



We Are...Worshippers

Worship is not what we do but *who we are* (1 Peter 2:9). God made us to be worshippers, to proclaim the excellencies of Him who called us out of darkness into His marvelous light. Worship is declaring the worth or value of something or someone. It is the core or center of our affections and the primary thing we pursue to find our acceptance, security, purpose, and identity. Our struggle is that often our worship becomes misdirected and distracted by our possessions or money, duties and titles, relationships, looks, and even our struggles. Our Heavenly Father is calling us to a place where we become more of who we are: worshippers who declare His praises with all of our lives.

GET THINGS STARTED

Everyone worships something. Do you agree with that statement? If so, what are some of the most common things that become the objects of our worship apart from our Heavenly Father? What is the evidence that people are worshipping these things?

GO DEEPER

1. According to the first part of 1 Peter 2:9, who does Peter declare we are as followers of Jesus? From the place of identity in these things, what are we to do in the second part of this verse, and what does that mean? Why is identity so important to how and who we worship?
2. What does Paul urge and encourage followers of Jesus to do in Romans 12:1? What is our *spiritual act of worship*, as Paul defines it in this verse? What is the outcome of becoming the worshippers we were made to be – of being transformed – in Romans 12:2?

MAKE IT PERSONAL

1. What or who do you worship? Of the five things Pastor David listed as distractions to our worship (e.g. possessions or money, duties and titles, relationships, looks, and our struggles), which ones do you tend to gravitate towards, and why? Which of these *idols* do you need to lay down in order to fully worship our Heavenly Father?
2. What risky or uncomfortable step may God be calling you to take in order to become an even more extravagant worshipper of Him (i.e. at church, at work, in your home, etc.)? What expressions of worship do you typically avoid that He may be challenging you to explore?

PRACTICE IT NOW

Take time as a group to purposefully worship God. In an attitude of prayer, verbally declare together His excellencies (e.g. the aspects of His character and nature) that you are most amazed by and grateful for. Invite Him to work and move in such a way that you each become better worshippers, giving Him all your attention and affection. Ask Him for the grace to make Him the center or core of your lives, the primary one you pursue.