

Application Guide: “Who Are You Falling For?” (John 4)

Aug. 21st, 2005: Kimber Kauffman, Senior Pastor of College Park, began a short series on worship with some introductory notes on the subject, a brief word study of “worship” in the Scriptures, and a message on Jesus’ pivotal words in John 4:21-24. Pastor exhorted us to consider what we ascribe worth and value, view worship as something that involves the whole person, and worship God with a sincerity regarding our personality and temperament.

1. *We must be careful about putting worship in a box by our definitions.* The Bible is not full of many definitions; but rather, it consists of many demonstrations.
 - a. What is the danger of definitions? Why must we be careful about defining “worship”? How do our dogmatic definitions lend themselves to critiquing and judging others?
2. *To “worship” is to ascribe worth to something.* We worship the thing we value most.
 - a. Does your posture, way you spend your time and money, and attitude all reflect a life that values God above all things? When you’re at church, do you really want to be there? Do you prepare your heart for the service? What are some things you need to work on in order to take worship seriously?
 - b. Do you worship because he’s worthy or for what you get out of it? In what ways do you treat God worse than you would even treat your parents in regards to obeying him simply to get something in return?
3. *A large majority of the Hebrew and Greek words translated “worship” literally refer to a posture of bending one’s knee or bowing low* (Gen. 18:2; Mt. 4:9; 18:26).
 - a. If so many of the words in the Bible for worship emphasize the posture of our bodies, why is it we always sit or stand while we sing? Shouldn’t our posture be an overflow of what’s going on in our hearts?
 - b. Consider some of the scenes of corporate worship in the Bible – 1 Kings 8:62-66; 2 Chron. 29:25-30; Nehemiah 8:1-3, 6 – Why is it that all our worship services pale in comparison to these real life examples? What are we missing?
4. *True worship is balanced between the mind, will, emotion – the whole person.* True worship is done both “in spirit and in truth” (Jn. 4:24).
 - a. Summarize in your own words what it means to worship “in spirit and in truth.” Why are both necessary in our worship to God?
 - b. How often do you find yourself during a worship service looking at the people around you? Comparing yourself to them? Evaluating them based on how they look when they worship? Making assumptions about their motives based on how much (or little) they get into the worship experience? How does your heart need to change to allow for a broader diversity of worshipping “in spirit”?
 - c. Which do you struggle with the most – worshipping in “spirit” or in “truth”? How do you need to change your mindset towards worship in order to be able to worship with a balanced approach?
5. *What is one particular comment Pastor made that especially struck you and needs to be applied to your life?*