

Worship is Life!

Pastor Carla Thompson

I want to begin by asking you to envision something and I want you to shout out what immediately comes to your mind. Yes...shout it out. Hearing our own voice can really make a point.

Are you ready? Here we go...What comes to your mind when I say the word "worship".

Several years ago my son, Trevor, invited us to come to Las Cruces to see the Aggies vs. Lobos game. Trevor was in the Army ROTC at NMSU. NMSU's top rival is the NM Lobos. It happened to be their homecoming game. The tradition is for the ROTC from Albuquerque to run the game ball half way down I-25 and then the Las Cruces ROTC runs it the rest of the way. Then the entire unit runs it in with the homecoming parade and right into the game...it's a big deal.

The parking lot was filled with hundreds of tailgaters.

We had connections so we got to sit right next to the 50-yard line??? Right? Wrong... we got to sit right next to the ...cannon. Umm...Hmmm...that's right...The cannon that gets fired after each Aggie touchdown. Yay! The Aggies lost and my ears were spared.

The stadium was packed. Aggie's Memorial Stadium seats over 30 thousand worshipers...I mean "fans".

The bleachers were stained in what they call "The Crimson Tide" ...an ocean of dark red...crazy fan! Crazy? Yes...crazy!

- Fans ringing cowbells...
- Half naked fans with numbers/logos painted on their chests
- Totally insane fans shouting with joy and leaping out of their seats in expectation of a "**possible**" touchdown.

Since I'm not really a football fan I was (at times) emotionally removed from it all. I found myself daydreaming of what it would look like if worshiper of Jesus came as prepared to express their devotion, as these football fans were at expressing their devotion for the Aggies? What would that kind of preparation look like?

That leads me to my opening question: "What comes to your mind when I say the word - "worship"?"

The verb: worship; is called a transitive verb; meaning...it's incomplete unless the object of its action is included. For instance, the statement: "Here I am to worship" is incomplete. It should be..." Here I am to worship God."

When we are living our lives with intentionality ...When we are living out the action of worship intentionally...then all of LIFE IS WORSHIP. But only when Jesus is the object of our actions.

So...Dishes, Laundry, Child Training, Sports Activities, Preaching, Dancing, Art, Shouting, Clapping, Raised Hands, Bowed Knees, Speaking, and Standing are all expressions of the transitive verb: Worship. Why? Because in our "doing" we are "being" mindful of who it is that we serve. And another definition of worship is: to serve.

A life lived with this kind of intentionality beckons God to inhabit it.

What could possibly transform a church or a life more than for God to come and occupy more of the rooms within it? Not just the Sunday part of our lives or the living room where company might see but the Dirty Laundry Room too... Lord, we want the enemy to see the "No Vacancy" sign in the window of Cottonwood. And we want the Light of Christ to shine to brightly here that when the lost have come to find the Savior, they leave say...." Their God is among them!"