Dear Open Door Family,

When we talk about worship, too many times we narrowly define it as the singing part of our services. We forget that we are called to worship God as a way of life, not just when we are in church on Sunday mornings. Worship is so much more. It is clear that no matter what we do in our lives we can do it in a way that honors the Lord Jesus (1 Cor. 10:31). So, the way I eat, the way I drive, the way that I talk to my wife and daughters, the way that I do my job, can be worship if I am seeking to honor God in those things. What does it mean to honor God? It is to have a heart focused on making God look good. Let's look together at the whole idea of who or what we worship in this verses.

Romans 1:25 *(NIV) They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator--who is forever praised. Amen.*

Romans 1:25 *(MSG) ...they traded the true God for a fake god, and worshiped the god they made instead of the God who made them...*

I always thought this verse applied to people who turned away from God to shape and mold their gods from trees, stones, or precious metals. However, because the .... *creature can exist independent of God, self-sufficient, self-directing, and self-fulfilling. Mankind made himself his god in place of the true God.* (Bible Knowledge Com.) So, anytime that we look to find satisfaction in anything, or anyone other than God we have made a god of our own. It may be that the amount of time and effort that I put into keeping physically fit has become something that takes my eyes off God. There is nothing wrong with exercise and sports, unless I am seeking to find fulfillment in them rather than the Lord. That is true of anything including relationships. If we are seeking ultimate contentment there rather than in our relationship with Jesus, we are worshipping something from creation rather than the Creator. Paul Trip put it this way: **"**As worshippers we are always living for something. Something is always laying claim to the affection and rulership of our hearts. ...Either you are living in pursuit of creation or you are living in pursuit of the Creator. You are looking for satisfaction and meaning in the physical, created world, or you are finding it in the Lord**"** (A Shelter in the Time of Storm pg. 149)

PRAYER: Lord God, help me to Worship ONLY You. To fill my heart and life with You and Your wonder and beauty. May I always be in total and complete AWE of You!

Pastor Mark Kieft
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