

“Greeting Team”

For Sunday, December 15th

Remember: Meet in the coat room @ **10:30 am** for brief prayer & then go “welcome” people! NOTE: Keep an eye on the auditorium for those who slipped past!

Greeters this week:

Randy Ehlers Sunday Night

- 1st— D Mastbergen Thursday Night;
- 2nd— Justin Taylor Sunday Night;
- 3rd—Randy Ehlers Monday Night;
- 4th—Curt Mastbergen Sunday Noon; Tackett Sunday Night

Small Groups @ MBC

Are committed to multiplying— While numeric growth alone does not make an effective Small Group, failure to grow can be a sign of an unhealthy Small Group

Announcements

1. Christmas Eve Service:
Tuesday, December 24,
6:00-7:00 PM. “Invite Cards”
@ Welcome Desk
2. Looking For A 2025 Bible Reading Plan?
www.crossway.org/search/?q=bible+reading+plan

This Is Your Spiritual Worship

Ask how the Bible defines worship, and you may be surprised how wide and inclusive the answer is! Many of us perceive worship to be limited to this narrow part of a church service we call singing. For others, you grew up in a tradition where ‘worship’ consisted of elaborate prayers spoken in the King James language—with all the ‘thees’ and ‘thous’—very ritualistic and done in a ‘sanctuary’ with stained-glass windows, lit candles, incense, and old classical sacred music with a pastor wearing a long, flowing robe. Each of those things can possibly contribute to authentic worship, provided the focus is on God and not some kind of warm, fuzzy, religious feeling you get from all those ‘accessories’. Genuine worship is not an activity; it’s an attitude of the heart—originating in your inner being, or the real you, and it changes your life! I guess that’s pretty wide and inclusive, isn’t it? Real, genuine worship impacts your entire life because you’re occupied with God, your Creator! Worship is being occupied with God’s character, with who He is—His love, His grace, His mercy, His kindness, His benevolence, His justice, His righteousness! It’s to praise Him for being a good Father, a faithful friend, and an indwelling Spirit who transforms us into His likeness as we’re engaged in genuine worship and reflect on His beauty! In other words, worship will gradually reform us into His likeness—we become more loving, gracious, merciful, kind, benevolent, just, and righteous! We become better fathers and mothers. We become more faithful friends, all because we’re focused and occupied with God in worship. Romans 12:1-2 is one passage of Scripture that has recently arrested my attention because of what it has to say about worship. After breaking down the Gospel of Christ in the first 11 chapters, the Apostle Paul concludes: ‘Therefore, *brothers, by the mercies of God, I urge you to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God; this is your spiritual worship...*’ I had never considered this a definition of worship! But, in fact, it is!



Paul’s Definition of Worship

Paul is defining ‘worship’ for us! Look at it again: He begins with a command: ‘...*present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God...*’ And then he says, ‘...*THIS IS YOUR SPIRITUAL WORSHIP.*’ If you’ve ever been curious about a good Biblical definition of ‘worship’, well, here it is! Why is that significant? Because we need to know how to worship God rightly, or He will reject and dismiss our worship. I’m referring to the authority of God’s Word over every area of our lives! The Scriptures are not only inspired, they’re authoritative. In other words, we don’t have the right to define ‘worship’—or anything else for that matter—differently than God does in His Word. Paul is saying that genuine, spiritual worship impacts us and profoundly changes the way that we use our bodies—we sacrifice our bodies to please Him!