

Re-Group: An Origins Conversation

The Origins of Worship

The COVID Crisis has shaken the church to its core. There have been fights and arguments and people holding the church hostage by withholding their tithes and offerings to try and impose their will on the church. It's been an ugly season for the church – not only for the members, but in the eyes of the unchurched public as well. Once upon a time, there were no church buildings and yet Christianity thrived. And once upon a time, there were no synagogues, no temple, and no tabernacle, and yet God still drew his faithful followers into worship and the faith was well established. What in the world did the world do before there were sanctuaries?

Genesis 5:21–24 and Hebrews 11:5–6

Three Reflection Questions:

1. What do you think the differences are between the way Enoch worshipped and the ways we worship?

2. What do you think it means to “walk with God”?

3. How would you define/describe authentic worship?

My Count Me In! Commitment

- I'll be “here” next Sunday
- I'll invite a friend
- I'll make a list of how I would earnestly seek God if there were no church buildings
- I'll choose the most profound item on the list and will pursue it this year

Digging Deeper

Week of January 3, 2021

The Origins of Worship

Scripture: Genesis 5:21–24 and Hebrews 11:5–6

Introduction: Before there was an Old or New Testament ... before there were church buildings or temples of tents of meetings ... before there was a Bible or the ten commandments, there was Abel and Enoch and Noah: three men who set the tone for worship of the One True God. But what in the world did worship look like when there were no trappings of worship?

1. Read Genesis 5:21–24. Without any direction or commandments, Enoch managed to “walk faithfully with God.” What do you think that means? How do you think he demonstrated his commitment to God in a world without organized religion and organized worship?
2. Read Hebrews 11:5–6. Why do you think the writer of Hebrews felt compelled to point out the obvious “Anyone who comes to him must believe that [God] exists”?
3. Dr. Bill pointed out that the world Enoch lived in was totally depraved, and yet Enoch managed to remain faithful through it all. How do you think he did that?
4. Do you think worship is an event or a way of living? Why do you think so?
5. The phrase “walked with God” is used only of Enoch and Enoch’s great grandson Noah. Abraham was called a “friend of God,” Moses “saw the face of God,” and Elijah was spared death to go directly to paradise in the presence of God. What characteristics do you think all of these had in common?
6. The New Testament gives us no instructions on how or when or where to worship. What do you think authentic worship looks like?
7. List some ways in which you engage in authentic worship – outside of “watching” worship on the television, internet, or even when we worship in person.