

A. Worship is not just a _____ event.

B. Worship is the _____ of our entire _____ to God.

“We worship God, says Paul, by giving ourselves in sacrificial service to our Lord. We are to serve him every day, every hour, every minute...As we eat our food, we worship God by thanking him for what he has given us, honoring him with our conversation, and providing for the bodies he has given us. As we sweat on the treadmill, we worship God by seeking to be good stewards of the body he has given us. As we seek to avoid driving with the same egotistic aggressiveness as others, we worship God by displaying the fruit of the Spirit. We do our work to the best of our ability, worshipping God by giving our best to our employers.” **Douglas J. Moo, *The NIV Application Commentary*, p.397**

C. We can _____ God with our worship.

Romans 12:2: “...offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship.”

2. Offer yourself to _____ in _____ (Romans 12:3-8).

How does a person offer himself or herself in grateful service?

A. Be _____ in your _____ towards others.

Romans 12:3: “For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you.”

Philippians 2:1-5: “If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus...”

Jesus was a humble servant!

B. Be humble because what you have has been _____ by God.

Romans 12:3: “Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you.”

Romans 12:6: “We have different gifts, according to the grace given us.”

C. _____ what gift God has given you and begin to _____ others.

Five Steps to Discovering Your Spiritual Gift

1. _____.

2. Make yourself _____ of the _____ Spiritual Gifts (See also 1 Cor. 12-14; Eph 4:11-16).

Romans 12:6-8: “We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man’s gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully.”

3. Begin _____ in an area that _____ you.

Visit the various booths @ the Ministry Fair in the lobby right after Church!

4. Ask _____ who know you _____ what they think are your _____.

5. Take a Spiritual Gift _____.

3). Offer yourself to _____ in _____ (Romans 12:9-21).

Romans 12:9-21: “Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves. Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.”

Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. "Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited. Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody. If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. On the contrary: "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good."

FINAL THOUGHTS

When we become followers of Jesus Christ, we are changed by God from being objects of His _____ because of our sinful condition, to objects of His _____. The appropriate _____ to the mercy of God is to offer ourselves to God in *grateful* worship; to others in *grateful* service; and to one another in love.

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why does Romans 12:1 begin with the phrase "*Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy*"? What is the mercy Paul refers to? Can you define 'mercy'?
2. What is the appropriate response of a person who has received 'mercy' from God?
3. According to Paul, when we experience God's mercy it should affect three areas: Our Worship (12:1-2), Our Service (12:3-8) and Our Love & treatment of others (12:9-21). Take time to discuss each of these areas. Does your life consist of these three things? In what area do you need to grow more?
4. Take some time to read John 13:1-17 and reflect on what it means to be a servant. How is Jesus' teaching regarding servanthood different than what is taught in our world today?
5. How does Luke 17:7-10 apply to your life as a servant?
6. Are you involved in ministry at SMC? If not, why?
7. In 1 Thessalonians 2:1-16 Paul speaks of his ministry/service – what are the qualities of a servant that Paul possessed? What characteristics would you like to see developed in your life?

PRAYER

HOW TO RESPOND TO GOD'S MERCY

Romans 12:1-21

Stand Alone Message - 02.28.10

Pastor Cory Anderson / SMC

Introduction:

Romans 12:1-21: "Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will. For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you. Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully. Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves. Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited. Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody. If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. On the contrary: "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good."

How should we respond to the mercy of God?

1. Offer yourself to _____ in _____
(Romans 12:1-2).

Romans 12:1-2: "Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship."