

Worship & Freedom

Series: Following Jesus: Worship

2 Corinthians 3:17-18 (0838)

Steve Wood,

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WORSHIP Human response to the perceived presence of the divine, a presence which transcends normal human activity and is holy.

2 Corinthians 3:17-18 ¹⁷Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. ¹⁸And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

I. Genuine worship brings genuine freedom

a. Cultural freedom verses biblical freedom

John 14:27 NLT ²⁷"I am leaving you with a gift—peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give isn't like the peace the world gives. So don't be troubled or afraid.

b. Genuine freedom is costly

Colossians 3:5-6 ⁵Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. ⁶Because of these, the wrath of God is coming. ⁷You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. ⁸But now you must rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. ⁹Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices ¹⁰and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.

¹¹Here there is no Greek or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all.

II. Markers on the road to freedom

a. Integrity

Isaiah 29:13 ¹³The Lord says: "These people come near to me with their mouth and honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. Their worship of me is made up only of rules taught by men." (Footnote: they worship me in vain, their teachings are but rules taught by men)

Amos 5:23-24 ²³Away with the noise of your songs! I will not listen to the music of your harps.

²⁴But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream!

2 Corinthians 3:17-18 ¹⁷Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. ¹⁸And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

b. Wisdom

Psalms 111:10 NLT ¹⁰ Reverence for the LORD is the foundation of true wisdom. The rewards of wisdom come to all who obey him.

Ephesians 5:15-21 NLT ¹⁵So be careful how you live, not as fools but as those who are wise.

¹⁶Make the most of every opportunity for doing good in these evil days. ¹⁷Don't act thoughtlessly, but try to understand what the Lord wants you to do. ¹⁸Don't be drunk with wine, because that will ruin your life. Instead, let the Holy Spirit fill and control you. ¹⁹Then you will sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, making music to the Lord in your hearts. ²⁰And you will always give thanks for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²¹And further, you will submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

c. Intimacy

Psalms 46:10 Be still, and know that I am God