

Common Purpose Worship and Relationships

Worship – Offering to God what belongs to Him.

If we believe we belong to God, worship makes sense and evangelism is easy.

“worship” means there is a vertical dimension to all of life.

- Work (drudgery; idolatry vs honoring God with your abilities)
- relationships

Eph. 5:17–21

17 Therefore do not be unwise, but *understand what the will of the Lord is*.

18 And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but *be filled with the Spirit*,

19 speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, *singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord*,

20 giving thanks always for all things *to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ*,

21 submitting to one another *in the fear of God*.

He goes on to describe specific relationships that are to be conducted with a vertical dimension:

- v. 22 - **Wives**, submit to your own husbands, *as to the Lord*.
- v. 25 - **Husbands**, love your wives, *just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her*
- 6:1 - **Children**, obey your parents *in the Lord*, for this is right.
- 6:4 - **Fathers**, do not provoke your children to wrath, but *bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord*.
- 6:5 - **Bondservants**, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, *in sincerity of heart, as to Christ*;
- 6:9 - And you, **masters**, do the same things to them, giving up threatening, *knowing that your own Master also is in heaven, and there is no partiality with Him*.

Every one of these relationships have one thing in common – I am a steward of this relationship before God.

- “as unto the Lord”

Eph. 5:21 *submitting to one another in the fear of God*.

There are no ordinary people. You have never talked to a mere mortal.

Nations, cultures, arts, civilizations — these are mortal, and their life is to ours as the life of a gnat. But it is immortals whom we joke with, work with, marry, snub, and exploit *The Weight of Glory (Lewis)*

“Relationships are the crucibles of life.”

- *The crucible is for silver, and the furnace is for gold, but the Lord tests the heart. Prov. 17:3 NRSV*
- Melting pot or “fining pot” (KJV), probably made of pottery, used in the refining of silver (Holman Bible Dictionary)

- Everyone is a saint in isolation!
- ORIGIN late Middle English : from medieval Latin crucibulum ‘night lamp, crucible’ (perhaps originally a lamp hanging in front of a crucifix), from Latin crux, cruc- ‘cross.’

Do any of your relationships need to be healthier?