



The Flame

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from GCCN Prayer Ministries

Christ at the Center of it All A Holy Leisure

You know the one about “all work and no play” dooming us to dullness?

These days we need a new proverb about “all play and no work.” We live in a culture of pleasure. Movies, television, games, parties, videos, and theme parks feed our thirst for thrills and fondness for fun.

So what does it mean for Christ to be the center of our leisure time?

First, life can no longer be compartmentalized. If Christ is the source and definition of all things, then spiritual lives cannot be separate from careers, relationships, or any other pursuits including choices of leisure activities. We can no longer accept our inherited perceptions about life from a secular worldview as composed of varied parts, all loosely related.

The missing ingredient? Authentic worship.

How easily we equate worship with the church’s scheduled “worship hour” or our personal practices of a planned “devotional time.” But worship is the very fiber of our relationship with God rather than an on-again/off-again compartmentalized part of our lives.

Worship is about honoring God and our holy deference for experiencing His presence. That is not something scheduled, but rather every facet of life is part of a worship relationship. The time on the job or with our families and friends, even our leisurely activities are to be no less worshipful than our time spent with others in celebration of our faith. Whatever we do is to be an act of worship, a means by which God is honored.

Yet, how often do we treat our leisure times like some sort of pause button. We run off in search of something to satisfy a desire for pleasure with little thought that the Lord of Life is to be part of those moments as well.

We must take stock. If Jesus is to be the center of everything in our lives, what needs to change? How would our pursuit of pleasure change if He were Lord and at “the center of it all.”

Take Your Next Step

As you pray, ask for the probing of the Spirit to assess how your leisure time either reflects or detracts from your commitment to honor Him as Lord. As He prompts you, ask for forgiveness for any measure in which you have failed to live out your relationship with Him during your leisure activities.

But be warned. When you focus on Him, the enemy will try to hijack your attention. As you review God’s faithfulness, you may be cynically reminded of your unfaithfulness. Ask God to fill you with the wonders of His acts of grace in your life. If the God of grace is indeed at the center of your life, then with every accusation, Satan has become the catalyst to remind you that the God who is at “the center of it all” has redefined your life – all of it, leisure included - with the power of His amazing grace.