**CHRISTIAN WORSHIP - THEOLOGY AND PRACTICE**

Session 6

**Rethinking Worship for the New Millennium**

Lecture 3

Wrong Turns, Confusions, and Idolatries (Part 1)

1. The Deep Needs of People and Worshipers

* Realism and perspective
* Safety / security / protection / *power to survive*
* Significance / meaning / value
* Identity / self value / dignity / self acceptance
* Relationship / intimacy / community / love / to be known by others, self, and God
* Transcendence 🡪 Joy (is not an emotion)
* Immanence / meeting with God / home coming / forgiveness 🡪 Joy
* Hope
* Freedom
* Transformation (*Being Transformed*)
* Way of Life (value) to demonstrate the reality of God

Marva Dawn: *Royal Waste of Time* on human needs

Douglas Copeland: *Generation X, Life After God* on deep needs of human

In public worship, we have to be careful with expressing our intimacy with God. It needs to be expressed, perhaps, in hospitality during worship by sitting with strangers and in helping those in need outside worship.

1. Does our worship meet the needs and deep yearnings of the worshippers?

* We don’t and can’t meet these needs in the constancy of our daily life.

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| Needs | Worship Display |
| Realism | Recognition of brokenness, sorrow, trial, pain  Global justice (Israel’s exile)  Sin (confession and absolution)  Give some practices to the worshippers to take home. |
| Being transformed | We can only be changed by confession of sin and receiving absolution (forgiveness) |
| Way of life / value | Sabbath keeping |
| Safety / security / how to survive | God’s lordship over all  Christ defeated the principalities and powers  Jesus submitted to the powers (political, religious, betrayal, etc.) of his time to expose them  God who humbled himself to save us  Stay with Lent and not jumping to the triumph of resurrection  Christ was forsaken so we are secure in God.  Isa 26: 23, 24🡪 perfect peace (in the shalom of shalom) |
| Significance / meaning | Meaning justifies what we do  We love God even though we may be mad with him because he loved me first  Our job is occupation whereas our vocation is our praise of God in our job  The Priesthood of believers |
| Identity | As God’s beloved  Highlight |
| Relationship | Our nucleus family as emphasized by evangelicals is too small  40% in the church are singles  Fathers and mothers to single-parent kids in the church |
| Transcendence / immanence | Meta narrative (the story of God)  Scripture reading should cover the entire Bible  Worship 🡨 the whole story  Use of Church Calendar |
| Hope | resurrection |

1. Arbitrary Tensions in Worship

* Classical (traditional) v Contextual
* Performance v Participation
* Hymns v Songs (both in Col 3)
* Rational v Celebration

David Ford: The Shape of Living: spiritual directions for everyday life

Should worship service meet my desire or it should shape my desire? If both, how to keep the dialectic or which is more important?