

How to Worship without insulting God

Dr. Sam Storms, Enjoying God Ministries

Read: Acts 17:22-31

- How do you worship a God who has no needs?
- How do you honor a God whose honor has been and always will be infinite?
- What do you bring to a God who owns everything?
- What can you give a God who lacks nothing?

The answer to these questions is found in what Paul says about God in his famous sermon on Mars Hill.

- Creation: God is the source of all things (v. 24a)
- Providence: God is sovereign over all things (v. 24b)
- Preservation: God sustains all things (v. 25)

From these three truths, Paul draws two important conclusions:

1. God doesn't dwell in what humans make. (v. 24)
2. God cannot be served by humans as though He were needy. (v. 25)

"The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by hands. And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything, because he himself gives all men life and breath and everything else." – Acts 17:24-25

Questions

1. In the first portion of his sermon, Dr. Storms reminded us that v. 24 teaches that everything – billy goats and butterflies, bugs and plants, mountains and mountain streams – is created by God. Meditate on that truth for a moment. How does the comprehensive nature of God's creation affect you? Does it overwhelm you? What does this truth do to your personal view of God? Explain.
2. In Acts 17:25, we see clearly that God is sovereign over all things, including difficult things like war and hurricanes. In a world that is daily filled with pain and strife, the reality of the sovereignty of God can cause us to have more questions than answers. Do you find the sovereignty of God easy or hard to grasp? Why?
3. Often there are things in life that just don't make sense to us – illness, death, war, tragedies, etc. If you could ask God one question about a why a particular event or tragedy happened, what would you ask Him?
4. Does the reality of the sovereignty of God – that God controls "all things" – give you peace or angst? Do you find this truth about God comforting or intimidating? Explain.
5. Dr. Storms taught us that God made humans so we could have Him, not so He could have us. Discuss a few current examples from your own life where you are asking and seeking Him. (*Ex. Marriage, parenting, job responsibilities, etc.*)
6. In 1 Peter 4:11, Peter writes, "... If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen." Dr. Storms challenged us that in view of this verse, when we serve, we should serve as a recipient – not as a donor. How does this verse and subsequent teaching impact your view of service? Explain.
7. Sam taught us that in worship we must position ourselves to receive God's grace and power. He added that in order to truly worship God without offending Him, we must bring Him our thirst, our weakness, and our hunger. We must bring Him our empty cup! What area(s) of your life are you thirsty, weak, and hungry? Spend the next few moments asking God to fill your cup.