

## PREFACE

We live in a strange and turbulent time. The recession continues to deepen, layoffs increase, unemployment rises, costs inflate, and morale sinks. Political lines are drawn and ideological arguments abound. Every day more and more churches are closing their doors. Truly, the enemy has done a masterful job at getting God's people to focus on the world around them and disengage from the command of Christ to make disciples. Our nation desperately needs godly men to take a stand for righteousness, men who don spiritual armor and live for His glory, men who live as warriors of light working daily to advance His kingdom. The Church needs faithful Kingdom Warriors, men fully equipped for worship, work, and war.

Worship, work, and war are three areas in which any man can start moving from being an uninvolved spectator to warring soldier.

### Worship

There is a growing need in the Western church for men to desire true worship rather than seek momentary entertainment. Not the kind of worship where they go to a building or a mountain top, although it could take place in such locations, but worship that is in spirit and in truth (John 4: 23-24). This includes both individual devotion and corporate adoration.

In fact some say worship is so personal that whether alone or with others, enjoying God is the heart of individual reverence. Unfortunately, churches across America are strong at producing services but weak at producing godly men who are armed for life's battles. Today's average church attendee is not taught how to seek the presence of God, read the Scriptures for truth, pray for sanctification, or practice the fear of God, all items that are at the heart of spirit and truth.

In the book *Whatever Happened to Worship*, A W Tozer writes:

Having been created in the image of God, we have within us the capacity to know God and the instinct we should worship Him. The very moment that the Spirit of God has quickened us to His life in regeneration, our whole being senses its kinship to God and leaps up in joyous recognition!<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> A. W. Tozer *Whatever Happened to Worship* (Camp Hill, PA: Christian Publications, Inc, 1985) pg 25

It is not about the right music, motion, or monument, nor is it about the right singing, setting, or sacrifice; it is, however, about the need for every Christian man to cultivate adoration and admiration of the living God, to worship Him in His majesty and practice sensing His presence.

The most exciting thing that happens when men start sensing His presence is seeing how it prepares their minds and enables their hearts to focus on the important things that must be done for the Lord. It is out of a deep sense of true worship that a Kingdom Warrior understands the value of his vocation and the vigilance of waging spiritual warfare.

## **Work**

From the time God created the earth and mankind, human labor has been a part of His original plan. It is a divine gift provided for the fulfillment of life and sustainment of men. Toiling to provide for his family is part of a godly man's role as one created in the image of God. Work itself is not punishment for sin. God gave it to Adam as a gift before the fall. After the fall, the difficult, frustrating, and persistent toil, which comes from dealing with an unresponsive environment, became the state of humankind. This was not God's original intent for work.

Unfortunately, throughout the ages all men have reaped the consequence of the Fall, thereby experiencing some form of thorns and thistles. There is no occupation given to men that is free from this curse. In the New Testament, Jesus speaks to the needs of men and goes straight to the heart of work when He tells His disciples to seek first the kingdom of God. When men seek to serve God through their occupations, He supplies all their needs (Matthew 6: 33). Unfortunately, most men work to earn funds to provide earthly needs or temporal wants and not as means to further God's kingdom.

Work is a critical environment that consumes an enormous amount of time, and if a man views his job as tedious labor for worldly gain, he will never see his employment as God originally intended. He will not view work as an opportunity to make an impact in the lives of others. Kingdom Warriors in the workplace are representatives of Jesus Christ and soldiers of the cross. Through their vocation, they look to God to meet their needs, provide for their families, and change the hearts of those taken captive by the enemy.

## War

Every man born into this world is born into a world at war, a spiritual war that makes earthly battles pale by comparison. Some men have opportunities to prove themselves on the battlefield by facing and destroying an enemy, but most will never have the chance to demonstrate the physical skills of warfare. However, all of God's men have an opportunity to face His enemy, Satan, or at least the forces of His enemy.

The enemy of God wages relentless combat against all mankind. He is like a lion stalking his prey and waiting for the right moment to devour when and where he can (1 Peter 5:8). He is skilled at attacking anything that promotes godly masculinity.

Christ waged spiritual warfare with Satan and won. The battle between Jesus and Satan is an excellent example of what Satan does to attempt to destroy a man, and Jesus' response shows how a man can defeat Satan and overcome his attacks. Men in Christ's kingdom should look to their King to receive their spiritual battle doctrine.

From the streets of inner cities to the most isolated deserts and mountains, men of all ages are fighting a war waged against them both physically and spiritually. The battle begins at birth and ends at death. Like all battles, there is a consequence to how a man wages this war. If he chooses to deal with his sinful nature, he can experience victories over his flesh, lust, and pride. If he chooses to feed the sinful nature, he will produce thorns and weeds in his life. In other words, a man will reap what he sows, especially for feeding the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the boastful pride of life (1 John 1: 15-16).

Fortunately, God issues every man in His church a full set of spiritual armor to fight the enemies of His kingdom (Ephesians 6:10-20). He also provides a model for men to imitate: Jesus. He is the perfect illustration of a warrior facing God's foes and living according to the Father's will. Like Christ, a Kingdom Warrior dons his spiritual armor on a daily basis, marches forward facing the battles of life, and seeks to deliver captives of darkness, so they too can become warriors of light.

## **Challenge**

A Kingdom Warrior is a committed disciple of Jesus Christ who lives for his King every day. He continually worships as part of a life steeped in sensing God's presence and drawing on God's power. He labors at work showing an example of wholehearted obedience with a growing spirit of excellence; he is working for the Lord and not for men. He supports and defends the gospel of Christ by growing as a war-fighter, vigilant on watch and fully equipped for battle. What would the American church look like if all of its men were fully equipped for worship, work, and war? What would your church look like?

## **Men's Muster<sup>2</sup>**

### ***Worship***

1. Do you agree or disagree with the author's thoughts on worship? Why or why not?
2. How does your church encourage men to worship individually and at church?
3. What keeps you from authentically worshiping God by yourself or in a group?

### ***Work***

4. Is work a blessing or a curse for you? Explain.
5. How does a man's view of work affect his walk with God?
6. True/False. If a man views his job as tedious labor for worldly gain, he will never view his employment as God intended. Explain your answer.

### ***War***

7. What are your views on Satan and spiritual warfare?
8. How do you view Christ's desert confrontation with Satan (Matthew 4:1-4)?
9. What are some ways to help men combat the lust of the flesh, lust of the eyes, and the pride of life?

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<sup>2</sup> Men who read the book and then meet for discussion will receive the most benefit from the material in each chapter. Within the context of a life-giving ministry for men, someone struggling with worship, work, or spiritual warfare, will have the opportunity to share his struggles, concerns, dreams, and victories. When men begin to relate to each other with godly trust, authenticity, and honesty, real transformation can take place.



# PART I

## MEN WHO WORSHIP

Since the beginning of creation, worship continues to be an integral part of every man's life. God created Adam for worship, and until disobeying the Lord he enjoyed daily communication with his creator. After eating the forbidden fruit, Adam's and Eve's lives, and the lives of all mankind were never the same . . . especially in worship.

This book is intended to point out some biblical facts about worship and provide the reader a way of personalizing his experience with the Lord. It is not exhaustive, but it will help a man move forward in his personal and corporate practice of reverence toward God.

When Jesus made the comment on worship to the woman at the well (John 4:23-24), He set a standard for all of His men in which to seek God and come before His throne of grace. *Vine's Expository Dictionary* provides the following word definition:

The word He used is *proskuneo*, to make obeisance, do reverence. This is the most frequent word rendered to worship. It is used of an act of homage or reverence (a) to God (b) to Christ (c) to a man (d) to the Dragon (e) to the Beast (f) the image of the Beast (g) to demons and (h) to idols.<sup>3</sup>

Our focus is to worship God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Anything else that becomes an object of worship is sinful and robs God of the glory that rightfully belongs to Him.

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<sup>3</sup> *Vine's Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words* (Iowa Falls, Iowa: World Bible Publishers, 1991)



At the heart of biblical worship is the glory of God and how that glory changes lives. Those who see and experience His glory progress in service and sanctification. Those who seek recognition from the world grow in sin and selfishness. Men who come before His throne and revel in His glory are men who profess and proclaim the gospel of Christ. They help transform others as they themselves are being transformed into the image of Christ.

The following five topics provide brief but pointed comments on the area of worship. Use the study questions listed for personal reflection and small-group discussions.

1. Creator and Creation: The Great Exchange
2. Scripture and Salvation: Of First Importance
3. Existence and Absence: The Presence of God
4. Sacrifice and Service: The Obedience Factor
5. Worship and Reproduction: The Purpose of Church

May your worship always result in a fresh recognition of His presence as you seek to glorify God and enjoy Him forever.



## 1. CREATOR AND CREATION: THE GREAT EXCHANGE

*Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator—who is forever praised. Amen (Romans 1:24-25).*

Have you ever wondered how a country founded on biblical principles slides into moral decadence? Or, how we have come to a place in our country where abortionists kill millions of babies because the fetus is “not a person”? How is it that homosexuals “marry” with some denomination’s blessings? And pornography, how did it get to be a multibillion-dollar business? Why is it that some churches have abandoned sound doctrine through the teaching of Scripture so they can increase attendance? The answers lie in the way men exchange the truth of God for a lie. Exchanging God’s glory for a lie has grown, and continues to grow, throughout the world.

All you have to do is read the daily newspaper, surf the Internet, or listen to the evening news to see the long-term effects of this ungodly exchange. Crime rates continue to grow. Abortion has become a form of birth control. Homosexuality is an alternate life style. Adultery is a common event. Kidnapping and molestations are weekly news.<sup>4</sup> Many movies and television shows degrade both men and women. Pornography continues to grow taking in revenues of more than ten billion dollars a year<sup>5</sup>, and divorce is just as frequent in the church as it is in the world. Besides these horrific behaviors, each year more men, women, and children get AIDS. Men are living life without moral direction, and the results are devastating to society. The more men live without moral direction, the deeper our world sinks into decadence. As moral decadence deepens, the epic battle escalates.

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<sup>4</sup> KW\_Coach\_Guidelines.” [www.KingdomWarrior.net](http://www.KingdomWarrior.net) N.p., n.d. Web. 6 July 2011 <[http://www.kingdomwarrior.net/KW\\_Coach\\_Guidelines.pdf](http://www.kingdomwarrior.net/KW_Coach_Guidelines.pdf)>.

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.forbes.com/2001/05/25/0524porn.html>



## **In the Beginning**

Humankind is in desperate need of men who will demonstrate their manhood as God originally intended. Adam was the first man to know God but destroyed his rapport by abdicating godly manhood for passive and irresponsible behaviors. The result was to shatter his family and change his relationship with God. Since then, the actions of Adam continue to affect the lives of all men.

In the beginning, Adam enjoyed a lively and daily communion with God. Unfortunately, he lost this blessing when he and his wife were seduced by the serpent's lie. After both of them ate the forbidden fruit, they realized their nakedness, so they clothed themselves with fig leaves. Then, God found Adam hiding in the woods, ashamed and afraid (Genesis 2:15-3:19).

Thousands of years later, many of the sons of Adam and the daughters of Eve were still living in direct opposition to God and His word. Paul, the apostle addresses this head on by writing a description on the condition of men that continues to echo throughout humanity as a spiritual truth. Although God's invisible qualities, His power, and holiness are clearly understood from the world around them, the Roman people were exchanging an accurate knowledge of an immortal God for images of men, birds, animals, and reptiles (Romans 1:20-23). Consequently, their behavior grew darker and more decadent.

## **In Our World Today**

Today the condition of men continues to darken. Although the sin of men and the temptations they face are not new (Galatians 5:19-21), there are more people exchanging the truth of God for a lie than ever before. When God gives men over to the sinful desires of their hearts, they are going to seek fulfillment of life through sexual impurity. The more men look to sexuality to make them feel good, the more their behavior will deteriorate into excessive indulgence (Romans 1:24). This is a key reason why pornography is a booming business, even among men in our churches.

Unfortunately, a major ramification of increased sexuality throughout society is the growth of deviant sexual practices. When God gives a society over to its shameful lusts, both men and women





exchange normal sexual behavior for abnormal practices (Romans 1:26-27). Every day on the news we view sympathetic broadcasts of sweet, tender loving “gay” couples being persecuted and mistreated by conservatives and zealous Christians.

As if homosexuality is not decadent enough, some men are engaging in sex with animals. Within a few miles of my home, a man died after having sex with a horse. Although local sheriff's detectives investigated the incident on the farm, they were more concerned with cruelty to the animal than they were that a man had sex with it. Why didn't they care about the practice of sex with animals? At that time, bestiality was not illegal but cruelty to an animal was.<sup>6</sup> The detectives who investigated this incident did not think a crime occurred since the horse was uninjured.<sup>7</sup>

Every year more denominations practice anti-biblical policies by supporting homosexual and lesbian marriages as well as putting gay people into positions of leadership within their churches. What this proves is that the church is not immune from exchanging the truth of God for a lie. Recently a mainline American denomination announced the ordination of homosexuals under the pretense that the church needs to show 21st century social justice to a group of people who are often mistreated and persecuted. As long as each pair is committed to one another, the marriage union and church leadership of homosexuals receives denominational blessing. Amazing!

Worse yet, there are increasing numbers of adults having sex with young minors. This includes a growing segment of women teachers having sex with male and female adolescents barely into their teens. Still, men commit most instances of sex with youth.

Intensifying in society is the growing concern over the importance of birds, animals, and insects while there is a decreasing value of human life in a fetus, infant, child, and growing adult. A few years ago there was a large world trade meeting in downtown Seattle. All sorts of groups came to exercise their rights to “free speech.” Consequently, buildings were set aflame, windows were broken, restaurants that served

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<sup>6</sup> Within one year a local congresswoman introduced a bestiality bill making this kind of behavior illegal. The bill sailed through the legislature without objection.

<sup>7</sup> [http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/localnews/2002382718\\_horse15m.html](http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/localnews/2002382718_horse15m.html)



meat were attacked, and stores shut down to protect their employees and buildings. It came to be known as *The Battle in Seattle*. The more man worships the creation and not the Creator, the more decadent he becomes.

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Almost everyone likes to have a cause. Young adults gain a sense of identity as they dive into a movement that has the potential of changing the world. Today we have groups who wreak havoc on fishing boats to save sea life, wage eco-terrorism to save the planet, and damage property and endanger people to protect trees. All these groups draw people who want to change this dark and fallen world. It is the right desire but the wrong focus, and worship is at the heart of this issue. Regardless of age, people like having a sense of worth from what they can transform. Too often, sadly, transforming the world by worshipping Christ is not the focus.

### Conclusion

Man is inherently evil and desperately needs Christ. Without Christ as the primary focus in his life, he lives governed by a depraved nature. Now, some may argue with this concept because they lack knowing God's perspective. The Bible teaches that people without Christ are filled with wickedness, evil, greed, and depravity. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, and malice. They are slanderers, God-haters, insolent, arrogant, and boastful; they invent ways of doing evil; they disobey their parents; they are senseless, faithless, heartless, and ruthless (Romans 1:29-31).

Some may think me harsh for thinking that all people without Christ contain so much darkness and evil. In truth, the person who rejects Christ receives the same sentence as does the worst convicted killer in history. Men without Christ are doomed to an eternity of separation from God and from the protection of His power (2 Thessalonians 1:9).

Worshipping God in spirit and truth is critical to the welfare of the family and the local church. If men neglect their personal and



corporate worship of God and seek their personal pleasure instead, they will eventually become like Solomon who let his lust for women turn his heart after other gods (1 Kings 11:1-8). The world desperately needs Christian men who will focus on God and live sexually pure lives.

Are you one of those men?

### **Men's Muster**

1. Do you believe man is inherently evil or inherently good? Why or why not?
2. How do you see people exchanging the truth of God for a lie?
3. What are you doing to keep yourself sexually pure?
4. If you had a homosexual or lesbian neighbor, how would you share your life and the light of Christ with him or her?
5. Why do young people seek to change the world?
6. How can the local church confront the ways men exchange God for lies without offending them? Is this possible?