



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Authentic Worship

Psalms 95 & 96

1. We complete the study of our church's Core Values this week as we consider the value of Authentic Worship. First, let's consider what unacceptable worship is. As your group discusses these, be sure to not dismiss them as "other people's problems". Ask the Spirit to give you insight into areas that you might allow your own worship to become inauthentic. Look at these scriptures as a starting point for your discussion.

- The worship of false gods (Exodus 20:3-6, Romans 1:21-28)
- The worship of the true God, but in a wrong form - a "reduced" god (Exodus 32:7-9, Deut. 4:14-19)
- The worship of the true God, but in a self-styled manner (1 Samuel 13:8-14)
- The worship of the true God in the right way, but with a wrong attitude (Mal. 1:7-10, Isaiah 1:11-15)

2. Now that we have a better understanding of unacceptable or inauthentic worship, we should know what worship really is. Pastor and Theologian Tim Keller says this about worship - "The English word "worship" comes from the older English word worth-ship. It means to see God is all worthy (Rev. 4:11) and to give God what He is worth — everything you have and are (Phil.3:8)." Certainly, even giving all that we have and are comes far short of what God deserves, but we can see what it means to even approach a place of authentic worship. Discuss with your group this definition and idea, and what might be needed to grow personally in this value.

3. Pastor Brad shared that there are certain attitudes that help us get to a place where our worship is authentic. As you talk through these, share where the challenges for you are in living out these attitudes.

- Humility (Isa 66:2, James 4:10)
- Gratefulness (Hebrews 12:28, Col. 3:16)
- Confession and Repentance (1 John 1:9, Matthew 4:17)

4. How does authentic worship truly become a deep part of our walk with Christ? Should there be specific beliefs, attitudes, and focuses that, when present in us, cause us to become authentic worshippers? There were several of these discussed by Pastor Brad, but let's look at 2 very important ones:

- Growing in our understanding of and acknowledgment of WHO GOD IS and WHAT HE IS LIKE, why is our belief about God important? How does it affect our worship if we have wrong beliefs about Him?
- Determine that our worship is a choice based upon truth and not something that we allow our feelings to control. How might our feelings impact our worship? What are ways we can practically keep our feelings from guiding our choice to worship God?