

“Built Together Part 2 - Our Heart” (8-27-23)

A worshipping community

Review: Ephesians 2:22 - In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

- 1) to build together or with others
- 2) out of several things to build up one whole

Built Together: Greek Verb - this is about action. Participate in the building, be a part of it!

Introduction: Participate in Loving Community (The next several weeks of our series)

Today: A Worshipping Community

Romans 12:1-3 (ESV)

(1) I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. (2) Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. (3) For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned.

1) Worship - a living sacrifice

Romans 12:1 (ESV)

I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.

Note: Notice the definition of worship - it's based on God's mercy (which came at great cost to him), and now it is costly for me because it involves sacrifice.

The Greek word for **worship** here is worship as “**servicing**.” There are several NT words for worship - revere or adore (bow or prostrate, dog licking his master's hand), venerate, show respect

Let's explore a really good passage that unpacks the heart of worship & how we walk this out . . .

Psalms 100:1-5 (ESV)

(1) A Psalm for giving thanks. Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth! (2) Serve the LORD with gladness! Come into his presence with singing! (3) Know that the LORD, he is God! It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. (4) Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name! (5) For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.

- **Serve** (joyfully!)
- **Sing** (not just to Him, or about Him - we are engaging with God by being in His Presence)
- **Know** - understand who He truly is (doctrine); and who we are (and aren't)

John 4:23-24 (ESV)

(23) But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. (24) God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.”

Application: Worship Him for who He truly is! (not who we imagine Him or want Him to be)

Worshipping Him is costly - it involves my whole self - this is sacrificial and powerful . . .

2) Renewed - shaped by what we worship

Romans 12:2 (ESV)

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Note: We are shaped by what we worship - who are you becoming?

Teachers of the Law challenge Jesus to tell them: What's the most important command? What's primary?

Matthew 22:37-40 (ESV)

(37) And Jesus said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. (38) This is the great and first commandment. (39) And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. (40) On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets."

Note: Loving Him with our full self - Worship is to know God, to love God, & to give ourselves to God

- It's not just an emotional expression in a worship gathering - it's deeper than that.

Example: It's being able to sing "Jesus Loves Me" at the funeral of your infant child - and to mean it!

Remember - we are shaped by what or who we worship.

We are born worshippers - we'll worship something or someone.

Ephesians 5:1-2 (ESV)

Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

Note: What we worship we will imitate - this is why Jesus calls us to discipleship. That we may know his love & walk in it!

3) United - the grace of a worshipping community

Romans 12:3 (ESV)

For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned.

Note: vs. 4-5 make it clear - we are part of a body. We need a proper view of ourselves, When we worship Jesus (aimed at the same thing) we receive His Grace and find our place in His community.

Example: Astros Hat at the Fireworks tent

Paul to the Ephesians - consider how you live - not unwisely, evil, foolish, or drunk. But . . .

Ephesians 5:18b-21 (ESV)

(18) . . . be filled with the Spirit, (19) addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, (20) giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, (21) submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.

Note: So much of the discord within our relationships, local church, and the global church - would be solved through proper worship. By worshipping God for who he really is, with our whole selves, being renewed as we imitate Jesus - We would find ourselves united. Not because we are trying hard to do so, but because when our hearts are aligned with Christ, we will find ourselves aligned with each other. Different instruments playing the same song for the glory of God!

Conclusion: Let's worship Him sacrificially with our whole heart for who He really is, and as this truth shapes us more and more, we are renewed and find ourselves united and enjoying His eternal family.

A.W. Tozer from “The Pursuit of God”

“Has it ever occurred to you that one hundred pianos all tuned to the same fork are automatically tuned to each other? They are of one accord by being tuned, not to each other, but to another standard to which each one must individually bow. So one hundred worshipers met together, each one looking away to Christ, are in heart nearer to each other than they could possibly be, were they to become 'unity' conscious and turn their eyes away from God to strive for closer fellowship.”