

North End Collective

Summer Renewal 2022



Week 2: What is the Worship?

At North End Collective, we fundamentally believe the Church is the tangible expression of Christ in our City, made known by any group of people who commit to embracing three rhythms: **Worshipping** together, experiencing **Community** together, and living on **Mission** together.

While the Church can certainly be more than this, it can never be less.

This is what we call the **irreducible minimum**. Wherever these **three things** are present, then we have found an expression of **the church** in our midst!

Opening Question:

What's the **first** thing that comes to mind when you think about worship? Is it a song? A style (traditional, contemporary, or liturgical)? Is it a type of preaching (practical, topical, exegetical)? Is it some other activity on a Sunday?

Would you say worship (as it's typically thought of) is something you enjoy and look forward to, something you tolerate, or perhaps even something you dread (it's okay to say it!)?

What if we told you that worship really isn't about what you do, but rather who you become?

We believe something happens to us when we spend time with anyone (or anything) - it literally **forms** us to the degree that we become more like that which we worship (whether it's God or something else). It changes what we talk about, what we watch or listen to, how we think about others, and sometimes even how we dress (sports fans, anyone???) - all of these things happen to us based on who, what, or where we spend our time.

Main Idea:

Worship, at its most basic level, is an invitation **from** God to spend time **with** God in order to become more **like** God!

Take a moment to read Romans 12:1-2. What stands out to you about this passage?

Notice the tension being teased out here between two kinds of formation: there is **conformation** (*changing ourselves to fit something different*) on the one hand, and **transformation** (*being changed by someone/something else to become something different*) on the other.

How have you seen yourself change to become more like the things you spend a lot of time on (conformation)?

Here's what's so incredible about spending time with God - God offers us more than conformation - God offers us nothing less than **transformation**! God offers us the chance to be changed by God in order to become more like God.

Anything we do (especially along side of others) to place ourselves in God's presence in order for us to express our love to God and be changed by God is worship! It's not about the **place**

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we worship, it's not about the **person** who leads us in worship, and it's not about the **performance** of worship - it's simply about our **posture**.

In order for the church to be the church it must embrace this first rhythm of Worship, and place itself beneath the reign and rule of God for the sake of God having God's way with us!

Because worship isn't limited by place, person, or performance, and is instead dictated by our posture, then this means there is incredible freedom given to us, our families, and our Missional Communities in figuring out what worship looks like for us.

Spend time this week either on your own, with family, or your MC figuring out what worship could look like for you. Then ask these two questions - ***What is one place in my life where I need transformation the most?*** and, ***How would transformation in that part of my life better help me to offer myself as a "living sacrifice" to others in this city?***