



Worship

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At Oak Pointe, The Eight is more than a sermon series more than a list of “to dos.” It represents a lifestyle; a lifestyle of a disciple of Jesus. The Eight represents a life that declares, “I love Jesus, I follow Jesus.” Worship, Listen, Pray, Restore, Connect, Give, Go, Multiply. These are the traits of a disciple and follower of Jesus. It all starts with worship.

Worship comes from the old English word that means “to declare the worth.” This makes sense because we often can’t help but talk about the things we love. What are the things in your life that you talk about most? These are likely the things that are most important to you; the things you love most.

Worship is about the heart. As our heart goes, so does our worship.

God is primarily concerned about the condition of your heart because He knows that you worship what you love. And your worship ultimately leads to actions, which form habits that lead to a lifestyle.

One of God’s ongoing concerns throughout the Bible is that people often perform religious rituals thinking they are worshiping, without ever truly worshiping Him.

“And so the Lord says, ‘These people say they are mine. They honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. Their worship of me is nothing but man-made rules learned by rote’” (Isaiah 29:13; cited by Jesus in Matthew 15:8-9).

To truly worship Jesus is to love Jesus more than anything or anyone else.

Romans 12:1 reveals that worship is a response to Jesus that leads to way-of-life worship.

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship (Romans 12:1).

Why would we, or why should we worship God? Why would we make Jesus number one in our lives? *In view of God's mercy...*we respond to Jesus freely paying the penalty for our sin. We respond to the Gospel of Jesus. We respond to the good news that we were once considered spiritually and eternally separated from God. We were orphaned because of our own sin but Jesus pays the price for our sin, for our wayward thoughts, for our selfishness that causes pain, and the rebellion of our hearts on a cross. He brings life where there was death, to His glorious praise! Your worship is an echo of your view of the gospel. The bigger the view, the louder the echo! How big is your view of what Jesus has done for you? What is your eternal salvation worth?

Romans 12:1 says our worship our response to this view, is to offer our body.

The verb "offer" is a present tense verb and translates to continually offering our body. This is why we say that worship is a way of life. We need to move from once-a-week worship to way-of-life worship!

This is easier said than done. This is why our response is to offer ourselves as a living sacrifice.

Worship is often a sacrifice, because sometimes we don't "feel" like worshipping. As the great hymn says about us, "Prone to wander, Lord I feel it, prone to leave the God I love...."

Sometimes it's the sacrifice of worship the sacrifice of praise (see Heb 13:15) in the midst of pain and of hardship, that we find our way back to God. Often it's when we don't feel like it, but still serve someone anyway that God shows up. Or, its when we don't feel like it, but we give God thanks and praise. Or, it's when we don't feel like coming to this place to worship Him together, but we show up anyway that He shows up in a big way and reignites our hearts and sets them ablaze.

So, how do we stay on track? We ask ourselves the question daily, "How does my love for Jesus show?" How am I living out my worship?

Action steps for this week:

1. Wake up each morning and verbally praise Jesus for who he is and what he's done.
2. Carve out a few times this week to read the Bible and pray for others.
3. Find a secluded place. Read a Psalm and then put on your favorite worship song. Sing to the Lord without hindrance.
4. Take a hike in a nearby state park. Read Psalm 19 and look in wonder at our Creator's creation.
5. In the spirit of Romans 12:1-2 (presenting your body as a living sacrifice to God), try this: Every day for a week, when you awaken in the morning, imagine your bed as the altar of sacrifice. Say to God: "Here I am, a living sacrifice. Use me today for whatever you want me to do. This is my worship offering!"