

# Welcome to New Life!

We are very pleased you are here. We sincerely hope you will be especially aware of God's presence as we worship. If this is your first time to worship with us, here is what you can expect:

## Worship in Singing & Giving

- We leave how to worship up to you as an individual. During **singing** worship, you are free to connect with God in whatever biblical way that expresses your heart's adoration. Some may remain seated, others stand, kneel, clap or lift their hands.
- If you would like to receive personal **prayer** during worship with singing, you may go to one of the Prayer Teams located at the back of the sanctuary.
- Invitation is given for **tithes and offerings**. If you are our guest, please do not feel obligated to contribute when God's tithes and offerings are received.

## Worship in Sharing God's Love

Expressions of greeting and God's love are extended to all, especially to our guests.

## Worship in Meditating on God's Word

Teaching from the Bible for about 35 minutes.

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We encourage you to use our **staffed Nursery** [which has a private nursing room] and **Children's Churches** during the service. Please ask an usher for assistance in locating the various rooms.

{over for sermon notes}

February 3, 2008

Pastor Bob Wine

### REFOCUSING

*"We must all break out of our self-focused comfort zone"*  
Romans 8:12-13a

**FOCUS FOR THE DAY...** "God's rival for your affection."

Would you genuinely love to have such a relationship with God that you visit with Him like Jesus did? If so, that very desire to communicate with God shows He has chosen to appeal to you to come close to Him.

**"Overcoming God's greatest rival for your affection  
... your own SELF-centeredness"**

#### 1. WHO MATTERS MOST, GOD OR ME?

- Do you find conversations you are in focused more on human interests or on God and His ways?
- Feeling better has become more important to us than finding God.
- This is backwards! We have arranged things so that God is now worthy of honor because He has honored us.

**This reveals our confused values that determine how we manage our time, money and affections.**

- Other things in life are more important to us than worshipping God.  
**Luke 14:26** "If you want to be my disciple, **you must hate everyone else by comparison**—your father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—yes, even your own life. Otherwise, you cannot be my disciple." NLT
- We are committed to God, yet we've come to love ourselves more than we love God.

#### 2. FIXING YOUR AFFECTIONS REDUCES STRESS

- King Jehoshaphat had made some very bad choices, but found grace in God's eyes – Why?
- 2 **Chronicles 19:3b** "you have prepared your heart to seek God."

#### - PLEASE NOTE -

God is more interested in the attitude of your heart than in your behavior.

- What the phrase “*preparing your heart*” reveals.

**Isaiah 26:3** “You will keep in **perfect peace** all who trust in you, all whose **thoughts are fixed on you!**” NLT

**Psalms 125:1** “Those who trust in the Lord are as secure as Mount Zion; they **will not** be defeated but will endure forever.” NLT

**2 Chronicles 16:9** “For the eyes of the Lord search back and forth across the whole earth, looking for people whose hearts are perfect toward him, so that **He can show His great power in helping them.**” LB

### 3. FIXING YOUR AFFECTIONS IS A CHOICE

**Hosea 10:12** “**Plow up the hard ground of your hearts, for now is the time to seek the Lord,** that he may come and shower righteousness upon you.” NLT

- Plowing is all about positioning yourself (your spirit) to receive from God to better hear God’s voice.

**Romans 8:12-13a** “My dear friends, we **must not** live to **satisfy our desires.** If you do, you will die.” CEV

- Our selfish desires need to be plowed up and turned over in order to plant seeds.

**Romans 8:14** “The true children of God are those who let God’s Spirit lead them.” NCV

#### How to purposely break your routines so they are more flexible?

- A missions trip to a third world country
- Fasting — whether it is fasting food, TV, hobbies, etc.
- Extended times of prayer and Bible reading

- “**Prepare your heart**” by fixing your affection on loving God more than any other attraction in life.

**Mark 12:30** “Love the Lord your God with **all your heart** and with **all your soul** and with **all your mind** and with **all your strength.**”

#### HOW CAN I BEST PUT THIS INTO PRACTICE?

**Ask yourself:** “*What is it that keeps me from loving God more than anything?*” Is it your divided heart having to choose between loving God and your selfish desire or stubborn ego? Remember, it is that same divided heart that distracts and drains your joy, fulfillment and passion for God.

**Refocus and face reality.** Do what your heart is calling you to do. This will help you to talk with God more freely, the very thing you are longing for. You will begin knowing that God is your only passion because your energy and confidence level will move to a new level.

**Take some time today** to identify what specific thing you need to do in order to break out of your self-focused comfort zone so you can love God more than yourself.

## “DIGGING DEEPER”

For personal or small group study

Week of February 3, 2008

**QUICK REVIEW:** Which point or scripture passage most challenged, confused, or caught your attention in this week’s message? Why?

### TODAY’S FOCUS

1. What do you feel most people’s lives are driven by? What has been the driving force in your life?
2. Rick Warren says, “Focusing on ourselves will never reveal our life purposes.” Do you agree or disagree with this statement? Why? What should we focus on? [Romans 8:6, 12-14; Matthew 6:33; John 15:15-16]

### GETTING THE POINT

1. In spite of all the advertising around you, how can you remind yourself that life is about living for God and not yourself? [Luke 14:26-25]  
In verse 26, what does the word *hate* refer to? Does it mean hate as we think of it, or is it referring to what place our devotion to family should take in comparison to our devotion to Jesus? How do we as Christians really do in this area of our lives? Be honest!! ☺
2. There is a statement in the sermon notes that says, “*God is more interested in the attitude of your heart than in your behavior.*” What does this mean to you? How does this affect the way you view yourself? ... the way you approach life? ... your relationship with God and others? [1 Peter 1:13-19; 1 Samuel 13:14; 2 Samuel 12:1-13; Philippians 2:5]
3. In what ways do you struggle between loving God and your own selfish desires? How is this like being a God-player? [James 4:1-10; Romans 12:1-3]

### A LOOK INSIDE

1. What is it that keeps you from loving God more than anything? Name some specific things you can do, and plan to do, to refocus your heart’s desire to loving Jesus more than yourself or others. [1 John 2:15-16; Hosea 10:12; Mark 12:30]