Peace, Love with Faith, Grace
- c. Enduring Love

BENEDICTION

Ephesians 3:14-21, *“14 For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, 15 from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, 16 that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, 17 so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, 18 may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, 19 and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.*

20 Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, 21 to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

Implications & Applications

- A. Worship begins at Home
 - a. If married, do you model Ephesians 5:22-33?
 - b. Create a climate of worship...a God-centrality in the home! (**Joshua 24:15**)
 - c. Start a Family worship time
 - i. Pick up a copy of “Family Worship” for \$5 by Don Whitney in the foyer. (Read/Pray/Sing – don’t be intimidated)
 - ii. Use our online Resource page “Family Worship”

- B. The Church is people who are Family
 - a. We should worship like Family (**Matt.23:8-12**)
 - i. In Love & focus (diverse, yet unified – Passion statement)
 - ii. Full of Grace & Truth
 - iii. Encouragement
 - iv. Sit as families corporately (train/flexibility)
 - v. Longing to reunite weekly (**Heb.10:24-25**)
 - vi. Adopt-a-Hog
 - vii. What about singles? (**1 Cor.7:25-40**)
 - 1. An undistracted Passion for God
 - 2. Contentment
 - 3. Freedom
 - 4. As spirit-filled as any married person
 - 5. Part of the family of God

- C. Are you a part of the family of God?
 - a. Are you an adopted child?
 - b. **John 1:13-14**, *“12 But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, 13 who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.”*