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# Sermon Notes

May 8, 2016

First Congregational Church of Pomfret

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## A Worshiping Church

<sup>24</sup> God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth. (John 4:24)

<sup>1</sup> 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. <sup>2</sup> 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. (Romans 12:1-2)

<sup>23</sup> If, therefore, the whole church comes together and all speak in tongues, and outsiders or unbelievers enter, will they not say that you are out of your minds? <sup>24</sup> But if all prophesy, and an unbeliever or outsider enters, he is convicted by all, he is called to account by all, <sup>25</sup> the secrets of his heart are disclosed, and so, falling on his face, he will worship God and declare that God is really among you. (1 Corinthians 14:23-25)

<sup>16</sup> Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. <sup>17</sup> And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. (Colossians 3:16-17)

<b>Worship <u>MUST</u> Be In Spirit and In Truth</b>
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- ❖ Jesus says we **MUST** worship God in spirit and in truth

- ❖ In spirit
  - we worship God with our whole heart, with all we've got
  - we don't go through the motions, do things by rote or out of habit and routine
  - true worship springs from a heart full of love for God
  - such love shows up in
    - our praying and our praising
    - our singing and our submission
- ❖ In truth
  - we worship the God of the Bible
  - we worship Him for who He is and what He has done
  - our worship is not rooted and conditioned in how we think God is or how we would like Him to be
  - we worship God solely on the pure, objective truth He reveals about Himself in His Word, the Bible

<b>Spirit</b>	<b>Heart</b>	<b>Subjective</b>
<b>Truth</b>	<b>Head</b>	<b>Objective</b>

- ❖ Worship in spirit and in truth is not an either/or proposition, it is both/and (1 Cor 14:15, Isaiah 6)

<b>Worship is Submission</b>
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- ❖ "To bend the knee" or "to bow down"
- ❖ Declaring that God and God alone is worthy of such a response

- ❖ *If you love me you will keep my commandments* (John 14:15)
- ❖ Only those who belong to the Father through the saving work of Jesus Christ are capable of worshiping Him in the way He seeks to be worshiped

### Worship is God-Centered

- ❖ Romans 12:1-2 tell us that the only appropriate way to respond to the truth of who God is and what He has done is for us to become true worshipers of Him
- ❖ True worshipers offer themselves as living sacrifices
  - the "problem" with living sacrifices
  - to be a worshiping church we must hold one another accountable to the high calling of Romans 12:1-2
- ❖ We must offer God the worship He deserves in everything we do (1 Cor 10:31)
- ❖ Worship is not meant to give you an emotional boost or "a lift", it is meant to bring you face to face with the living God

### Worship Evangelism

- ❖ Paul describes an evangelistic component to our shared worship in 1 Corinthians 14:23-25
- ❖ When we join together in God's presence in a thoughtful, careful, Spirit-led way, our shared worship has an evangelistic potential!

### The Sound of Music

- ❖ Colossians 3:16-17 provides a beautiful paradigm for the musical expression of our worship
  - worshiping God through music is all about the Word
  - song is meant to make the Word dwell in us and do its work in us
- ❖ Music is a gift from God that teaches us to think what we feel and feel what we think
- ❖ Music as an aid to memory
- ❖ 3 types of songs
  - **psalms:** predominantly a Scripture song
  - **hymns:** teach us about God and build us up as they reinforce the truth of His Word
  - **spiritual songs:** songs of personal expression and experience
- ❖ A well-balanced musical diet offered to God with thankfulness in our hearts

### Personal Application

1. Do you endeavor to live the life of worship described in Rom 12:1-2? Has God spoken to you through the Scriptures contained in this message and called you to make any changes in what or how you do this? Will you?
2. Do you worship God in spirit AND in truth?
3. Is sung worship causing the Word of God to dwell in you?