

Talk It Over

EVERYDAY FAITH (Week 2) Worship

SMALL TALK

1. Has your answers to the question, "What is the purpose of life?" changed over the years? If so, how? What is your answer these days? How well is your life lining up with your answer?

VIEWPOINT

2. What is your definition of "worship"? Brainstorm together what "everyday worship" looks like.
3. **READ Galatians 2:20.** How do you fit Paul's two statements together "I no longer live" and "the life I now live..., I live by..." ? Describe the old life that no longer lives that way, and the new life and how that is different than that old life which was "crucified with Christ".
4. **READ Colossians 1:15-23.**
 - a. What is Jesus Christ's relationship to creation? (1:15-17)
 - b. How do "all things hold together" under Christ? (1:16-17)
 - c. Why was the resurrection of Jesus so significant? (1:18)
 - d. What does God achieve through the work of His Son? (1:20)
 - e. How did Jesus bring us to and reconcile us with God? (1:21-22)
 - f. What is the role of faith in this? (1:23)

GETTING PERSONAL

5. **Worship is the expected human response once we perceive who God is and what he has done and is doing.** What difference does knowing what we just studied in #3 and #4 make and how does this affect everyday worship?

MAKING PROGRESS

6. One of our core statements is: "Love God Wholeheartedly." Describe at least ways of doing this then explain how each of these ways is "Worship". Pick one of the ways you described that you believe God wants you to take steps on it this week.

August 16, 2020

Everyday Faith

This series is designed to help us grow and live out our faith every day.

1. Everyday Faith
2. Worship
3. Word (The Word of God)
4. Witness (Describing what you have experienced)

Theme Verse For The Series

*Hebrews 11:6 (NIV) And without **faith** it is impossible to please God, because anyone who **comes** to him **must believe that he exists** and that **he rewards those who earnestly seek him.***

What is the purpose of life?

We have a deep longing to know this answer. I believe the older we get the deeper the longing to know this answer becomes. Why? Because in our youth, we fill our days with pursuing some prizes and pleasures. We think in pursuing these prizes and pleasures we find meaning. But now that we are older and we have pursued and embraced these prizes and pleasures, we ask “Is that all there is?” Deep down we want more. I believe we know we are created for meaning, and that is why we want more than merely whatever pleases “ME”.

I. **MEANING is a bigger word than ME.**

When life is all about what I want, and what I think, and what I have, and what I can achieve, at first, this appears to work for us especially while we are young and the sky is the limit, and it seems like life is endless. But before long, “I” doesn’t stand so tall and

strong. Perhaps God made it to be so after the fall, and as a part of the consequences of the fall, for our own good. He built in our being some reminders that standing in such pride is not only nonsense, it is sin.

How do you spell sin? (“sIn”)

Pride stands tall. And wherever there is sin, the tall I of pride is in the middle of sin. Spell sin. Small “s” large “I” and small “n”, (show visual here, “sIn”). Without God, and without a savior, life is all about Me, Myself, and I. It is about the Kingdom of Me--my kingdom, my life, what I want, I did it My way.

II. You will always find a tall proud “I” at the center of sIn

Then comes a savior who says, “The Kingdom of God has come near, repent, believe, and follow” (Mark 1:14-18). He can say, The Kingdom has come near because he is the King and he is here and he is the one that is the fulfillment of all the Old Testament hopes and prophecies. He said, “the Kingdom is near” because he was just about to open the door to his Kingdom. More on that in a moment. He taught us to pray, YOUR Kingdom come, YOUR will be done on earth as it is in Heaven.

What you get when you bend the letter “I”?

By way of illustration, it is like Jesus was telling us that the tall and strong “I” must bend. Do you know what you get when you bend the letter “I”? Here’s what you get, You get the letter “C”. It is the humble position of worship. This happens when we see God for who he is, and what he has done.

III. When proud “I” bends it becomes a “C”

The only way into the Kingdom is if we bend to the will of the King, and this King is the CHIRST, the anointed King. When we come to the King, who is the son of God, we believe He exists, we believe that when we come to him, he rewards those who come to

him, and bow to him, and receive from him His Kingdom. He reigns for ysm and ibn us, and through us.

We enter into his Kingdom through a door, and Christ is that door. And that door is a wide open door. We don't need to climb up to it and achieve a righteousness. We don't need to scale the wall of his Kingdom by being good enough.

We need only REPENT from the Kingdom of ME, and bend. As we bend, we humble ourselves. We discover that the door, which Christ claims to be, is a low door. Only through humility to we enter through that door. And only when we "bend" in humility can the savior save.

We bow to God in Humility. But when we meet him there, something marvelous happens, with that believing, with that repenting, and confessing of our sin, which includes rebellion. Not only does the death of Jesus wash away our sin, our old strong tall I is crucified then and there with Christ on the Cross. The old stiff, strong, tall prideful I, the stiff necked rebellious I bends and bows to the King of Kings who loved us and gave himself for us, and our old dead I passes away with him, our sins are washed away, and God gives us his Spirit, and we are raised by the power of the Spirit. The old dead bones are revived to life, and there is that new I, humble, and worshipful, and depending on Christ. That new me, is Christ in Me, alive and made into a new creation.

IV. The new ME is Christ in ME

My empty cup is filled up to overflowing. The cup of sin is emptied, the cup of wrath that I deserved, is something Jesus took and drank for me, now my washed clean cup, the cup I just confessed is dead and dirty, is washed clean by the shed blood of Jesus, and God fills my cup to overflowing with life, and life to the

full. What was a MESS, now becomes my Message. Christ has set me free. I was dead, but now I'm alive. I was lost, but now I'm found.

Galatians 2:20 (NIV2011)** I have been crucified with Christ and **I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Our identity changes. Our "I" now looks like a "C", "**Christ in me**". This is what we are made for.

This is everyday worship. This isn't something that only happened the day I was saved.

God Is Not An Egotist When He Commands Our Worship

God is FOR me, and he made me FOR him. We say, "food is for the body, and the body is for food" and live on a physical level only, where God says, I made you for me, and I am for you.

***1 Corinthians 6:13 (NIV2011)** You say, "Food for the stomach and the stomach for food, and God will destroy them both." The body, however, is not meant for sexual immorality but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body.*

God is the ultimate source of goodness, the very definition of goodness. God is the only supreme being. He is not an egotist. The people who Worship God in Spirit and in truth are the most fulfilled human beings on this planet, because they have been restored to function as they were designed to function and flourish. Jesus came to give us life, and life to the full! It is the devil who comes to steal kill and destroy, and he does this by saying, "*live for you! You deserve it! Live for pleasure! You don't need that God stuff to be fulfilled. Come on, you know you want to, so worship YOU, and you will feel fulfilled when you _____* (you can fill in the blank with what tempts you).

When I worship, “I” becomes C! And we experience glory in this mystery!

Worship is our response to our glimpse of glory! What is glory?
Christ Jesus our King!

Paul says

*Colossians 1:15-20 (NIV2011) The Son is the image of the invisible God...{16} For **in him all things were created: ...all things have been created through him and for him.** ...{19} For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, {20} and **through him to reconcile to himself all things, ... by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.***

“To create, God had but to speak, and it was done. But to redeem, He had to bleed.”

--Roy and Revel Hession, *We Would See Jesus*

Take a long look at Jesus on the cross. That humbles you. God must really think differently of my sin than I do. My sin deserves that!? My sin is that bad!? If you don't think so, you will not humble yourself before God, and bend your stiff neck. If you don't think you are that bad. John says this way of seeing yourself is like calling God a liar.

*1 John 1:10 (NIV) If we claim we have not sinned, **we make him out to be a liar** and his word is not in us.*

It is amazing that God would go to such great and painful measures to save me. Ponder that and worship with your heart overflowing with thanks!

*Psalms 145:2 (NIV2011) **Every day I will praise you and extol your name for ever and ever.***

Here is one expression of everyday worship that Jesus taught:

*Matthew 6:9-13 (NIV2011) {9} “This, then, is how you should pray: “ ‘Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, {10} your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. {11} Give us **today** our **daily** bread. {12} And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. {13} And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.’*

For me, at this stage of my walk, this often sounds something like this....