

"We are the Church" Sermon Series / Colossians 3 & Ephesians 5 / Pt. 12

"Healthy Churches Worship Together" | January 11th, 2026

Review:

The sermon explored the profound reality that worship is not merely what we do on Sunday mornings, but rather the very purpose for which we were created. Drawing from Colossians 3 and Ephesians 5, we examined how true worship encompasses both our corporate gatherings and every aspect of our daily lives.

What comes into our minds when we think about God truly is the most important thing about us, because it shapes how we worship Him in every moment. We discovered that all of creation - every atom, every breath, every heartbeat - exists on God's blueprint marked with two words: Worship and Glory.

A Personal "Worship-Audit" Challenge:

Application: In an effort to track what captures your minds attention and hearts' affection" (from Leafblad's definition) for one week; Set a phone reminder every 3 hours and ask yourself: "What am I worshiping right now?"

Illustration: Think of your heart like a radio dial constantly tuning to different stations. Some stations play the music of career success, others the static of worry, still others the jingles of entertainment. True worship is learning to keep the dial locked on God's frequency—not just Sunday morning, but through the interference of Monday's stress and Friday's exhaustion.

Key Takeaways:

- **Worship is God's original design for all of life.** Before Genesis 1:1, God designed creation with worship at its center. We were created for His glory, not our own. This means our careers, families, and daily activities are all meant to bring honor to Him. God will not be half-worshipped; He desires our whole hearts engaged with Him through both mind and affection.
- **Our greatest problem is settling for fleeting pleasures instead of eternal joy.** Since the fall in Genesis 3, we have tried to fill the God-sized hole in our hearts with temporary things - possessions, relationships, work, and money. We are not too pleasure-centered; we are not pleasure-centered enough. We settle for the world's trivial joys instead of pursuing our deepest and most lasting joy found only in God.
- **True worship happens only through identifying with Christ in Spirit and Truth.** Jesus taught that authentic worshipers must worship in spirit and truth. This means genuine worship is not about the right lights, music, or atmosphere - it is an invitation from God to join Him in what He is already doing. Worship is initiated by God, grounded in Christ's work, and enabled by the Holy Spirit. It never starts or stops; it is the ongoing posture of our lives.

Practical Applications: What This Means For You (Choose At Least Two)

1. Audit Your Worship

Take inventory of where your time, energy, and affection go throughout a typical day. What are you actually worshiping? Journal about what you discover.

2. Worship in the Mundane

Read Colossians 3:17 daily: "Whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus." Choose one ordinary task (washing dishes, commuting, working) and intentionally do it as an act of worship to God.

3. Expand Your Worship Vocabulary

Spend time this week reading and meditating on passages that reveal God's character (try Psalm 103, Revelation 4-5, or Isaiah 6). Let what you learn about God shape your prayers and praise.

4. Corporate Worship Preparation

Before next Sunday's service, pray specifically that God would prepare your heart to worship Him in spirit and truth. Arrive early, eliminate distractions, and come expectant.

5. Share the Gospel

Since we were created to worship God, share with someone this week how Jesus made it possible for us to be reconciled to God and worship Him as we were designed to do.

Questions for Reflection:

1. Tony Reinke suggests we are not too pleasure-centered but rather not pleasure-centered enough, settling for trivial joys instead of lasting joy in God. What fleeting pleasures are you tempted to use to fill the God-sized hole in your heart?

2. According to Isaiah 43:6-7 and Ephesians 1:11-12, we were created for God's glory, not our own. How does this truth challenge the way our culture defines success, purpose, and personal fulfillment?

3. First John 2:15-17 warns against loving the world and its passing desires. What specific worldly desires or identities do you need to release in order to more fully identify with Christ?

4. If worship never truly starts or stops, as the sermon suggests, what are you actually worshiping in the moments between Sundays when your attention and affection are not consciously directed toward God?

Memory Verse: Colossians 3:16-17

"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him."

Prayer Focus:

- Pray that God would help you to see Him more clearly and worship Him more fully
- Expose the false gods competing for your affection
- Enable you by His Spirit to worship in spirit and truth
- Transform your entire life into an act of worship