

The focus of our worship

Whatever your interest in this page or your reason for coming here one thing is certain, in common with every other human being, past, present and future, you are a worshipper. Every one has, does and will worship - something, someone, somehow. The truth is that we cannot help it. It is the response of people who have been created. Birds fly, fish swim, created human beings worship - it is what we were made with, we are wired to give ultimate value and worth, and thanksgiving, to Someone. We feel most human when we worship God. As we reach out and connect with God it is the time when we are most what we were created to be and do.

Psalm 135:15-18 records these words,

"The idols of the nations are silver and gold, made by the hands of men. They have mouths but cannot speak, eyes, but cannot see; they have ears, but cannot hear, nor is there breath in their mouths. Those who make them will be like them and so will all who trust in them." (NIV)

We live in a day where we are able to communicate around the world virtually instantly, yet we are finding that families, husbands and wives, parents and children are unable to communicate face to face - no longer able to "speak" to one another. We can see for miles into space, nations can "spy" on each other with frightening accuracy yet we are oblivious to the suffering and need we "see" on our own doorsteps let alone on the other side of the globe. We no longer hear the cries of our families, friends and colleagues let alone the oppressed and downtrodden, yet we are able to phone from a mobile to the other side of the world and speak to people we have never met as if they were next door neighbours - but probably we don't speak to our actual next door neighbours! Although we live in such an advanced culture with every "pleasure" available people feel as if life is suffocating them - there is no oxygen, no breath. Ever wondered why? - so much "possibility" yet so many unhappy people? The answer is simple, we have become like the lifeless, sterile, deaf, blind things - "gods" - we worship.

It is vital that as humanity we worship the right thing - more accurately the right One. We will become like the object of our worship - it is literally taking place in you right now. Whatever you give the central place in life to, is what you are becoming like. And just because you are part of "church" - maybe even part of a worshipping community, even part of the worship team - does not mean that you have it right! We can easily stop worshipping God even as we are "worshipping" Him. It is easy to end up, without knowing it, worshipping worship - the very activity of the music and singing, of doing the meetings - it can replace the central, holy place that God himself desires. As musicians, singers, worship leaders, we deal in intimacy with God - it is what we present and make accessible to others. We use songs, the spoken word, music and silence, images and imagery, to make the eternal, a tangible reality. We facilitate people connecting with God and Him with people. In this holy process, we should never forget what it is we are touching. We should never become "familiar" with the feelings of the people in relation to God nor lose the personal wonder in the context of public worship. If you are in this place, or even to avoid getting there, let me give you a simple aid, institute in your life two basic features of loving God. The first is to take some time each week to sit quietly for 30 minutes and wait for God. Don't have any music - even worship "stuff" - embrace the discipline of silent waiting on God - he will speak, even if it is, after a few days of waiting. The second is obvious - after you have "ministered", spend an equal amount of time worshipping privately as you have done publicly. It tunes out of our hearts the deceitfulness of being in the public eye. Every blessing.