



Every human being was created by God to worship him and enjoy his presence. Yet because of sin, we worship created things rather than the Creator (Romans 1:18ff). However, God did something that opened up a new and living way for us to enter into His presence and to worship him, both when we gather together and when we are apart. What did he do? What are the implications of this? Find out in this two week series as we gain a Biblical understanding of true worship.

Discussion Questions: (Leaders please review each question and pick those that will be most beneficial for your group.)

1. God created us to be in relationship with him and to worship only him. Yet when Adam sinned (Gen 3), direct access to God's holy presence was cut off and we worshiped created things rather than the Creator (Romans 1:18ff). However, God still desired to be in fellowship with his people. Yet because God is holy and we are sinful, direct access was not possible. So, under the Old Covenant, God's people had to follow very stringent laws and make continual sacrifices through an imperfect priest who served in the temple as their mediator when they violated these laws. Imagine what it must have been like to worship God in this way.
2. Now read Hebrews 10:19-22. In this passage we discover that direct access to God's presence has now been opened up in Jesus. In what three ways does Jesus act for us giving us confidence to enter into God's presence?
3. Read Philippians 3:3. What are some of the false confidences of the flesh that we lean on when it comes to our relationship with God? According to the verse, who is it that enables our worship?
4. As a result of a new and living way being opened up through Jesus Christ, the author of Hebrews gives direct application for God's gathered people. What are we encouraged to do in v.22? What does it mean to draw near to God with a sincere heart? Full assurance of faith is also mentioned. Previously, in verse 19, we are told that we can have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place where God is. This too, means with faith. Are you able to confidently enter God's presence daily and weekly in our worship gatherings? What changed do you need to make in order to enter God's presence confidently?
5. Looking further at verse 22, we see that what Jesus has accomplished for us is able to cleanse us from a guilty conscience. Do you have a clear conscience? If not, is all your hope truly in Jesus alone for new life and the forgiveness of sins? Do you know that you have been made pure, and have you shown this outwardly in baptism?