

## Created to Worship

God ordained JesusChurch to be a body of believers that have a certain set of values. God called us to be a unique people. The reason that we are different from other churches is because of the unique calling that God has on our lives and on this church. We have our roots in the Vineyard movement and all of us have been greatly impacted by the way John Wimber illuminated the “main and the plain” of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. As a result, our DNA reflects the fact that we value some things more than others.

### 1. Worship is our highest priority

The Westminster catechism says that “the chief end of man is to worship God and to enjoy Him forever”.

#### 1 Peter 2:9

***But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.***

Over the years the corporate worship experience in the western church has developed along different lines. Some sing songs that are declarational. In other words, they declare the glory of God. They are songs about God. Some churches like to sing what they call “high praises”. These are songs that are up-tempo and they make you feel like standing up and shouting. Some sing songs about spiritual warfare. War-ship I call it. And others, mostly in mainline churches, like to sing songs with deep theological content

What is worship to us? As we take a look at what God has ordained worship to be at JesusChurch, please keep in mind that I am not putting anyone else down.

First, let us look at what we believe worship is not.

1. Worship is not about setting the tone or the mood for the service or the sermon.
2. Worship is not about getting together and singing songs about God.
3. Worship is not about singing songs that exhort us to live better lives.
4. Worship is not about us. It is not about what we get out of it. Our thoughts concerning worship shouldn't be about us and whether or not we enjoyed worship. It shouldn't be about whether the songs were fast or slow, whether it was loud or soft. We shouldn't be thinking about the fact that they didn't do my favorite song or “no, not that song again.” We shouldn't even be concerned over the fact that the congregation entered in to worship or not.
5. Worship is not a spectator sport, it is not a product molded by the taste of the consumers. We are challenged to ask ourselves individually, ‘When I come through the door of the church, what am I bringing as my contribution to the worship?’

### 2. The meaning of Worship

In the Hebrew, the word **Shachach** means to bow down in an expression of homage and reverence. It literally mean to get on ones knees and touch the ground with the forehead.

In the Greek the word is **Proskuneo** which means to turn to kiss, to prostrate oneself in homage, to do reverence, to adore

The word worship means to ascribe worth to God. Worship is Godward. It is God-centered. It is meant to bless and please Him. Worship is about thanking God for Who He is and for what He has done in our lives. We sing songs that reflect what God is doing in our midst. At JesusChurch we want to sing love songs to God, rather than merely sing songs about God. We want to sing a new song that gives expression to our gratitude for the things that God is doing in our midst. (Ps 33:3, 40:3, 96:1-2, 144:9)

In Matt Redman's song, "The Heart of Worship" he says this,

When the music fades,  
All is stripped away,  
And I simply come,  
Longing just to bring  
Something that's of worth  
That will bless Your heart

I'll bring You more than a song,  
For a song in itself  
Is not what You have required  
You search much deeper within  
Through the way things appear;  
You're looking into my heart

Chorus

I'm coming back to the heart of worship,  
And it's all about You,  
All about You, Jesus  
I'm sorry, Lord, for the thing I've made it,

### 3. Worship is intimate

We value **Intimacy with God**. We believe that God can be known, and that Christ will be returning for His Bride. We are that Bride, which even now, He wants to draw unto Himself.

This second statement is the most telling of all. We are the Bride of Christ. It is not accident that God chose that terminology. That is the kind of intimacy that God wants to have with us.

Often times we get excited about praising God and that is a wonderful thing. But it would be a shame if we got stuck there and didn't progress on to intimate worship. To put it another way, it would be as if we had a beautiful wedding and a joyous wedding banquet with all the attending revelry but then never went on the honeymoon. There is a time for partying with all the guests and celebrating the bride and groom, but then there needs to be a time when it comes down to just Jesus and us. That is when worship begins.

David Ruis wrote a song called "**True Love**" that has made a lot of people uncomfortable because of the level of intimacy it describes, but one that accurately expresses my heart's cry for worship in this church.

Jesus I need to know true love  
Deeper than the love found on earth  
Take me into the King's chambers  
Cause my love to mature

Chorus  
Let me know the kisses of your mouth  
Let me feel your embrace  
Let me smell the fragrance of your touch  
Let me see your lovely face

This song is a paraphrase from the Song of Solomon. This book is the most descriptive book of love ever written and it is a parable of Christ's love affair with His bride the Church.

God wants our hearts turned to Jesus. He wants us to serve Him out of love and not out of duty

True worship evolves from true relationship. Where there is no true relationship with Jesus, there can be no true worship. We must routinely check the state of our relationship with Him. Relationships are the third value that we hold as a Church.

I don't know how to say exactly how I feel  
And I can't begin to tell You what your love has meant  
I'm lost for words  
Is there a way to show the passion in my heart  
Can I express how truly great I think You are  
My dearest friend  
Lord, this is my desire  
To pour my love on You

Like oil upon Your feet

Like wine for You to drink  
Like water from my heart  
I'll pour my love on You  
If praise is like perfume  
I'll lavish mine on You  
'Til every drop is gone  
I'll pour my love on You

There are deep, intimate things that God wants to share with us, but He won't share those things with strangers! Would you share your deepest, most personal secrets with someone you don't know? I didn't think so. Why? Because you don't know them, you don't know their real motivation, you don't know if they truly have your best interest at heart, and you don't know if you can really trust them. It's only after investing the time necessary to develop a solid relationship with someone and really getting to know them that you feel comfortable enough to share your heart.

### **Conclusion**

It's Sunday morning. You've had a terrible week. Today you've already lost your temper and yelled at your spouse, your children, your cat, and the other drivers on the road. Somebody else's kid is screaming on the other side of the church. You really don't like the person sitting in front of you. The worship team starts to play (too loud as usual) and it's your least favorite song in the world.

Now you have a choice to make. Will you worship? You have many options. You can leave the room, you can sit and sulk), you can focus on all the things that are upsetting you, you can be angry because they are distracting you from worship . . . OR you can focus on the One who deserves your worship.

Will you worship  
Will you bow down  
Before your Lord and King?  
Will you love me  
Will you give me your heart  
Your everything?

Right here and now  
I make my choice . . .

Making the choice is where it all begins. Will you worship?