

Worship

*What it is, and why it matters
more than anything else.*

A COMMUNITY OF WORSHIP

ACTS 2:42-47

Dave Gustavsen - June 11, 2023

FOCUS: The most powerful worship—the worship that shapes us the most—is the worship we do in community with other people.

Hebrews 10:25 says “Don’t give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing.” Psalm 122 says “I rejoiced with those who said to me, ‘Let us go the house of the Lord.’”

Consider your experience of watching an online service against being there in person, and rate the following areas on a scale of 1 to 10:

ONLINE

LIVE

_____	_____	Your connection with the message/teaching
_____	_____	Your engagement in praising God
_____	_____	Fellowship with and encouragement from other followers of Christ
_____	_____	Your ability to demonstrate love to the Chapel’s attendees
_____	_____	Your motivation to give of your resources
_____	_____	Your motivation to go out and share God’s love, inviting others to come & see

POINT 1: THE WAYS WE GET WORSHIP WRONG ARE THE SINS OF:

- Hypocrisy (Read Jeremiah 7:9-10)

Consider how you may have come to church to appear clean or out of habit, yet with unaddressed and unrepentant sin. How does that affect others, as well as your own spiritual growth? Confess and turn from any sin that is hindering your worship and potentially others’ worship.

- Considering worship to be a performance of the pastor and/or the worship team and musicians (Read Exodus 15:1-21. Also consider the Psalms of Ascent, sung together as ancient Israel would proceed to Jerusalem for annual holy days celebrations. – Psalms 120-134)

How can you develop a habit of focusing on how God is speaking to you and what your response is during each aspect of worship together? Consider journaling your praises to God after each worship service. Look back at this journal of your spiritual growth in corporate worship. (Or add this to your daily journal).

- Selfishness (Read 1 Corinthians 11:20-22)

Consider how you may have come with a self-centered focus instead of on the LORD and then your fellow believers. How will you better focus on the praise of God? How will you better engage with others who have been made in God’s image?

Worship

*What it is, and why it matters
more than anything else.*

A COMMUNITY OF WORSHIP

ACTS 2:42-47

Dave Gustavsen - June 11, 2023

POINT 2: THE ELEMENTS OF GATHERED WORSHIP

The blueprint for how a healthy church operates, especially in their worship gatherings includes these elements:

- a. **Teaching** (2 Timothy 4:2-4)
- b. **Fellowship** (Acts 2:42) – in other words, a family of believers who love one another
- c. **Breaking of Bread** on a Regular Basis (aka Communion or Eucharist)
- d. **Prayer** (1 Timothy 2:1-2) Includes praise, repentance, thanksgiving, intercession, and petitions for the body of Christ and for all people
- e. **Generous Giving** (Acts 2:45) of what God has generously provided us to benefit others (especially in the body of Christ)
- f. **Praise** (Acts 2:47) – wholehearted, joyful, sincere recognition and declaration of what God has done and is doing, knowing He is faithful to His promises

Deliberately think about what each of these aspects means to you. Pray that you will grow in respect for and in participation in each of these action areas.

POINT 3: THE EFFECTS OF GATHERED WORSHIP

- a. Awe of being in God's Presence (Acts 2:45)
- b. Spiritual Growth (Hebrews 10:23-25,
- c. Being Sent OUT on Mission (Acts 2:47) to a World in Need of our Savior's Love

EACH SUNDAY, BEFORE AND AFTER THE SERVICE:

Pray for a greater hunger of being in God's Presence with His people as your worship focus. Know that God will provide growth as you follow His design for worship. Ask God what He wants you to do in response to being in the Community of Worship.

PRAYER:

End your group by allowing 15 minutes for a time of prayer and reading of Acts 2:42-47. Consider sub-grouping into men and women (or partner up) to make it more intimate. Use Acts 2:42-47 to pray for our community of worship to grow in each of the areas it notes. (Example: Acts 2:43 personalized "May _____ feel a greater sense of awe of the Lord...)