

(1) Describe the church tradition in which you were raised in terms of how it approached worship. Was it free and demonstrative, or rigid and controlled? Did you find it conducive to enjoyment of God, or did he often seem distant and your heart unengaged?

(2) What are some of the feelings or affections that you find rising up in your heart during corporate praise? Are you comfortable with them? Do you find yourself suppressing them, fearing that they might lead you to “out-of-control” behavior? If the latter is true, what is it that you fear most?

(3) What is the proper relationship between the truth about God that we experience in our minds and the enjoyment of God that we experience in our hearts? Does one come first and cause the other? Or are they simultaneously present in your soul? Is there a danger in failing to emphasize both in their proper relationship to each other? If so, what danger is there?

(4) Read the story about David in 2 Samuel 6:16-23. Does this make you feel uncomfortable? What do you think you would have thought about or said to David had you been present to witness his worship? Was he out of control? Was Michal entirely wrong in her criticism of him? Have you ever been prompted or led to worship with such extravagant expression? Did you? If not, why not?

(5) Read the story about Mary in Mark 14. Contrast her response to Jesus with that of the disciples. Was she unwise in what she did? Did she go overboard? If not, why not?