

Worship: Coloring Outside the Lines

Jonathan Cleveland

Genesis 1:28-31; 2:15-17

July 1, 2018

Small Group Discussion Questions

God created us with a desire to worship

But that desire to worship is incredibly subjective from person to person.

*What do you think of when you hear the word worship?

*How have you seen this subjectivity cause conflict?

Worship: expressing love, reverence and adoration to God

God gave humanity 3 directives about how to express themselves to Him.

Read and discuss

Genesis 1:28-31 (ESV)

²⁸ And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth." ²⁹ And God said, "Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food. ³⁰ And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the heavens and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food." And it was so. ³¹ And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

Genesis 2:15-17 (ESV)

¹⁵ The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. ¹⁶ And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, ¹⁷ but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat^[a] of it you shall surely die."

Vocation, Permission, Prohibition

*Have you ever seen this passage as directive of how we should relate to God?

*Have you prioritized one of these? Which one and how?

We honor God by returning to return to everything we were created to be

Not focusing on parts of it, but by embracing all of it.

We should embrace our job

*What are some ways to practice your vocation nobly, as a caretaker?

*How can you make work, worship?

We should enjoy things

*What would it look like to invite God into something you enjoy?

*How can you make fun and enjoyment, worship?

We should avoid things that are destructive

*How is abstaining worship? If you are comfortable, how has avoiding something helped you express your adoration for God?

Worship is always an activity paired with a heart posture

It is our heart expressing to Him the love, reverence and adoration He is due.

*How can you grow your ability to put our heart into your worship?

*How would worshipping in a new or different way help you to align this posture?

This week, allow God to stretch you outside your normal picture by leaning into one of these areas of worship a little bit more. Challenge yourself to put your heart into this new way of worship.