

## Getting To Know You

1. When you think of worship what comes to mind? What are the different elements of worship?
2. When it comes to worship, what are some of the elements that resonate with you the most? Explain.
3. A.W. Tozer said, God wants us to worship Him. He doesn't need us, for He couldn't be a self-sufficient God and need anything or anybody, but He wants us. When Adam sinned it was not He who cried, "God, where art Thou?" It was God who cried, "Adam, where art thou"? Thoughts? Agree? Disagree?
4. William Law said, " We must devote, not only times and places to prayer, but be everywhere in the spirit of devotion; with hearts always set toward heaven, looking up to God in all our actions, and doing everything as His servants; living in the world as in a holy temple of God, and always worshiping Him, though not with our lips, yet with the thankfulness of our hearts, the holiness of our actions and the pious and charitable use of all His gifts". Thoughts? Agree? Disagree?
5. William Barclay said, "The true, the genuine worship is when man, through his spirit, attains to friendship and intimacy with God. True and genuine worship is not to come to a certain place; it is not to go through a certain ritual or liturgy; it is not even to bring certain gifts. True worship is when the spirit, the immortal and invisible part of man, speaks to and meets with God, who is immortal and invisible". Thoughts? Agree? Disagree?
6. Looking back at your notes from this week's sermon, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

## Digging Deeper

1. How important is unity to God? Explain. When it comes to unity or disunity what text/s come to mind? What are some biblical examples of unity? Disunity/division? Can a church be effective if there is disunity? Explain.
2. What do the verses say about unity/disunity?

Ps. 133:1; Matt. 12:25; Romans 14:19 & 16:17; 1 Cor. 1:10-14 & 11:17-18; 2 Cor. 13:11; Eph. 4:3; Col. 3:14-15; 2 Tim. 2:14; 1 Pet. 3:8

Is this something that you take seriously? What are the benefits of unity? What are the consequences of disunity? What is the difference between unity and uniformity? Is disagreeing and disunity the same? Explain.

3. There is a distinct difference between the Church at Corinth and the Church at Philippi? What were the differences when it came to unity/disunity? Which one was healthy? Unhealthy? What can we learn from their examples? What do we need to avoid? What had caused disunity within Corinth? How did disunity and division cause the Church at Corinth to be ineffective? Who enjoys the church being divided?

What are some ways to keep the unity of the local church? What do you do to protect the unity of Cross Church? Explain.

4. In Phil. 2, Paul encourages the Philippians to maintain unity and uses Christ emptying Himself as the example of how we demonstrate our concerns for others more than ourselves. When Paul says to have the same mind, what does he mean? How do we do that? What does that look like? Why should we do it? When we are of one mind, what does it produce? What are the benefits?

How does Cross Church demonstrate unity in mentality? How do you contribute to this? Explain.

5. How would you define humility? What does humility look like? What is it not? How does Jesus demonstrate this for us? What does it produce when done correctly?

How was this completely contrary to 1<sup>st</sup> Century Roman culture? How did they view humility? Why did they think it was unacceptable? How does Jesus turn this idea/belief on its head?

At Cross Church how is humility displayed? What are your responsibilities in keeping us humble? What are some things that we could improve to help keep increase humility? What are some things that you could do?

6. When it comes to the needs of others, would consider yourself a sensitive person? Explain. How often do you consider others before yourself? Why should we operate with the principle of preference? How does this rub against our selfishness? Which one is a fruit of the Spirit? How do we need to die to self in order to do this? How is Jesus emptying himself (kenosis) the perfect example for us? What did Jesus give up for us? How did He view our needs above His own? What lengths was Jesus willing to go so that we could be redeemed and reconciled? What form did he take on? What can we learn from His example? What should be our response?

What are some ways to display sympathy and empathy? Is this something that is easy or challenging for you? Explain. What are some ways to improve in this area?

7. How is Jesus the ultimate unifier? When Jesus is the focus, how does He eliminate division, disunity, and discord? How did He tear down all the barriers and obstacles that divides us? Are there any areas in your life that need to be dealt with to ensure unity within the body? If so, what do you need to do next?

How can we demonstrate that We Care?

#### Growing Closer

1. Who is someone you shared the gospel with this week?
2. What have you been reading in your quiet times?
3. What has God been teaching you?