

ORDER FOR THE CORPORATE WORSHIP OF GOD
A Service of Celebration and Covenantal Renewal
November 8, 2009

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME

MISSIONAL LIVING TESTIMONY—

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PRAYER OF INVOCATION

CALL TO WORSHIP GOD

We gather to worship our God in spirit and in truth...

Matthew 22:32-40 (NIV) ‘I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob?’ He is not the God of the dead but of the living.”³³ When the crowds heard this, they were astonished at his teaching.³⁴ Hearing that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, the Pharisees got together.³⁵ One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question:³⁶ “Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?”³⁷ Jesus replied: “ ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment.³⁹ And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’⁴⁰ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”

WORSHIPPING GOD THROUGH MUSIC

AFFIRMING THE GOSPEL WE BELIEVE—

The Heidelberg Catechism

60 Q. How are you right with God?

A. Only by true faith in Jesus Christ. Even though my conscience accuses me of having grievously sinned against all God's commandments and of never having kept any of them, and even though I am still ever inclined toward all evil, nevertheless, without my deserving it at all, out of sheer grace, God grants and credits to me the perfect satisfaction, righteousness, and holiness of Christ, as if I had never sinned nor been a sinner, as if I had been as perfectly obedient as Christ was obedient for me. All I need to do is accept this gift of God with a believing heart.

ACKNOWLEDGING OUR NEED FOR THE GOSPEL TODAY—

THE PASTORAL PRAYER

PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

MINISTRY OF THE WORD, PART 1—

This Gospel:

Engaging the good news of Jesus—for heart and world

Colossians 1:6 - *All over the world this gospel is bearing fruit and growing, just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and understood God's grace in all its truth.*

HEART IDOLATRY

(Lesson 6, The Gospel-Centered Life)

I. The Battle for Your Heart

Ezekiel 14:1-5 - Some of the elders of Israel came to me and sat down in front of me.² Then the word of the Lord came to me:³ “Son of man, these men have set up idols in their hearts and put wicked stumbling blocks before their faces. Should I let them inquire of me at all?⁴ Therefore speak to them and tell them, ‘This is what the Sovereign Lord says: When any Israelite sets up idols in his heart and puts a wicked stumbling block before his face and then goes to a prophet, I the Lord will answer him myself in keeping with his great idolatry.⁵ I will do this to recapture the hearts of the people of Israel, who have all deserted me for their idols.’

- The gospel is the great and messy story of God's commitment to conquer, captivate, and recapture your heart—a story that will continue until the Day Jesus returns to finish making all things new, including you!
- What is a Christian? There are many valid answers, but certainly include this one: A Christian is a forgiven idolater—a broken worshipper, becoming whole through the person and work of Jesus.
- God loves us so very much that he will arrange circumstances of his own choosing to expose and dethrone our idols. The gospel is the primary and ongoing “intervention” for addicts/idolaters of every variety. It's also the only “recovery” program that will ultimately bring full recovery.

Notes:

GIVING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

MINISTRY OF THE WORD, PART 2

II. Learning to Recognize the Heart Idol Lurking Below the Surface Sin

As a case study, let's take the surface sin of gossip—talking about people behind their backs in judgmental or destructive ways. Why do we gossip? What are we looking for, reaching for, longing for, obsessing over... even demanding (when we gossip, or with any other surface sin) that represents idol status in our life? What are our counterfeit gods?

Here are some common heart idols that can manifest themselves in the surface sin of gossip:

- **The idol of approval** (I want the approval of the people I'm talking to)
- **The idol of control** (Using gossip as a way to manipulate/control others)
- **The idol of reputation** (I want to feel important, so I cut someone else down verbally)
- **The idol of success** (Someone is succeeding—and I'm not—so I gossip about him)
- **The idol of security** (Talking about others masks my own insecurity)
- **The idol of pleasure** (Someone else is enjoying life—and I'm not—so I attack her)
- **The idol of knowledge** (Talking about people is a way of showing I know more)
- **The idol of recognition** (Talking about others gets people to notice me)
- **The idol of respect** (That person disrespected me, so I'm going to disrespect him)

Notes:

SONG OF REFLECTION

MINISTRY OF THE WORD, PART 3

III. How Jesus Dethrones and Replaces Our Idols with Himself

John 21:15-17 - When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon son of John, do you truly love me more than these?” “Yes, Lord,” he said, “you know that I love you.” Jesus said, “Feed my lambs.”¹⁶ Again Jesus said, “Simon son of John, do you truly love me?” He answered, “Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.” Jesus said, “Take care of my sheep.”¹⁷ The third time he said to him, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, “Do you love me?” He said, “Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you.” Jesus said, “Feed my sheep.

- Identify **your** common surface sins
- Prayerfully consider what heart idols might lie behind them
- Worship Jesus for his victory over that idol
- Meditate on the promises of the gospel, for the gospel is the power of God for salvation and the power of God for dethroning idols
- Invite others into your process of reflection and repentance. “You can't see your own face”... we need each other in order to see our sin clearly and deal with it honestly.

SONG OF RESPONSE

BENEDICTION

John 6:28-29 - Then they asked him, “What must we do to do the works God requires?” Jesus answered, “The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent.”



Questions for Reflection and Discussion

1. What had the most impact on you today from our time in God's worship and Word? What was encouraging, convicting, and/or calling for more clarification?
2. What does it feel like to know that God is committed to conquering, captivating and re-capturing your heart? What is glorious and affirming about this process? What is equally unnerving and scary?
3. Granted, we can easily fall into the “paralysis of analysis”, but why is it important to look below the waterline of our “surface sins” to identify the deeper issues of our heart—the idols of our hearts? How does the gospel help us to deal with the surface sin at the same time we are working on the idols of our hearts?
4. If Jesus were to look around your circle this morning and ask each of you, “Do you love me more than these?” What would your “these” be? Or in other words, what has more functional power over your heart than Jesus does? THANK GOD that all of your sins are already forgiven and that you are robed in the righteousness of Jesus as you have this discussion!
5. Why do we need each other in this journey of gospel freedom?
6. Close with a good season of prayer for one another.