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Bible Study ~ Passionate Worship

February 7-14, 2017

Source: *Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations* by Robert Schnase

Psalm 84:12

1. Passionate Worship: an extraordinary eagerness to offer the best in worship, honoring God with excellence and with an unusual clarity about the purpose of connecting people to G_____.
2. Passionate: an intense desire, an ardent spirit, strong feelings, and the sense of heightened importance; eagerness, anticipation, expectancy; an emotional connection that goes beyond intellectual consent.
3. Worship: devotion to God, the practices that support, the honor and love of God; forms communities, shapes souls, corrects self-interest, binds people to each other and to God; breathes life into the community of Christ's followers, forms identity, and provides a place of common learning about faith and listening to God.
4. In worship, people practice the highest command Jesus has taught us: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself" (Luke 10:27).
5. Through worship, people seek to connect with God, allow God's Word to shape them, and offer their response of faith. God's Spirit changes us through worship. "Let my people go, so that they may worship me."(Exodus 8:1)
6. Through worship: God pardons sin. God restores relationship. God changes lives.
7. Worship is the most likely setting for people to experience the renewed relationship with God where a person realizes that she or he is pardoned, forgiven, loved, and accepted by God (justification) Luke 18:14.
8. God expects lives to change in worship: attendees become disciples of Jesus Christ, and a crowd becomes the body of Christ.
9. Psalm 84:2, 10

"Where lives are changed, hurts are healed, hope is restored, and Jesus is Lord!"

10. Psalm 84:7

11. Passionate Worship is a _____, a _____, f_____ and e_____. Must have a mindset of e_____!

12. Passionate Worship is not r_____ to a particular s_____.

13. A _____, e _____, l_____ - c _____ worship derives from: the e _____ of God's presence, the d _____ of worshipers for God's Word, the c _____ h _____ people deliberately seek when they encounter Christ in the presence of other Christians.

14. Worship leaves people c _____, s _____ and l _____ by the Spirit of God; and it changes how they view themselves and their neighbors. An hour of p _____ w _____ changes all of the other hours of the week.

15. Passionate Worship means a church c _____ enough about the service to o _____ its b _____, its u _____, its h _____. Churches that practice Passionate Worship make this sacred time as free as possible from d _____, a _____, and i _____, and people sense the deliberate c _____ in p _____ and i _____. They leave behind g _____, interpersonal r _____, the need for a _____, and the d _____ to control, and they l _____ God with all their h _____ and s _____ and s _____ and m _____.

16. Quality m _____ resonates through congregations who emphasize P _____ W _____.

17. Passionate Worship includes those practices done a _____ f _____ the physical presence of others in the body of Christ: personal d _____, private p _____, m _____ and r _____.

18. Worship c _____ minds. Worship o _____ hearts. Worship c _____ behavior.

19. In churches marked by P _____ W _____, people don't merely s _____ u _____ and sit p _____ in their pews; they are a _____ engaged, g _____ connected, p _____ addressed, and d _____ challenged. People make s _____ progress, they w _____ to be present, and they approach worship with a sense of e _____, a _____ God's presence. They t _____ about their e _____ to others, i _____ their f _____, and v _____ worship as the most i _____ hour of the week for themselves and for the church. E _____ has a r _____ in fostering P _____ W _____.

Questions for Personal Reflection:

1. What sustains your devotional life during the week?
2. How do you prepare for worship? What are the resources, practices, and perhaps people who help you feel ready to worship God?
3. For you, where does worship take place beyond Sunday morning in the sanctuary?
4. Psalm 84:2 -- When did you last feel that you could hardly wait for worship?