

02-02-14 – Glory to God in the Church: Through Unashamed Adoration

Eph. 5:18-20 & Col. 3:16-17

JOKE: Groundhog Day – Husband and Wife...

Yes – Today is Groundhog Day. That means Golf for us doesn't officially start until March 20/21 – I meant Spring. Whether you believe in the Groundhog tradition or not, this day brings hope to many waiting for the cold, dark days of winter to end.

We Christians have a much bigger HOPE that should motivate us toward a life sold out to God. The Gospel – that message of hope – must and should motivate us to honest and heart-felt worship of God our Father and His Son, Jesus Christ. This is why we're here. This is why we preach. This is why we have devoted our lives to serving the Living God.

We are developing this series called: **Glory to God in the Church**. It is a quote from Eph. 3:21 – from The Message. Our goal in this series is to instruct you in various aspects of the Christian experience that will help us all to enable and expect the Glory of God to be manifest in our services and our lives. Pastors Jerry, John and I get together every week to discuss a book together as well as pray and plan the direction of the entire church. We are currently discussing a book called, Vertical Church by James MacDonald. We have been disturbed by some things written, in disagreement with some things written, but deeply stirred by many things written in this book. We want to share some of these things with you in order to inspire you to a more Vertical approach to the things of church here in Patchogue.

Unashamed Adoration – What do you think of when you hear those words? I hope it stirs in your spirit and prompts you to press deeper in to the God we are to worship. But what is Worship? Let's look at a definition of the word Worship – actually 3 words that represent worship.

O.T. – the word for worship in Hebrew means: “to fall or lie face-down before someone on the ground, touching your forehead to earth.” That's a pretty serious posture and concept – can you relate? It's a picture of subservience – a humble state – completely empty of self.

N.T. – Two words are used – one means “to kiss toward or kiss the hand of” and the other means “to give or pay homage to.” These terms are statements that we are to decrease and He is to increase. He is worth more and I am worth less – again a sign of humility – This is what God desires of us.

Eph. 5:18-20 – “Don’t be drunk with wine, because that will ruin your life. Instead, be filled with the Holy Spirit, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, and making music to the Lord in your hearts. And give thanks for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.” NLT

Col. 3:16-17 – “Let the message about Christ, in all its richness, fill your lives. Teach and counsel each other with all the wisdom He gives. Sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs to God with thankful hearts. And whatever you do or say, do it as a representative of the Lord Jesus giving thanks through Him to God the Father.” NLT

In these two passages, we see some common words. Yes – singing songs, but also Thanksgiving. Our goal in worship is to give God thanks for all He has done for us. We will be doing this forever in His presence because of Him giving His Son, Jesus Christ, for our salvation and granting us Eternal Life.

Worship is More Than Singing

“Worship is the act of ascribing worth directly to God.” It is a Vertical outpouring of adoration to God.

Ps. 26 & Ps. 29 – define worship – “Ascribe to the Lord glory and strength. Ascribe to the Lord the Glory due His name.”

We are attempting to teach a series that will help bring God’s glory down in our church services and in all of our individual lives. **“Nothing brings glory down in church as quickly and as powerfully as when God’s people unashamedly adore God’s great Son, Jesus Christ.”** (Vertical Church, p. 169).

Our entire service is an act of worship – from the opening Hymn with its great theological value, to the pastoral prayer or priestly prayer that focuses our attention to giving our needs over to God, to the offering which helps us to surrender our worth to God’s more exceeding worth, to the worship song sequence that zeroes us in to the presence of God, and the preaching of His word which helps us to hear from God directly and apply his instruction to our lives directly and bring us closer in our walk with Him, and as we celebrate the Lord’s Table – Holy Communion – together as a thankful body of Christ.

Our preaching and our sermons are all geared toward developing in you a closer experience with God personally and helping you to worship Him more sincerely and intimately all the time. The book we are reading states: **“all preachers will be out of work in heaven.”** Think about that – There will be no need for preaching in Eternity, except when God Himself instructs us to worship him directly. Preacher’s will only have value here on the earth before eternity trying to

teach the Word of God to others as to enhance their personal worship experience and further their spiritual life and development.

We desire to see our church as a place where God actually moves among us in real and recognizable ways. ***“White-hot, unrestrained, whole-congregation adoration is the first step in that direction, and pursuing that kind of worship is the unceasing center of Vertical Church.”*** (Vertical Church – p. 171).

“God the Father shows up in power by the Holy Spirit when God the Son is unashamedly adored.” (Vertical Church – p. 172). The Trinity at work.

This is our goal – to get to a place where we can worship God without shame or self-restraint. We want it to be sincere – not a show – or for anyone to think or prove themselves more spiritual, but to honestly and deeply worship God for who He is and what He has done.

The author has given us **four aspects of this kind of worship** in the church that will allow God’s glory to fall among us:

VERTICAL –

There should be more of a focus in our singing. Rather than singing exclusively **about** God, we should sing more **to** God. This can help bring our focus more vertically in line with God.

SIMPLE –

It is not about the technical complexity of the music we are playing and singing, but about the simple expression of our heart’s cry to and need for God. The book of Revelation makes this statement of worship powerfully and simply:

“Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power... To Him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!”

The style and type of music means little to the Lord! ***“Worship that bring glory down respects and must reflect biblical theology, but it should be more like loving personal communication and less like an ordination statement.”*** (Vertical Church – p. 177).

EMOTIVE –

What engages our spirit into true and deep worship of God? Sometimes it’s the repetition of a chorus over and over until God breaks through for you and to you. Sometimes it’s the depth of the words that minister to your situation. Whatever causes you to enter into that personal place of absolute awe of God and experience His presence personally is what is going to ignite

your emotions to enter the worship experience with you. Our goal is that our worship service will engage your emotions in ways that will draw you closer to God.

In our worship service, do you actually feel something? If not, why not? If yes, do you express it? We pray you feel something in every service no matter what area of ministry. **Feel God.**

“When worship is an intellectual exercise only, we can choose to check out, but when worship involves emotive expression, the whole person is drawn in.” (Vertical Church – p. 179).

PHYSICAL –

Worship should be a whole person experience – **Love the Lord with All Your Strength.** Mk. 12:30

“Involving your body in worship is what aids in joining emotion with intellect.” (VC – p. 180).

VOICE: ***“I love the Lord, because He hears my voice.”*** Ps. 116:1 NASB

While volume has little to do with it, we must at times raise our voice in audible adoration...

“My lips will shout for joy, when I sing praises to You.” Ps. 71:23

EYES: ***“To You I lift up my eyes, O you who are enthroned in the heavens!”*** Ps. 123:1

Many people worship with their heads down and their eyes closed. This may work for you in comfort, and you may have to take a big step of faith to alter this, but I would encourage you to worship the Lord with your head raised and your eyes open and looking up toward heaven. It may revolutionize your worship experience. I’m not saying you should do this on every song and every opportunity, but as the occasion arises, try to worship God with more cognizance.

HEAD: ***But You, O Lord, are a shield about me, my glory and the lifter of my head.”*** Ps. 3:3

This aspect goes along with the previous point. The author writes, ***“But when the head is tilted back, the Vertical gaze adjusts perspective and allows faith to grow.”*** (Vertical Church – p. 181).

HANDS: ***“Clap your hands, all peoples! Shout to God with loud songs of joy!”*** Ps. 47:1

“Hands are possibly the most versatile and emotive assistants to physical engagement in praise.” (V.C. – p. 181). It’s easier for us to surrender our hands to God than anything else – start there!

“Lift up your hands in the sanctuary and bless the Lord.” Ps. 63:4; 134:2; 1 Tim. 2:8

LEGS: *“Come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker.” Ps. 95:6*

Kneeling can greatly enhance worship. We have padded the step of our altar area just so people can come up here and kneel before the Lord in worship and prayer. I love to kneel and pray and worship God, although I probably mostly pace, walking around praying and worshipping – everyone’s different.

FEET: Movement of our feet in time with the music may be considered Worship Dance. Don’t be intimidated by that. David danced before the Lord. I think it’s great to move to the music if the beat stirs you. It should not be out of order or distracting to those around you, but as long as it is done in worship to the Lord and not a show, we encourage you to worship God as you feel, but sincerely from the heart.

“God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.” Jn. 4:24

This is a call for our spirit to reach out to God in truth and worship him from the depths of our being. This is heart worship or spirit worship – It must be from the heart. God knows the heart; we can’t fool Him or snow Him into thinking we are sincere when we are just going through the motions.

USHERS PLEASE GATHER THE CHILDREN TO RETURN TO THE SANCTUARY AS I CLOSE

Every worship sequence here is geared to bringing you from where you start out to a deeper personal outpouring of adoration to God. We start off up-beat and gradually work down to worshipful, meaningful songs that I hope bring you into the presence of God every week. Whether the songs are old or newer, the experience should be worshipful and prompting you to engage the Lord vertically.

We need to get to a place where it’s nothing about me, and everything about God – humble and honest. We may not get there every time, but this is the goal of our church in order to allow the **Glory of God in the church – Through... Unashamed Adoration, Unapologetic Preaching, Unafraid Witness, and Unceasing Prayer.** This is the series for this month. I pray we grow in the process and see the Glory of God in our church and in our midst.

We are going to practice together what was just preached as we worship the Lord in song and then we will take Holy Communion together. The children were brought back up to join us for this experience. May the Glory of the Lord fall upon us today here in this holy place.