

Worship — Week 2: Worshiping and “Imaging” the Triune God

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- Questions:
 - Shouldn't we be worshiping, i.e., bringing God glory, all the time by honoring him in our lives?
 - Are human beings the only beings that can worship?
- Consider: Humanity as the active, living images of God
 - “What is the chief and highest end of man? A. Man's chief and highest end is to glorify God, and fully to enjoy Him forever.” (WLC 1) Piper: “To glorify God *by* enjoying him forever!”
 - Image of God in the ANE – YHWH's cult statues?
 - Creation is a temple
 - Garden is the holy of holies
 - Human beings are the cult images, given life by the God (incidentally: why images are prohibited in the worship of YHWH—humans are the living images!)
 - Images harm themselves by declaring that they will only “image” themselves.
 - Cultural mandate (Gen 1:26–28)
 - Fill the earth – make more images!
 - Subdue it – cultivate, and care for the other beings
 - Rule over them – Project/image God's loving, caring authority over the creation, so that all give him glory! (Psalm 19; Psalm 8; Gen 1; Rom 1:18ff; Rom 8:18–23)
 - Answer
 - Yes, there are many different ways that human beings give glory to God, and we should be doing so all the time!
 - But, God himself gives us an example as Creator
 - Six days of work
 - One day to “rest” and enjoy his creation
 - As his images, we are commanded to do likewise
 - Six days of “subduing the earth” and “filling it”
 - One day and special days to “rest” and enjoy God in a special way
 - This is not a “sacred vs. secular” dichotomy, as if only Sunday activities belong to God.
 - This is not a “sinful vs. upright” dichotomy, as if we only need to worship God because we are sinners.
 - The Sabbath is given to Adam and Eve before they sin!
 - They walk with God and enjoy him, and he enjoys them.

- Granted, worship does take on a different character once sin enters the world.
 - Rather, this is a “holy vs. profane” distinction; we glorify God in everything, but some activities are not special for holy time.
 - Hard work – Exod 20:8–11
 - Marital sex; reproductive fluids – Exod 19:14–15; Lev 15
 - Using the bathroom – Deut 23:12–14
- Can other beings worship? Yes and no...
 - The creation declares God’s glory all the time (Psalm 19:1–6; Isa 55:12–13)
 - When as images of God fulfill our purposes (as Jesus did perfectly), then the whole creation will rejoice and be able to stop groaning in travail (Rom 8:18–23)
 - But, no other beings have the moral choice to glorify God or not to glorify God, so their “worship” is of a different kind.
- How does worship affect our lives?
 - We become like what we worship! (Deut 4:26–28; Isa 44:9–20; Rom 1:18–25; etc.) Worship re-centers our devotion on the God whose image we reflect.
 - Acknowledging our sin and receiving forgiveness
 - Enjoying God
 - In the present, through the Holy Spirit
 - In the past, reflecting on what the Father has done (scripture and church history)
 - In the future, hope of resurrection through Christ
 - Empowered and en-ergized by God (for good works)
 - Enjoying other images of God—fellowship! (Present, and past through the words of mothers and fathers in the faith)