



This week I took time to read all the wonderful responses written by many of you during last week's service.

Each one shared so personally on how much you value your membership of our church.

"Because I love to worship God with my loving, friendly church family and give help to reach out to others" one said.

Or another wrote, *"because fellowship with like minds, good teaching, outreach via volunteering, worshipping God in prayer and music."*



I was so encouraged by these comments!

They reminded me of a truth that I learned years ago ... *"people may forget what you said, and they may forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel."*

That is one the important values at Dinner Church, [and why we keep urging Derek to find us more jokes] people will recall an event warmly if they remember laughing. It is truths like these that make us realise, there is just so much more to what we do here on Sundays than singing a few songs, read a few words from the Bible and listen to an interesting talk.

In fact, this week I was reminded of a very sobering reality. People forget about 75 percent of new information they hear within 24 hours and after a week [are you ready for it?] the average person forgets up to 90 percent of what they heard!

So, the reality is, last weeks' message is well and truly forgotten! What helps us to remember something, is when we experience it. And this is never more the case when we try to grapple with understanding the concept of worship.

Last week we spoke about the five spiritual purposes and needs which every person has. We learned that God designed these five spiritual needs to be fulfilled within the environment of a local church.

Today, I'd like us to consider the first need of every person – the need to know what their purpose in life is. Now, this question is not a new one. It has been pondered for centuries. Many of you are familiar with the words of the 16th century Westminster Catechism, where 107 confessions of faith are made in a question-and-answer format.

It starts with this important question: "What is the chief aim of man?" Which in today's language would be "what is primary purpose of human life?"

And the answer? "To glorify God, and to enjoy Him forever." God designed every person to glorify him in every aspect of their lives, and experience great joy as they do so. Another way we could say this is, 'we were made to be worshippers of God'.

Point 1 | God has designed every person to be a worshipper of Him, glorifying him throughout their lives.

Now we may know this truth *mentally*, but how do we glorify God *practically* in every facet of our lives? Well, one of the reason I only included the Gospel reading from our service during this season, is because I wanted more people involved!

So, today, I've given five people a piece of paper with a verse from the Bible. Each verse reveals the five ways we bring glory to God.

1. We bring God glory by worshipping Him. (Romans 6:13b)

Worship is our first responsibility to God. We worship God by enjoying Him. C.S. Lewis said, "In commanding us to glorify him, God is inviting us to enjoy him." Because God wants our worship to be motivated by love from our heart, our worship will encompass thanksgiving and delight. So, worship is a lifestyle of enjoying God, loving Him, and giving ourselves to be used for His purposes. As we live out the commitment to love and worship God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength, it will mean making a commitment to be a worshipper to the best of our ability. For example, if we're able we may kneel or raise our arms in worship. Or, we may sit very still and quietly. That's how we use our body. Worship will also involve our emotions and our mind. We'll talk about this soon.

2. We bring God glory by loving other believers (Romans 15:7b)

When a person is born again, they become part of God's family. Following Christ is not just a matter of believing on your own; it also includes belonging and learning to love the family of God. It is our responsibility to learn how to love as God does, because God is love and it honours Him.

3. We bring God glory by becoming like Christ (2 Corinthians 2:18)

God desires that all His children grow to spiritual maturity, until we each become more and more like Jesus in the way we think, feel and act. The more a person develops Christlike character, the more they will bring glory to God.

4. We bring God glory by serving others with our gifts. (1 Peter 4:10-11)

Each of us was uniquely designed by God with talents, gifts, skills and abilities. God gave us gifts and talents to benefit others through which we glorify God. Billy Graham once said, "The highest form of worship is the worship of unselfish Christian service."

5. We bring God glory by telling others about Him (2 Corinthians 4:15)

God doesn't want His love and purposes kept a secret. Once we know the truth, He expects us to share it with others. This is a great privilege – introducing others to Jesus, helping them discover their purposes and preparing them for their eternal destiny. We'll learn an easy way to do this in the coming weeks.

Point 2 | God has created the local Church to be a community of worshippers who glorify Him by reflecting and expressing His ways and purposes

Although we do glorify God at home when we are on our own, we are also called to worship God together. I was talking with one of our saints who hasn't been able to attend church for a long time, she was telling me how much she missed worship. Worshipping together builds up our faith, encourages us on our journey and brings glory to God.

Martin Luther once said, "To gather with God's people in united adoration of the Father is as necessary to the Christian life as prayer." Certainly, God calls us to be worshippers. We were made to worship God and we will only find deep satisfaction in life when we glorify God in every aspect of our life.

Point 3 | Being a worshipper means being responsible for what we allow to be broadcast on the cinema of our minds. A worshipper only permits that which aligns with God's Word and affirms God's promises to be broadcast

So, we bring glory to God through our worship of Him, through loving others, through using our gifts and talents and through telling others about Him. We are responsible for how we worship God, and it will always encompass every aspect of our being – using our heart, our emotions, our body and our mind. As I close, I would like to share a personal way that I needed to take responsibility of glorifying God in every aspect of my life.

This week, I found, it is in the area of my mind that the battle of being a worshipper was greatly challenged. This week, the question of how I will "love the Lord my God with all of my mind" came to the fore.

Last week I responded too hastily in response to a concern. I could site many justifications for my response, but I have since learnt not very much needs to be responded to immediately. If you've ever made a rash decision, I know you'll understand. However, the ramifications of my misjudgement meant a storm blew through our community – and during a season where the winds of change were already stirring.

This week, I began to feel like I was the manager of a movie cinema. I needed to decide what mental pictures I permit to be broadcast in the cinema of my mind. Would I allow movies or pictures to be played which were totally contrary to what God has said about who I am, and who He's called me to be? Would I permit messages to play repeatedly, which are not aligned with God's word and promises?

As a worshipper, who is committed to glorifying God in every area of my life – including my mind – I was compelled to not permit these 'pictures with accusing voices' to play.

Instead, as a worshipper of God with my mind, I chose to meditate on God's word, and picture God's promises, ensuring God's truth was the most vivid picture in the cinema of my mind. This is just one personal example, showing how the decision to be a worshipper who glorifies God will involve every aspect of our lives.

Finally, as I prepared this message, I discovered so many beautiful words written by great spiritual fathers on how they understand worship. Rather than reading them out, I thought I would print them out and give you the opportunity to ponder them as we share Holy Communion. Perhaps you'd like to take the long way back to your seat as you read them.

I hope, as you reflect on your calling to be a worshipper of God, they will resonate with your heart, and inspire you even more to live a life of worship to our awesome God.

Learning about God's purposes for His Church

| During July | Title of message | Theme |
|---------------------------------|--|--------------|
| Sunday, 7 th July | Who has God called us to be? | WORSHIP |
| Sunday, 14 th July | Why it's essential to be a member of God's church family. | FELLOWSHIP |
| Sunday, 21 st July | Why is membership of God's church more than just attending Sunday worship? *hosts meet after church | FELLOWSHIP |
| Sunday, 28 th July | Why are we called to grow to maturity and how does growth happen? *hosts meet after church | DISCIPLESHIP |
| During August | | |
| Sunday, 4 th August | Why has God called every member to serve His church and the world? | MINISTRY |
| Sunday, 11 th August | How can we start sharing the good news of Jesus with our community? | MISSION |
| Sunday, 18 th August | How can we B.L.E.S.S. our community? | MISSION |
| Sunday, 25 th August | How can we serve our community by making a monthly Sunday worship service more welcoming and easier to understand? | MISSION |

Can you H.O.S.T. a small group in your home?

Commencing September, we are hoping to start a whole host of small groups in people's homes. There will be no 'leaders' as such, just group hosts. What do you need to be able to do to be a host?

Have a heart for people Open your home

Serve tea/coffee Turn on your T.V.

If you're interested in being a small group host and want to learn how, there'll be a meeting after church on Sunday, 21st July and 28th July from 10.45 to 11.15 am.