

How Should I worship God?

I Corinthians 6:19-20

October 18, 2015

Summary

Many of us live under an Old Testament paradigm of worship. When we think 'worship,' we think of a place and time (our 'church building') or style of music. In this lesson, we will explore the New Testament dynamic of being temples who live lives expressing the worth of God. Everything is a sacred thing when you are a temple.

Getting Started

How have you heard the word 'worship' defined? Worship is not confined to what happens in the sanctuary on Sunday mornings. Yet many people, both believers and non believers, assume that worship describes the gathering of Christians to praise God and enjoy the fellowship of others. While worship certainly includes a component of gathering to praise God, it also extends to the daily giving of myself to God in response to who He is and what He has done to redeem me from the penalty and power of sin.

Understanding the Passage

Read I Corinthians 6:19-20 and identify 2-3 key words or phrases in this passage.

What is the reason Paul tells his readers in verse 19 that their bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit? You may want to read verses 15-18 for a little bit of context.

How is it possible that the bodies of believers serve as temples for the Holy Spirit? What other passages support Paul's claim that the Holy Spirit indwells believers? Check out Acts 9:17 and Ephesians 3:17 as examples.

What implications does this truth have for believers and their bodies?

Paul's question in verse 19 begins with the words, 'Or do you not know...' Was Paul introducing a new teaching here or reminding the Corinthian believers of something he had already taught them?

What do you think Paul had in mind when he encouraged his readers to 'glorify God in your body?' How might this passage apply to more than abstaining from sexual sins?

In verse 20, Paul referenced a price that God paid for the Corinthian believers. What price did God pay for them and indeed for all Christ followers?

What implications does this passage hold for both the corporate and private worship of God?

Please read Titus 2:11-14. According to this passage, for what purposes did God redeem us?

Applying the Passage

How does God want you to live as a steward of the time and resources He has given you?

What area of your life do you believe the Holy Spirit is asking you to surrender to His control today?

How do you believe God is calling you to worship Him this week?

Share Point

Read I Corinthians 6:19-20 and review the application questions. Share with someone in your life how God's Word is changing you into a growing disciple. Encourage that person to do the same. That person could be a family member, a friend, a co-worker or a neighbor.

Consider This!

Greg Ogden in *Discipleship Essentials* writes the following section in a chapter entitled 'Redemption' to remind us of the price God paid to redeem us for Himself:

Christ's death on the cross satisfied God's justice and purchased mercy. Justice demands that sin be paid for. Dying on our behalf, Jesus died the death we deserve so that we could have mercy that we don't deserve. He bore the brunt of God's fury toward sin and faced abandonment, isolation and separation from His Father while on the cross. At the moment when Jesus cried out from the cross, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" (Mark 15:34), the Father turned away from the Son, who bore our sin. Payment had been made. When we acknowledge our need for forgiveness through repentance and believe in Christ's sufficient sacrifice, we are given the gift of mercy.

Prayer

Thank you God for paying such a high price to redeem me from the penalty and power of sin! Lord Jesus, I worship you today for who You are and for what you have done to bring me into an intimate relationship with our Heavenly Father. I glorify You for bringing me from death to life, and I offer the members of my body to You as instruments for righteousness according to Romans 6:13.

Commentary Notes (adapted from the ESV Study Bible)

Verse 19 *temple of the Holy Spirit within you.* The Spirit of the Lord lives within individual Christians, making each believer's body a temple, just as the church, corporately conceived, is also a temple where God's Spirit dwells. *You are not your own.*

As with other gifts from God, believers are to exercise responsible stewardship over their bodies.

Verse 20 *bought with a price*. The image is borrowed from the slave market, Christ's