

Community Group Study Guide

What is Proper Worship? Ezra 3

Overview

Main Idea: Proper worship is a priority for God's people.

5 Aspects of Proper Worship:

- Proper worship is directed to a specific God
- Proper worship is directed by that specific God
- Proper worship generously supports the work of God;
- Proper worship involves all the people of God
- Proper worship gives praise and thanksgiving to God.

Questions

1. Is it true that we all worship? If so, why do you think we all worship?
2. How can we best tell who or what we worship? Anything we worship other than God is an idol. What are some of the idols in our lives (see next page)?
3. Why is it dangerous to worship according to the terms we think best? What is the result of worshipping based on our terms? What are the terms for properly worshipping the one true God?
4. We can worship God with both our giving and our giftings. How are you doing in each these categories? How can we become more generous people in regards to our money? How can we ensure that we are using our giftings for the greater benefit of the church?
5. What are some practical ways to cultivate praise and thanksgiving in your life?

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Helpful Questions to Determine Who/What You Worship (taken from Mark Driscoll's sermon 'Worship: God Transforms')

Who/what are your external idols?

- Who/what is my Lord that rules over my life determining how I live?
- Who/what is my Judge I am living to earn the approval of?
- Where do you give the firstfruits of your wealth?
- Where do you give the firstfruits of your time?
- What people and things take the majority of your life?
- What do you plan and pray for?

Who/what are your internal idols?

- What false beliefs do you hold about God?
- Which parts of Scripture do you deeply doubt or even disbelieve?
- Deep down in your heart who/what do you love, cherish, treasure, long for the most?
- Deep down in your heart who/what do you despise and hate the most?
- Who/what makes you happiest? Why?
- Who/what makes you saddest? Why?

Who/what is your mediator between you and God?

- Who or what other than Jesus do you use to get closer to God?
- Who or what if taken from your life would cause you to not walk as faithfully with God?
- How do you define yourself, especially when introducing yourself to others?

Where is your functional heaven?

- When daydreaming about escaping this life, what does your functional heaven look like and how is it different from the real heaven?
- On earth, where do you run for your safety or comfort as your hiding place (e.g. the fridge, alcohol, the television, a person, a place, a hobby)?

Who/what is your functional savior?

- What is your picture of hell in this life (e.g. being single, not having children, being poor, etc.)?
- Who or what do you use to save you from what you fear (e.g. a relationship, children, money, shopping, sex, etc.)?

What good thing has become a god thing?

- Which idols are in your life that when appreciated and/or stewarded correctly are means of worship but have become objects of worship (e.g. work, family, health, friendship, pleasure, leisure, hobby, etc.)?
- If you could obtain or change one thing/person in your life what would that be?
- What idols am I selling to others?