

Chapter 9: Worshiper: Shining Brightly in the Darkness

The question is not whether you will worship, but rather what you will worship— your glorious Creator or something He created. — Paul David Tripp

We've learned to build a name for ourselves— (not in the book, but made me think of the Tower of Babel, they were wanting to make a name for themselves, aren't we the same!??)

The Western culture says: "to be loved, you must be known" but if we follow that we are in danger of becoming what is described in 2 Timothy 3:2— revealing we are lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, and arrogant. We are inclined to seek our own interests, not those of Jesus Christ (Phil 2:21).

In order to let our light shine before men (Matt 5:16) in the way Christ intended, we will need to evaluate who or what it is that we're calling attention to.

Identity Theft

God will not give his glory to another (Isaiah 48:11) — Yet we are a people who delight in our OWN glory.

- We want to be recognized, praised and sought out for our excellence or expertise.
- We may not want to admit it, but we want to be worshipped!!
- *Make much of me!!* Is the battle cry of our flesh.
- The sin nature sways us to build a name for ourselves.
- We become billboards of self and invite others to come, see, and marvel.
- We exchange the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man (Romans 1:23)

We are by nature worshipers. Instead of worshipping the Creator, we choose to worship self. Our failure to worship God, and instead worship ourselves, is an attempt to eclipse the glory of God and steal praise only ever intended for him.

- Make us like the Israelites— worshipped a metal image— and FORGOT their savior (Psalm 106:20-21)
- This is NOT who we were created to be!!
- "Self-worshipper" is not our true self.
- You are not the glorious One worthy of all praise and honor.

Identity Truth

Our worship is often misplaced, but our desire to worship is wonderful. We were created to be people of PRAISE!!

However, too often we set our sights too low for what we worship

- We settle for worship of things that have no eternal significance (sports team, favorite singers, food from a local restaurants) can all receive more praise than the One who created us.
- We are a people purposed for praise, but we often misdirect our efforts.

The object of all good and right worship: “Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; bring an offering and come before him! Worship the Lord in the splendor of holiness; tremble before him, all the earth; yes, the world is established; it shall never be moved” (1 Chronicles 16:29-30).

What does your life proclaim??

- Each morning is an opportunity to praise God as the giver of life!!
- Does your life shout “God is my creator! I am the clay, the work of his hand! (Isaiah 64:8)?
- Are you overwhelmed by the gift of your heart beating, the breath in your lungs, the blood pumping through your veins, and your intricate immune system? They are all a part of his glorious design!!!

Not only did God create us, in Christ, he’s redeemed us!! Through his Word, his son, and his Spirit, we’ve been afforded a front row seat to view endless examples of his kindness and mercy, so that in response, we might praise him!!

God is bigger, better, and far more worthy of any lesser thing we may worship or lavish our love upon!!

Not only is He worthy of our worship, he commands it!!

First two commandments: worship God alone and do not worship idols.

Worship is NOT merely

- An hour on Sunday morning
- A two-minute prayer over a meal
- Time spent listening to Christian music on the way to work
- The songs we sing, or the services we attend!!
- Something we occasionally do.

Worship is. . .

- A posture of life!!
- An overflow of a heart filled with gratitude and praise for the King who sits on the throne, the ONLY one worthy of all the praise we can bring
- Simply saying “Because you are worthy and because I love you, I will respond with my life”

This posture of awe, reverence, and humble submission can happen anywhere: at home, in your car, at work, in the line at the grocery store.

Ways we can show this worship:

- Meeting Him in his Word
- Speaking kindly to your children
- Encouraging an anxious friend
- Forgiving a co-worker
- Sharing a meal with the rough around the edges woman you'd rather avoid
- Words prayed: "thank you", help, forgive me"
- Silently: observing God's beauty in nature, noting his strength in your weakness

In all things direct your praise to Him!! This is how to experience your true identity as a worshipper, a joyful privilege and delight.

Identity Transformed

We are called to declare God's glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples (Psalm 96:3), by proclaiming the excellencies of him who called us out of darkness and into his marvelous light" (1 Peter 2:9).

We're made in the image of God to display his attributes to a watching world.

As followers of Christ we are called His ambassadors, and we are intended to advertise the extraordinary grace of God.

Upon salvation, the sinner— pardoned by God, redeemed by Christ, and led by the Spirit of God himself— becomes a living, breathing announcement of the glorious splendors of the triune God.

"For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. For God who said let light shine out of darkness has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ (2 Corinthians 4:5-6)

Let us our identity as people of proclamation who live and breathe to exalt Jesus.

If we hope to rightly worship God, we lay down our own glory in favor of His!

We're called to carry the light of Jesus into the dark and needy world. As people come and go throughout your life, what life attracts them? What are you showcasing? Are people compelled to come, to see, and to marvel at you, or at Christ in you?

Christ is spectacular. He is *actually* due all praise and honor. Proclaim His name!! Point others to Him. Settle for nothing less than the worship of the One who's truly worthy of affection and awe. Use everything at your disposal to be a gigantic, illuminated billboard of God's glory and the mercy of Christ. Point road-weary travelers to the only source of wonder the only One worthy of our worship!!