

What, No Music? – Colossians 3

When asked to explain what a typical worship service in a Southern Baptist Church is like, most people will explain it as a time of gathering for music and singing, followed with some preaching, and the occasional time of praise offerings and prayers mixed in. Others may also mention times of fellowship, Scripture reading, healthy and honest discussion, baptism, the Lord's Supper, and the collection of tithes and offerings as forms of worship found in the church. But most of the time, the emphasis is given only to the music. After all, the expression of worship through various musical outlets is extremely important for the week-to-week experience at church. However, as I spoke about last week, true worship is much more than a musical entity and it is much more than what only occurs at church each week.

When Jesus said, "*God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth*", He was referring to something much deeper in nature, than just playing instruments and singing songs. He was not dismissing these things, because, when coming from proper motivation, musical expression can be beautiful and authentic and extremely honoring to the Father. Jesus wanted us to understand that true worship should be a way of life and not just something we do at church. We can shift our worship from something we do on occasion to something we practice daily. This morning I want to give you some practical examples of how we can accomplish this.

It begins with Jesus' answer to the scribe which asked for clarification on the greatest commandment. We looked at part of this response last week, but I think it's important to look at this dialog in its entirety. **Read Mark 12:28-34.** As we continue addressing our level of worship, the two most important commandments from God give us insight into the two most practical ways in which we can begin worshipping Him daily. Love God and then love others as He does. You see, it is that which motivates us that leads to our worship. And it's our worship that leads us to our expression of worship. True worship doesn't have to be complex. Nor does it have to be showy. It's simply something that flows from the heart and mind as an expression of the joy we have when considering all that God has done for us.

We have seen an example this morning. The good folks at FCC do what they do because they "love others" and value life in the same manner Christ does. We offer some of our greatest worship when we value life in the same manner as Jesus. Remember His words from Luke's Gospel; "*Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? And not one of them is forgotten before God. Why, even the hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not; you are of more value than many sparrows.*" **(Luke 12:6-7)**

I mentioned last week that God had taken me to familiar places in His Word and given me more insight into these passages. One of those places is filled with practical advice for us about what we should do as a new creation in Christ. And when we put these things into action, we'll begin to live lives focused on God and will worship God daily. We'll truly become the worshippers God is seeking.

Read Colossians 3:1-17

Read Colossians 3:18-25