

Healthy Church Series “Gathering”

1 Peter 2:9, Ephesians 5:18-20, Colossians 3:15-17

August 8, 2021

1 Peter 2:9

“But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful/marvelous light”

John 12:46

I have come into the world as a light, so that no one who believes in me should stay in darkness.

Expressive worship is something we see throughout the Scriptures.

“If our worship isn’t visible, comprehensive and extravagant, the gospel we heard must have been tiny, empty and cheap.” - Louie Giglio

Praise and thanksgiving is not contingent upon our circumstances.

A healthy church is ready to praise.

Ephesians 5:18-20

“Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Colossians 3:15-17

“Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.”

“We need to discover all over again that worship is natural to the Christian, as it was to the godly Israelites who wrote the psalms, and that the habit of celebrating the greatness and graciousness of God yields an endless flow of thankfulness, joy, and zeal.” - J.I. Packer

Psalm 34:1-8

“I will extol the LORD at all times
His praise will always be on my lips.
I will glory in the LORD;
Let the afflicted hear and rejoice.
Glorify the LORD with me;
Let us exalt his name together.
I sought the LORD, and he answered me;
He delivered me from all my fears.
Those who look to him are radiant;
Their faces are never covered with shame.
This poor man called, and the LORD heard him;
He saved him out of all his troubles.
The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear him,
And he delivers them.
Taste and see that the LORD is good;
Blessed is the one who takes refuge in him.”

Worship is a response to the goodness of God.

Sunday affirms what is of first importance.

“Sunday is the day on which we all hold our common assembly, because it is the first day on which God, having wrought a change in the darkness and matter, made the world: and Jesus Christ our Saviour on the same day rose from the dead.” - Justin Martyr

Luke 4:8

Jesus said, “It is written, ‘You shall worship the Lord your God and serve Him only.’”

Hebrews 12:28

“Therefore, since we receive a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us show gratitude, by which we may offer to God an acceptable service with reverence and awe.”

Hebrews 13:15-16

“So let’s continually offer up a sacrifice of praise through him, which is the fruit from our lips that confess his name. Don’t forget to do good and share what you have because God is pleased with these kinds of sacrifices.”

“The inner essence of worship is to know God truly and then respond from the heart to that knowledge by valuing God, treasuring God, prizing God, enjoying God, being satisfied with God above all earthly things. And then that deep, restful, joyful satisfaction in God overflows in demonstrable acts of praise from the lips and demonstrable acts of love in serving others for the sake of Christ.” - John Piper

1 Corinthians 12:4-7

4 Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; 5 and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; 6 and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. 7 To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

Healthy churches are filled with people that come to give.

Psalm 145:1-7

I will extol you, my God and King,

and bless your name forever and ever.

2 Every day I will bless you

and praise your name forever and ever.

3 Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised,

and his greatness is unsearchable.

4 One generation shall commend your works to another,

and shall declare your mighty acts.

5 On the glorious splendor of your majesty,

and on your wondrous works, I will meditate.

6 They shall speak of the might of your awesome deeds,
and I will declare your greatness.

7 They shall pour forth the fame of your abundant goodness
and shall sing aloud of your righteousness.

Grow Group Discussion Questions

- What did God say to you during our Sunday gathering?
- Are you more reserved or expressive in your worship? What has shaped and influenced the way you worship?
- Ephesians 5:18-20 and Colossians 3:15-17 describe the church when it gathered. What do you notice about both of these Scriptures?
- Discuss the idea that to the degree you understand the goodness of God is to the degree in which you worship?
- You may have heard the Sunday gathering called a “worship service.” Who is being served? How do worship and service overlap?
- Discuss the idea that healthy churches are filled with people that come to give. What would unhealthy expressions look like? Do you know what you bring and have to give when the church gathers?
- How can your Grow group help you apply this teaching your life life this week?