

### ***Why Worship with the Church?***

Dr. Whitney gives the following **reasons for the priority of corporate worship**:

1. God reveals Himself more clearly in congregational worship than in nature.
2. God is glorified more in congregational worship than in private worship.
3. Congregational worship is more edifying than private worship.
4. God can be experienced in unique ways in congregational worship.
5. Jesus regularly participated in congregational worship.
6. Congregational worship is more like heaven.

How is there more revealed of God in congregational worship than in nature?

Per Spurgeon, “All places are places of worship to a Christian.” What application(s) could you, therefore, make for yourself?

Why is God glorified more in congregational worship than in private worship? (*cf.* Phil 2:10-11)

What aspects of the 10:30AM service at Providence Church could be considered worship? Why?

What are the strengths & weaknesses of both corporate & private worship?

How are private and corporate worship related to each other?

What message does corporate worship uniquely communicate? (*cf.* Rev 7:9-10; Gal 3:28)

Why might people prefer private worship and its benefits? (*cf.* p.86)

What would you and/or Dr. Whitney (pp. 78-79, 84) say to a person who perceives private worship more edifying or enjoyable?

Why might Dr. Whitney go to such great lengths to show that the local church (collectively gathered) is that which houses God? (1 Cor 3:9b, 16-17; 2 Cor 6:16b; Eph 2:19-22; 1 Pet 2:5a)

Dr. Whitney wrote, “Nothing you do on a consistent basis is more like the activity of heaven than worshipping God with His people.” Why is that pertinent?

Dr. Whitney shares some thoughts on **learning to worship with the church**.

1. You should evaluate your experience by the Word of God, not vice versa.
2. You may sometimes experience the enjoyment of God more in private worship than congregational worship.
3. You have not been thoughtful or wholehearted in congregational worship if this inability to worship publicly is typical.
4. Congregational worship surpasses private worship, but it does not replace it.
5. If you love God, how can you neglect worship in the church?

Any practical suggestions you’d add for one struggling to prioritize corporate worship?

Dr. Whitney wrote: “You cannot be mentally passive in church and expect to meet God.” (85) What does he mean by that and what applications could be made?