

<https://youtu.be/XHAeh7Cy0ho?si=VX8z6etbMwAZ1vAi>

I will seek to have my whole life become an act of worship.

Video Key Points:

- The main point of this affirmation is that my whole life would be devoted to the Lord and that I would integrate my discipleship into every area of my daily life.
- Rather than just worship on Sunday morning so that I can then do what I want to do, or need to do, during the week, each day I live is an opportunity to honor Christ.
- Colossians 3:17, 23 capture this idea with the phrase: Whatever you do...
- Whatever you do, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus
- Whatever you do, work at with all your heart, as working for the Lord not men.
- **Illustration of the Dresser:** *Imagine this dresser is your life. We have received Christ into our life, so we have this "Christ Drawer" that we can open on Sunday for worship, and then close it and go do other things the rest of the week.*
- Following Christ means moving from consigning Christ to just one "drawer" but making him the whole dresser framework. Then all the drawers fit into Him
- This idea is what the Code devotions #11-15 are talking about when they affirm that we make our whole life an act of worship.
- **However**, I want to frame this a little differently than how the CODE frames it, because I want to highlight the importance of corporate worship, in living our whole life in devotion and service to Christ. I believe setting aside one day per week for corporate worship is essential for our daily walk with Christ.
- **My Definitions of the Words:** I would reserve the word worship for the corporate gathering of the church to come and present ourselves before God, and then use the word devotion for our personal and individual prayer and service to God.
- Psalm 95 – We assemble so that we can praise the Lord our God together. The key to worship is coming before God, to present ourselves before our King and give over to Him our lives for His service.
- Colossians 3:2, 16 – Corporate worship empowers us toward daily devotion!
- 3:2 – *Set your minds on things above not on the things of the earth*
- 3:16 – *Let the word of Christ dwell in you [plural] richly... singings psalms and hymns and spiritual songs.*
- I believe we need that time each week to worship God with others. We are by nature so focused on our individual concerns, that we need to gather with our brothers and sisters to get out of that mode and set our heart and minds on the one who is truly worthy of our worship.
- In what ways does the regular/weekly act of corporate worship enable you to keep a daily focus on Christ? How do we make sure we don't use weekly worship as an excuse for sidelining our faith in Christ during the week?

Questions for Understanding:

- Read Colossians 3:17, 23 – Do you think these verses capture the idea behind this Affirmation?
- Compare John 4:23-24 to Romans 12:1 – What does it mean to worship in spirit and truth?
- Does the Dresser Analogy help explain how we tend to compartmentalize our faith in Christ? What does it mean to make Christ the framework for the Dresser instead of just another drawer we open and close?

Life Questions:

- Read Psalm 95 - In what ways does the regular/weekly act of corporate worship enable you to keep a daily focus on Christ? How do we make sure we don't use weekly worship as an excuse for sidelining our faith in Christ during the week?
- Which of the 5 devotional days spoke most to you this week?

Code, p.28, 32: *Are there parts of my life which are not aligned with God's heart? What is one area of my life where I am not imitating my Father God, and how can I walk in love in that area?*

Code, p.34: *Am I devoting my day to Jesus? Am I submitting myself under His Lordship when my feet hit the floor?*

Use one of the Devotion prayers or Pray using your own Words

https://youtu.be/QnTtaL9kgv8?si=VmGtF5CHV_vbluIM

Before all things, I will seek first His Kingdom
and righteousness, trusting Him for my needs

Video Key Points:

- Matthew 6:25 – Jesus says do not be anxious for your life...
- Exercise: Draw a Circle and put your name in the Center. Then list within the circle as many things in your life as you can think of in 3-4 minutes.
- Matthew 6:24 – We have to settle once and for all who is the Master in our life.
- To be a Christian is to declare Jesus Christ is Lord. We have officially given Christ the title of Lord, but within our heart we are often seeking to reclaim the throne for our self or some other master. When that happens, there is anxiety because we are conflicted between two masters.
- Galatians 2:20 - To seek first the Kingdom is to put Christ at the center of life and decide that no one but Christ will rule in your life.
- Exercise Part Two: Draw a new circle – put Christ instead of self at the center. *What changes in your life if Christ is the one in charge of running your life?*
- The 2nd part of this affirmation is to know and trust in our Father. What leads us to reclaim authority over our life is a lack of trust in God the Father. There is something we feel like we just have to have and we don't get it, we can't be happy and so we reclaim the throne.
- In the Kingdom we have been adopted as sons and daughters. This means we can trust in God our Father – who knows what we need before we even ask Him, and so if we do need it He will provide it – or He will give us what we need to live without it.

Questions for Understanding:

- Read Matthew 6:24-34 – Why can't we have two Masters?
- What is the connection between anxiety and who is the master of our life?

Life Questions:

- Which of the 5 devotional days spoke most to you this week?
- Life Circle Exercise: What are the things in your life over which you have anxiety? Or, what in your life most often triggers anxiety?

Code, p.23: *Do I really think Jesus is a good King? Do I trust him to rule over me completely?*

Code, p.26: *What do my current priorities look like? How can I serve God in my marriage, my parenting, my friendships, my workplace, my school, my hobbies?*

- Life Circle Exercise: What changes in my life if Christ is at the center?

Use one of the Devotion prayers or this Prayer: *Father help me trust you in _____ [this area of my life] so that I am not ruled by anxiety but am keeping Christ at the center.*

Additional Questions for Week 2 – The Code

- Day 6 - When you read the opening line, “There is nothing more important than the kingdom of God,” what was your reaction? Did you have a ‘but’ hanging on the tip of your tongue? Were you in emphatic agreement? Were you indifferent?
- Did you follow how the author got to righteousness meaning attending the needs of others? If not, maybe this short video will help: [The Meaning of Righteousness in the Bible | BibleProject™](#)
 - Have you ever loved someone so much that you wanted to support their dreams and ambitions? Or were willing to put their needs above your own? That is what our love for God (and others) should look like. A love that leads us to put the kingdom first.

- Day 7 - If you’ve never encountered a season of worry for your provision as described here, what are other things that make/have made you worry? Maybe exams, presentations, or deadlines? Maybe sickness or a health scare? Maybe concerns about how others perceive you?
- Why are you worrying about these things? Is there a root fear or concern that these worrying thoughts are trying to protect you from? Is there a lie you believe that is leading to these worries?
 - Can you think of a time where it was clear that your worrying was unfounded and God worked everything out? Or maybe you’ve heard stories from others about how God has provided? How can remembering God’s provision in the past help you with the worries you are facing today?
 - Is God’s provision of your needs dependent upon how well you obey Him?
 - If you’re not worried, is it because you are at peace with God and others? Or is it because you’ve idolized comfort over Jesus? Or numbed yourself to the point that you feel?

- Day 8 - If anxiousness is a big issue for you, coming face to face with it and being asked about steps to fix it may seem overwhelming (and produce more anxiety). Start with one thing. What is one thing you can do to either build trust between you and God or start to determine the root of your anxiety? Maybe there’s a lie you’re believing or an experience that negatively shaped you. Maybe you don’t know God well enough and therefore trusting Him is difficult. Start with identification of these things, then take a small step forward.

- Day 9 - What does it look like to submit to authority? Are we ‘yes’ men & women?
- What qualities or characteristics would a person you were willing to submit to have? Does Jesus have these qualities?

Affirmation # 2 - General

- What is God’s Kingdom? Watch the short video below. Does this align with your definition of what God’s kingdom is?
 - [The Meaning of Basileia \(Greek Word for “Kingdom”\) in the Bible](#)
- Why do you think seeking first The Kingdom and trusting God for our needs falls under ‘Loving God’?