

The Marks of a Spirit-Filled Christian

Ephesians 5:18-21

Rev. Phil Gifford

February 3, 2008

Introductory Comments

1) Worship is more than what we do at church

“If worship is just one thing we do, then everything becomes mundane. If worship is the one thing we do, then everything takes on eternal significance.”

Timothy Christenson

“¹ I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. ² Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. “

Romans 12:1-2

2) Worship takes place when we are filled with the Spirit

“And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit,”

Ephesians 5:18

What are four marks of a Spirit-Filled Christian?

1) The Mark of Congregational Worship

a) We need to worship as a community

“addressing one another...”

Ephesians 5:19a

b) We need to be diverse in our approach to worship

”... in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart,” Ephesians 5:19b

“If we say that we can’t worship unless we have X, if that X is anything other than the cross of Christ...we are worshipping in idolatry.”

Bob Kauflin

“Idolatry is worshipping anything that ought to be used or using anything that is meant to be worshipped.”

Augustine

2) The Mark of Heartfelt Worship

“²³ Take away from me the noise of your songs; to the melody of your harps I will not listen, ²⁴ But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.” Amos 5:23-24

“And the Lord said: ‘Because this people draw near with their mouth and honor me with their lips, while their hearts are far from me, and their fear of me is a commandment taught by men,’” Isaiah 29:13

“²³ But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. ²⁴ God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.” John 4:23-24

3) The Mark of Thankful Worship

“giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,”

Ephesians 5:20

“Through him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name.” Hebrews 13:15

4) The Mark of Submissive Worship

“submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.”

Ephesians 5:21