

Why should we worship Jesus as Christians?

- Alrighty, welcome to the Vintage Jesus lectures. There's 12. This is number 10. And so we're entering the fourth quarter, and today's topic is why should we worship Jesus as Christians? And this is the second most important decision, excuse me, the most important decision. I'm tired and I'm turning 50 and I'm aging in dog years, which means I feel like I'm 350 years old. So let me say this again. The most important decision you make is who you worship. The second most important decision is who you marry. Who you marry. The most important decision is who do you worship? And ultimately we all worship someone, and we'll get into this in great detail. And my hope, my prayer, my encouragement is that you would worship Jesus. And when it comes to this issue of worship, we tend to think only in terms of a genre of music or events at a church or things that happen on a Sunday morning. And my paradigm on worship was really transformed some years ago. I was a young pastor in my 20s, got on a plane, went to go to a missions trip in India. Landed in India, ended up in really rural areas among people that really were living without electricity, without a lot of technology, very rural environment. And what I noticed was how spiritual everyone and everything was. They were celebrating Hindu festivals. So people were dressed up, painted literally in just hot colors of paint. And some were dressed up like animals. And then if you go by the water, some people were baptizing themselves to cleanse their sins over and over and over. And then as we went out to the rural areas, there were shrines everywhere, there were witchdoctors. And as we were walking into one village and I was gonna preach at a pastors conference there, along the side of the road, there were all of these little shrines, little huts. And in them, there would be maybe some money, food, gifts to the local demon god, their version of a god, which was demonic. And in many of these, there would be blood and feathers. They were actually sacrificing chickens and other animals in these little huts, in all of the neighborhoods to all of their gods. And I thought this was the most sort of frightening, overtly demonic, dark worship I'd ever seen. So then I got to the pastors conference. Pastors walked for days, there was hundreds of them under a hut, super hot. They all love Jesus. And I was talking to one particular pastor's wife. She was really sweet. And she was asking, "Is this your first time to India?" I was like, "Yes, it's my first time to India." And I said, "Have you ever been to America?" She said, "Yeah, I went once a few years ago." I said, "Oh well, that's great." And I'm thinking our country is so awesome. And where she lives is a Scooby-Doo episode. I thought she'd probably be excited to come back to America. And I said, "Yeah, well, "are you looking forward to coming back to America?" And she got a very sort of cold look. And I said, "What's wrong?" She said, "I'll never go back to that country." I said, "Why is that?" She said, "I just couldn't handle all of the idolatry." I was like, I just walked by some dude painted blue, another guy dressed up like a bird, some people jumping in the ocean and people that are killing chickens. I feel like maybe you got the idols. I didn't say it exactly like that 'cause I loved her, but that's what I'm thinking in my mind. And so that's my inner voice. My outer voice was, "Oh really, why is that?" So I did say it nicely. She said, "Well, I went to the mall." She said, "It seems like they worshiped shopping there." So then we went to a restaurant," she said, "it seemed like people worship their stomach." She said, "Then they took us to a resort "and it seemed like people worshiped comfort." And I thought, "Oh my gosh, she's been to Scottsdale." I'm glad she didn't make it to the golf course. I mean, that's where we really

put the big money. And she said, "I went to," she said, "I saw all the sports." She said, "To me, the stadiums looked like "the biggest churches in the world." And she said, "Everybody goes there to worship men. "They wear their shirts and jerseys and they cheer." And she said, "It all looked like church to me, "it all looked like religion to me, "it all looked like worship to me." And I thought, you know what, she's right. We tend to see idolatry or godless worship in other cultures. And in our culture, we just see it as entertainment or sport or recreation or shopping or just lifestyle choices. This is why sometimes if you get a cross-cultural ministry or missions experience, you come back with fresh eyes on your own culture going, oh, maybe for some people the bar really is their church. Maybe for some people the restaurant really is where they go to worship. Paul says not to worship your stomach. Maybe the mall is really where we go to worship. We spend all of our money so that we can impress other people that then they will esteem us. And what we're looking for is really to be glorified, which is to be worshiped. So this issue of worship is much, much bigger than we tend to think. And what I wanna give it for you is this category to look at all of life through, all of the decisions that we make, and all of the motivations that we have. And so I'm grateful to this pastor's wife. She was very honest with me. And honestly, it was just one of those transforming, God-assigned conversations in my life. And I'm hoping that we have something similar together today. So let me start, I'll go through a series of questions, and then at the end, I'll leave some time to answer your questions. Here's the first question: What is worship? What is worship? And it says this in Romans 11:36 through 12:1, "To Him," so that's to God, "be the glory forever." So there's one object of glory and that's a continual object of glory, that's God. It's not like God's the object, and then someone or something else becomes the object. Forever, God alone is to be the object of glory. We'll talk about this. "Amen," and that's human beings agreeing with God, saying, "Yes, make it so." "I appeal to you therefore." When it comes to worship, there are so many things that are appealing to us: our flesh, culture, marketing, entertainment. Paul says, "Let me appeal to you." "Brothers, by the mercies of God, "to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, "holy and acceptable to God, "which is your spiritual worship." Paul says, "Here's the definition of spiritual "or Spirit-filled or Spirit-led worship." And when it comes to this issue of what worship is, worship is not just a genre or style of music. Worship is not something that starts and stops. He talks about forever. Worship is not something that just happens in a church. And worship is not just something that Christians do. It's a universal human action and reaction. And we're all worshiping someone or something all the time. The only difference is who or what is the object of worship and how that object is worshiped. So the first question is, who or what do you live for? When he talks about glory, the word there literally means heaviness or weightiness. Think of it like old-time scales, or think of it like an old-school teeter-totter. If something is heavier than something else, there's an imbalance. You can tell that this is heavier. That's the language of glory. What he's saying is the object of worship is whatever you determine in your life is the heaviest, the most glorious. So if you look at someone's life and they drink all the time and they don't make it to church and they lose their job and they lose their spouse, for them alcohol is in the glory position. It's the heaviest thing. It's outweighed their relationship with God, it's outweighed their job, it's outweighed their marriage. It's heavier. It's in the position of glory. Therefore, from the perspective of God, every time they take a drink, what they are doing is worshiping. And ultimately that object of worship is lying to them. It is saying, "I will make your life better."

Because what happens is idols or false objects of worship, they're part of Satan's lie plan, and they promise things that they never deliver. And so glory is who or what is in that position of weightiness or heaviness; who or what you live for. This can be a person. You can have somebody else be your functional god. You can have a hobby; you can have a job; you can have your appearance; you can have your income, your lifestyle, your status, almost anyone or anything could be in the glory position. Who or what do you live for? And then number two, how do you live? So who or what determines the priority. And then the valuation determines the activity. He says to offer your body as living sacrifices. So the question would be, who or what do you make the biggest sacrifices for? We all make sacrifices of our time. We make sacrifices of our money. We make sacrifices of our energy or our focus. And the question is, what is in the glory position, the priority for you, who or what? And then what sacrifices do you make for that person or thing? That is your act of worship, and that is your object of worship. Do you see where now worship is a much bigger issue than just singing three to five songs on a Sunday? It includes that, but it's much greater than that. I'll give you one sort of painful example. Some years ago, I had a young woman come up to me after church, and I've had this conversation probably a hundred times. Single gal, loved Jesus, grew up in a Christian home. Tell me if you've ever heard this story. Met a non-Christian boy. Got emotionally entangled, got physically entangled, moved in with him. Okay. She comes to me and she says, "Pastor Mark, "I just, I wanna run this by you. "It seems like you're against "people living and sleeping together that aren't married." Not just me; the Father, the Son, the Holy Spirit, there's a whole parade of us that are against this. Moses, Paul. There's a lot of us that are against this. And she said, "I don't see why it's such a big deal. "We're both consenting adults, "and we're not hurting anyone." And I said, "You're hurting Jesus." She said, "Well, what do you mean?" I said, "Jesus was your priority until you met this boy. "And now the boy is a higher priority. "He now outweighs Jesus in your life." She said, "No, he doesn't." I said, "Well, has this boy gotten you closer to Jesus?" She looked at the ground, she was like, "No, no." "Well, if he's not getting you closer to Jesus, "then he's taken Jesus' place in priority. "He's in the glory position for you. "He's now more important for you than Jesus." And I said, "So you shouldn't be living "or sleeping with him." She said, "I don't know what the big deal is." I said, "Because the Bible says to offer your body "as a living sacrifice, holy unto the Lord. "And you're offering your body "as a living sacrifice to the boy." I said, "The way God sees it, the bed is an altar, "he's a priest, you worship him. "And when you lay down, that's an object of worship. "You are offering your body as a living sacrifice." I said, "So this is much bigger than he's my boyfriend. "He's your god." I said, "And Jesus will never bless the relationship "where someone else is the god, "especially if that god is pushing you away "from your relationship with your real God." God sees things in terms of worship. We just tend to see them in selfish ways instead of sacrificial ways. Okay? Now, as I say this, some of you the light bulbs are gonna go off. Let me just be real practical. For some of you, you worship golf. How do I know? Look at your schedule, look at your budget. For some of you, you worship hunting or fishing. Is it a sin to hunt, fish, or golf? No, no, no. Usually what happens: for some people, it's their relationship; for some people, it's their life status; for some people, it's their appearance or their reputation. And usually what happens is we take a good thing, we put it in God's place and it becomes a god thing, that makes it a bad thing. Usually when we're worshipping someone or something that we shouldn't be, it's not that that person or thing is even

necessarily bad or wrong. They just make a bad Jesus. They make bad god. So the questions that I've got in your notes, and what I'm trying to articulate is that when the Bible says, so when you eat or drink, or Paul says in 1 Corinthians 6:10, whatever you do, hunt, fish, golf, work, surf the internet, take a vacation, get married, go on a date, raise a pet, whatever you do, do it all to what? The glory of God. That whatever it is or whoever it is, doesn't outweigh God as the priority in your life. And I'm kind of off my notes a little bit, but let me make this real practical. Many people who I know they want to use Jesus to get the god they really want. They don't wanna worship Jesus as the God they really need. This is where it'll be like, "Jesus, I'll worship You, if You'll save my spouse. "Jesus, I'll worship You, if You give me a job. "Jesus, I'll worship You, if You cure my cancer. "Jesus, I'll worship You, "if my kids are obedient and compliant." And what we sometimes wanna do, we wanna use Jesus to get what we consider to be actually our higher priority, our greatest glory. And Jesus won't be used to give us someone or something else to worship. This is where people get very frustrated and disappointed with God. "I tried Jesus and He didn't work." What people are saying is, "I had a god I wanted to worship, "and I asked Jesus to help me and He told me no. "It's like He thinks He's the only God or something. "And He's not willing to help me get "the real god that I want." Jesus is not a means to your god. Jesus is your God. So a couple of questions, since we're gonna make this very, very convicting. Who or what do you make sacrifices for? We all make sacrifices: our time, our money, our energy. Who or what is most important to me? This is in your notes. If I could have any object, purchase, or experience, what would that be? Who or what makes me the most happy? The most happy? What is the one person or thing I could not live without? How do I spend my money? We'll get into that at the end. And who or what do I devote my time to? 'Cause you can say that Jesus is your God, but you look at your schedule, you look at your budget, you look at your focus, your interest, your emotions, you start to find what really weighs most heavily in your life. I'll tell you a story. I was a brand new Christian. Grace and I were just engaged. We were getting ready to be married. And there was another couple that was just a few months ahead of us. And we knew them, we loved them, they were sweet people. And so they loved Jesus. And so they kind of went through a bit of the premarital process that we did in the church that we did. And they were just a little bit ahead of us. And then we stopped, as soon as they got married, we stopped seeing them at church. No more church, no more Bible study, gone. And I didn't know if they left church or moved. We're in college, I didn't know what happened. And then I bumped into them at the park and they were there training their dogs. They had these purebred dogs. I was like, "Hey, I haven't seen you in a while. "What's going on?" They're like, "Yeah, well we can't go to church anymore." I said, "Why is that?" They said, "'Cause we're raising purebred dogs." That's what they said. And I was like, "I would take God over dog. "I would take God over dog." I was like, "What do you mean "you can't go to church anymore?" "We'll all of the purebred dog training events "and competitions are on Sunday. "Church only meets on Sunday. "We've decided that we're gonna raise purebred dogs, "and this is gonna be an income stream. "And we hope that it becomes a business. "We really enjoy it, we really have a heart for dogs. "And so we can't go to church anymore." Brand new married couple. Within a year they were divorced in their early 20s. And the fight that they had was over what? Who gets the dogs. Who gets the dogs. Because what they decided was the heaviest thing in our life is the dogs. We can't go to church anymore 'cause of the dogs. We can't go to Bible study anymore because of the dogs.

We can't be married anymore because of the dogs. And then the fight is who gets the dogs. And we see this in people's lives and it looks ridiculous. And other people look at our life and think the exact same thing. We just have different dogs. Okay. But you can tell this, even in a marriage when it gets to a divorce point, whatever they've declared war over might've really been what was most important to them. So number two, now you're all convicted, amen. You feeling it? Some of you're like, "I'm gonna pretend like I had a call "and I'm gonna leave." Okay. How about this one, how is everything a worship issue? Ultimately everything is a worship issue. These are the 10 commandments from Exodus 20. I'll just hit the first two. There's one God and you worship only that God. Okay. Martin Luther, the great Protestant reformer, he said, if you obey the first two commandments, you don't disobey the rest. If there's only one God and you worship Him alone, do you commit adultery? No, because adultery is the worshiping of sex as your god. If you're worshiping God, you won't commit adultery. Stealing is where you worship possessions or status or income. And if you're worshiping the one true God, you won't worship wealth. You'll worship God with your wealth and you won't steal. Let's say you have to be right, you have to win, you have to be in control. Ultimately you're gonna kill somebody. But if you're worshiping God, you won't be worshiping winning. And if someone offends you, you won't need to take their life. Luther's big idea is this, that ultimately all of life and the practical life decisions that we make and the problems that we cause, ultimately they're all worship issues. Because it says like, look at the very, very end, do not covet your neighbor's house. What that means is their address, their HOA, their square footage. It's your glory. You're like, "Man!" And this is where social media really gets us. It used to be you didn't know what was in their house. Now they show you so that you can covet and break the 10th commandment. That's the whole reason we invented Instagram, to break the 10th commandment, to see things that are none of our business. And all of a sudden we become dissatisfied with what we've got. Don't covet your neighbor's house. Your neighbor's wife. Could include husbands, so this is going both ways, but apparently he hammered the men 'cause apparently we're a real problem. But all of a sudden, if you worship God and love your spouse, you're not going to worship their spouse, and then covet, wishing that you could do something against your God to get their spouse. Or anything. Everything ultimately is a worship issue. And so if we have one God, not a bunch of gods, and we live to worship and serve that one God, it keeps us from worshiping and serving false gods. It keeps us from lots of sin and problems. Lots of sin and problems. Next one. Who worshiped Jesus when He walked the earth? So we're gonna start talking about the worship of Jesus. I just put together a quick hit list. This is all in your notes. What's interesting to me is throughout the course of His life, Jesus allowed people to worship Him and He never rebuked or corrected them. If Jesus isn't God, then Him welcoming worship would be a horrific act. Okay? Any human being that allows other human beings to worship them, that would be a horrific act. Jesus allowed people to worship Him because He is God and He alone is worthy of worship. And it starts when He's a baby. Remember the Magi? In our nativity scenes, we show them going to the manger. They actually went to Jesus' house when He was probably a couple years old. They were probably astrologers. They were probably descendants of the Babylonians. They're following the stars. And they come to Jesus and they bow down. And they're the first worshipers of Jesus that we see in the New Testament. We don't know how many Magi there were. We know that they brought three gifts: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Gold is what you give a king.

Frankincense or incense is what you would burn in the temple for prayer. And it represents a priest. And then myrrh is what you would use to embalm the body of a deceased person. Very curious gift for a kid. It shows that He's King, Priest, and Sacrifice. They bowed down and worshiped Him. The blind man worshiped Him. The guy who was demon possessed got saved by Jesus and worshiped Him. Thomas the doubter, once he saw Jesus risen, resurrection scars, he bowed down and he worshiped Him. He said, "My Lord and my God." Jesus' best friend, John, we'll get into some of these, he worshiped Jesus as God. All of the disciples worshiped Jesus as God. Though for Judas, it wasn't true in his heart. The mother of James and John worshiped Jesus. The Samaritans in John 4. The Samaritans were a cult. They were the product of incest and rebellion. And they were kicked out of Israel. And they created their own demon god, their own temple, their own counterfeit religion. Today, they would be considered like Mormons or Jehovah's Witnesses. They kind of started with God's people and then picked up a few demons and rewrote too much that they left the team. That's what they did. And so Jesus, in that day, Israel was in the north and the south, Samaria was in the middle. God's people walked around it rather than through it. And it would add much travel time to their journey. Jesus walked through it, went to a well. A woman came there alone at midday. We live here in the heat of the valley. She was there alone in the middle of the day because all the women would've come in the morning when it was cooler. But they don't want her around because she's got a reputation of being a homewrecker. She's lived with a lot of men. She's been married and divorced multiple times. And now she's living with a guy that she's not even married to. So the women don't even want her around. They consider her a real danger. And then Jesus shows up. And do you remember the conversation that they had? It was about worship. And she's like, "Oh, well, "should we worship God on that mountain, or this mountain, "this temple, this temple, this religion or this religion?" And here's the point. This woman was a passionate worshiper. It's why she'd gone through five husbands and was trying another guy. She wanted love, she wanted relationship. And the problem was she kept worshipping men who would use and abuse her rather than God who would love and serve her. So her problem is not that she's a worshiper. The problem is she keeps picking the wrong object of worship. Now she meets Jesus and then she worships Him. Finally, all of her worship is for a healthy relationship. And Jesus says that we worship in Spirit and in truth, that you need the Holy Spirit to be a worshiper of God. And you need the truth of who God is and what God does. So she gets saved, she becomes a worshiper of Jesus. She could stop worshipping men who use and abuse her. All of a sudden now what she's been seeking in a relationship with a man is satisfied in a relationship with Jesus. It's secure, it's love, it's protection, it's provision. Everything that she was wanting men to do for her, only Jesus could do for her. And here's the point: even a good person is a bad Jesus. And sometimes what we do, we'll even take people, maybe even good people and we'll hand them Jesus' resume. And even a good person, even a good spouse is a bad Jesus. She finally meets the real Jesus. She goes back into town, she tells them, "I met Jesus. "I know who to worship now." And there was a revival in Samaria. She's the first great evangelist in the whole New Testament. Her problem is not that she lacks passion. Her problem is that her passion is misdirected. I mean, as soon as she meets Jesus, she's passionate about Jesus. And she immediately goes to town and she tells everybody about Jesus. She's a worshiper. She just had the wrong object of glory and she was making the wrong kind of

sacrifice. Angels worshiped Jesus. Entire churches worshiped Jesus. His own mother is early on in the Book of Acts worshiping with the other believers. And Jesus' mother, Mary worships Him. His brothers worship Him as God after His resurrection. Little children worship Him. And then even guys like Paul, who was an enemy and a religious terrorist, murdering, harassing, arresting Christians, worships Jesus. So the big idea is throughout His entire earthly ministry, Jesus was worshiped consistently. And if He was not God, then that would not make him a good man. That would make him a cult leader. There are occasions in our day where people will have others worship them. These are the David Koresh's of the world. These are the Jim Jones of the world. These are cult leaders not to be admired or followed. If Jesus is receiving worship while walking on the earth, if that is not true, then He is not a good man. He is actually the worst man who has ever walked on planet earth. Okay. Next slide. What happens if we don't worship Jesus? Okay, if you weren't scared and discouraged, I'll fix that for you right now. We're gonna jump into the deep end of the pool. Romans 1:25-28 and 32. "They exchanged the truth about God for a lie," some translations will say the lie. Jesus says we worship in Spirit and in truth. So the Holy Spirit comes with the truth. Demonic spirits come with the lies. Okay? They exchanged, they intentionally exchanged the truth about God for a lie. And what's our word? Worshiped. What's the next word? Served. How do you know what you worship? It's what you serve. It's what you serve. The what. The creature rather than the Creator. There are actually only two categories of human beings. We tend to think of: are you Democrat, are you Republican? Are you American, are you British? You're male or you're female? You're tall or you're short? God looks at it and He sees, do you worship the Creator or do you worship the created? That's it. That's it. And what he says is, they were made by the Creator to worship the Creator. They were given creation to steward. And instead they worshiped the created rather than the Creator. Does this still happen? This can be things that God made like the environment. Radical environmentalism is the worship of creation. Pantheism that comes with radical environmentalism, it's the worship of creation. It literally is the worship of creation. We're not far from Sedona. If you go up there right now, there are people that are worshiping rocks. They're literally worshiping creation. They'll go into the store, they'll buy a crystal and take it home thinking that it has some energy or life force that will aid their spiritual journey. That's the worship of creation. This can be things that God made, like people. Do we worship people? We do. I'll talk about this a little bit at the end. This can be things that we make, like a home or an income or a lifestyle. We can worship those things 'cause we think, "I created that. "That matters to me. "I've made great sacrifices "for this job, for this company, "for this income level, for this lifestyle, "for this position on the org chart, "I've made great sacrifices. "Therefore, I am going to sacrifice "the things that could or should be my priority "because this is now my object of glory." He goes on. "For this reason God gave them up to dishonorable passions." At a certain point, God looks at people and He comes to the same place that Jesus did with Judas. Jesus looked at Judas and He said, "Well, "you're just determined to go do that, so go do it." Jesus doesn't get in the way. Doesn't argue with him, doesn't fight him. He releases him. There are times when God just says, "You're not gonna change. "You don't wanna stop. "You don't wanna worship me. "You wanna worship either something I made, someone I made, "or something you made or someone you made," and God releases. What happens then it's pretty scary. "For this reason God gave them up to dishonorable passions." So does that language of passion sound

like worship? It is. It is. You're passionate, but not about God. "For their women exchanged natural relations "for those contrary to nature." It's the only express verse in the New Testament forbidding lesbianism. "And the men likewise gave up natural relations." What's a natural relation? A man and a? A woman. And now we deny that there's even men and women. That just tells you that we've officially been handed over as a culture and a society. "Gave up natural relations with women "and were consumed with..." Passion, worship. Devotion. Glory, sacrifice, "for one another, "men committing shameless acts with men "and receiving in themselves "the due penalty for their error." Some translations will say for their perversion. "God gave them up to a debased mind," meaning this sounds like a good idea to them. Now they've got school curriculum and hashtags and parades and bumper stickers and cancel culture and social media pressure and PR firms and a whole parade of lawyers. Sound familiar? "Though they know God's righteous decree," God's not been unclear about this, "that those who practice such things deserve to die, "not only do they do them but they give approval to others." They become evangelists for their religion. This is evangelism. I am proud of who I am and what I do. You need to join me. You need to join us following in our passions where we worship the created. Okay. Sexual sin is the worship of the created. Sexual perversion is the worship of the created. The entire porn industry is built on Romans 1, worshiping the created rather than the Creator. If the primary way that idolatry or the worship of created rather than Creator manifests itself in gender confusion and sexual sin, is it happening? It's catastrophic. So now we start with school curriculum for kids to encourage them to do likewise. And when it comes down to it then, sometimes even foolish, maybe even well-meaning Christians are like, "Well, God is love, and God says not to judge." Well, God says other stuff too. And He judges. And if you and I love people, then what we should seek for them is God's best for them, which would be worshiping the Creator, which leads to freedom in life, not worshiping the created, which leads to slavery and death. See, we tend to think that sin is something that is good for us and we would enjoy that God is keeping from us. What sin is, sin is self-harm and sin is self-destruction. And the reason that God says no is the same reason that a loving parent looks at the kid and says, "Okay, "there's the sink, drink the water. "Under the sink there is bleach, don't drink the bleach. "I know they're close and they look similar, "but they have different results." And sometimes we're like foolish kids, and we're like, "I really like the taste of bleach." And the Father is like, "That is not good for you." And what happens is if we worship the Creator, then we can steward creation. We can take our money, our body, our time, our kids, our hobbies, all that we have can be done to the glory of God, which is good for us. God's glory is always for our good. But if we invert it, if we exchange it, now all of a sudden sex is more important than God. Money is more important than God. Fame is more important than God. Comfort is more important than God. Convenience is more important than God. Now let me get real controversial. And a lot of this is just free-flowing riffs, and this one comes to mind. In the Book of Exodus, there was a counterfeit kingdom that had counterfeit worship and God wanted His people to be released so that they could worship Him rightly and freely. That's the big backdrop of the Book of Exodus. In that nation, they had a whole bunch of false gods that they worshiped instead of the Creator God, and a lot of those false demon gods that they worshiped, they were tied to nature. They were tied to the river or the crops. So when God sends a succession of plagues on the nation of Egypt, it is to show you can't worship the created. You cannot worship the created. You cannot

worship the created. You're supposed to worship the Creator. The experts in ancient Egyptian mythology and spirituality will be able to identify on all of the plagues that God sent on Egypt, the judgment of a demonic, false god, that was representative of creation in their culture, with one exception. What was the last plague that God sent in the Book of Exodus? The killing of the firstborn. And all the commentators I read, they said, "We know what all these false gods are. "We're not sure which false god was being judged "with the killing of the firstborn." Here's the big idea. We worship our kids. We worship our family. There are some people that their kids are more important to them than God. There's some people that literally they will make an entire life of sacrifice for their kids. And if they don't get the return on investment they were hoping for, they are devastated because their god did not bless them after all the sacrifices they made. This is where sometimes we worship good things, but we put them in God's place. And as a result, they become bad things. So back to this text. Is sex a good thing? It's not a trick question. We're in church, you can still be honest. Yes, that's why it's popular. 100% of people tried it, like it. It's very popular. Is there a way to worship God sexually within the confines of marriage that it doesn't become your god, but it becomes a gift from your God? Yes. So it's not that things are good or bad. They're used in the worship of God or they're used to be worshiped as god. You see the difference? And some people come along, "You Christians are against sex." No, we're not. We're for marriage. I'm not against fire. I just think it's better in a hearth. I think it's good to contain it, otherwise you burn the whole house down. So I'm not against fires, I'm just really for fireplaces. That's what I am. I'm not against sex, I'm just really for marriage. I think that kind of passion needs to be housed, otherwise everything burns down. So again, what tends to happen is we take even gifts that God gives us, we enjoy them so much that they become godlike to us. And then even some of us will have disappointment because God isn't giving us the sex life we want. God isn't giving us the family we want. God isn't giving us the job that we want. God isn't giving us the kids that we want. Hey, come on, don't you know what matters to me? And oftentimes God is saying, "I do and that's the problem. "And until your heart changes, I can't answer those requests "because I am not going to join you "in worshiping another god." Okay. But a lot of it shows up sexually. So some people, they worship people. Some people, they worship pleasure. And this one will be really controversial 'cause I've not said anything controversial yet. The worship of created things includes pets. Is a pet a good thing? Yes. But can you turn it into like a religious devotion to a furry god? Yes. Have you met those people? And if you're one of those people, we love you. You need help. These are... I'll never forget, man. I mean, I used to live in the people's Republic of Seattle and they would have... People would have, they'd call them their fur babies. What? That isn't a baby. It's not gonna grow up, get a driver's license and disappoint you. This is not a baby. This is... But I'll never forget. Grace and I were at the lake one time, this little lake going for a walk and all these people had strollers. And I thought, wow, there's a lot of kids. I looked in all the strollers... Dogs. Dogs in the strollers. I saw multiple men with a front carry pack... with a dog. And I thought, there's a guy who needs Jesus. That guy needs Jesus more than anybody. And they'll tell you like, "This is my fur baby." It's like, no, no, no, no, no, no, no, no, no. Nope, nope, nope, nope, nope, nope, nope, nope. It reached the point in our city many, many years ago that they petitioned that they could bring their animals to the restaurant, to sit at the table and eat with them. If you lick yourself, you cannot eat with me. That's a rule, no matter what. That's just my rule. I'm not legalistic about a

lot, but I'm real legalistic on that point. So I'm sitting in a restaurant, a dude comes in with a great dane licking itself, and he's feeding it and they're sitting next to me. You know what I thought? Romans 1. I mean, for some people it's amazing. Literally the created thing, that was a gift from God. We've got a dog, just so you know, I don't hate dogs. If you do want a German shepherd, I know a guy, but... We've got a dog, I like our dog. But I just think that even a good dog is a bad god. I think that a good spouse is a bad god. I think that a good job is a bad god. I think that a good sex life is still a bad god. I think a good income is still a bad god. I think a good family is still a bad god. And so it's usually far less about what, and it's about our heart and the position that we hold it in. And again, just like my initial story, where I go to another culture and I have a totally different perspective on my own life, you and I tend not to see the things in our life that are good things that we put in God's place. And so this is where we're all blind to our own blindspots and others can help us like, okay, so why? Why is it that so much of your money goes to your hobby? Why is it? Why is it that your weight and your appearance literally determines the emotional status of your day? If you gain a pound, you're devastated. If you lose a pound, you post it on Facebook. Is the scale literally where every day you are standing before your god and then getting judged on your performance? Does this make sense to anybody? It's very quiet, very lonely. Very quiet, very lonely. All right, I'll just move on. It's fine, we don't have to talk about this. You can talk about your sex life around your table just in a moment. How about this one? How is worship war? This is where I'm gonna get practical. So Matthew 4, Luke 4 talks about Satan coming to tempt Jesus. We tend to think of Jesus being tempted. But you need to know that the real temptation is who He would worship. Behind the decisions we make is the god that we choose. Behind the decisions we make is the god we choose. Matthew 4:8-10. "The devil took Him," that's Jesus "to a very high mountain," prominence, prestige, status, "showed Him all the kingdoms of the world," in all of their glory. So think for a moment all the things that you're tempted by. Now think of all the things that everyone alive on planet earth is tempted by. Now think about all of that temptation in an instant hitting you. All the sex you want; all the money you want, all the fame you want; all the power you want; all the houses you want; all the vacations you want; all of the accolades you want; all the honors you want everything, everything everybody's ever wanted, you can have it now in an instant. What had Jesus done prior to this for 40 days? Fasting. He's hungry, isolated, and tired. Satan is gonna hit you when you're hungry, isolated, tired. Satan shows up and tempts Him. "And he said, 'All these I will give you, 'if you will do one thing.'" What is it? "Worship me." See, we all worship. The only difference is who or what or how we worship. So Satan comes to Him, he says, "Okay, up until this point, "Your whole life You've worshiped God the Father. "You can keep worshipping, we're just gonna shift the object, "worship me instead." You need to know that behind every temptation is a transition to a new god. It's not just an action. It's an alliance or an allegiance to a god. This is why certain people, things, movements, they have so much power because behind them are powers, principalities, and spirits, demonic forces that are at work. Then Jesus said to him what? "Be gone, Satan! "For it is written," what? "You shall worship the Lord your God "and Him only shall you serve." Do you see where worship and serve, they often go together in the Bible. Worship, that's the object of glory. Serve, that is the action designated or dedicated to the object of glory. Jesus here is worshipping His way out of temptation. Let me say this. You and I, we worship our way into trouble and we worship our way out of trouble. Okay?

How do we worship our way into trouble? If you worship alcohol, you become an alcoholic. You worship your way into trouble. And you encounter demonic spirits. What do we even call alcohol? Spirits. We're not even pretending anymore. Here's a bottle of demons. Okay? That's worship. I'm not saying that alcohol consumption is always a sin. But if you worship alcohol, then you will worship your way into self-destruction. So you worship your way out of self-destruction. You worship your way out of the demonic spirits by worshiping in the power of the Holy Spirit. People that have eating problems have worship problems. People that have gluttony problems have worship problems. People that have spending problems have worship problems. People that have alcohol problems have worship problems. People that have anger problems have worship problems. People that have fear of men problems have worship problems. People who have addictions like drugs, even prescription medication, they have worship problems. Whatever your temptation is if you participate in it, you're worshiping your way into trouble. And you say, well, how do you get out? You get yourself out the way you got yourself in. You worship your way out. For Jesus in that moment, what if Jesus... He's in His early 30s? Was He poor or rich?

- [Congregants] Poor.

- That's a real temptation when it's like, you can own everything on the earth right now. Well it's better than broke. Was Jesus a virgin? 33-year-old guy. Here's all the women on the planet. They'll all do whatever you want right now. Is that a temptation? Guys didn't say yes, 'cause their wives are here, but I know what they're thinking. Yeah. Does Jesus even own a house? He's homeless. All the kingdoms of the world. Palaces. Now think that's a temptation? That's a big temptation. How many of you, one of those would be a real problem? All of those would be an overwhelming problem. Jesus worshiped His way through His temptation. I don't worship alcohol, I worship God. I don't worship sex, I worship God. I don't worship money, I worship God. I don't worship comfort, I worship God. I don't worship lifestyle or status. I worship God. Therefore God is my greatest priority, my greatest pleasure, my greatest treasure. And if you tell me, well, you can have everything or God, I choose God. I choose God, that's worship. So let me say this. Clap like that next time you're tempted. And I love you, okay. I know it doesn't feel like it, but I do. But what happens when we're tempted, we lose sight of this. And we just think, "Well, that maybe just..." And what we're trying to oftentimes do is just manage it rather than worship. Okay? And this is where Jesus overcame all of His tempt. You and I are gonna be tempted. It literally is like this. Someone wants me to sleep with them. No. Okay. That's worship. This website pops up. I click off it and go use hand sanitizer. That's worship, okay. This person comes up at work and says, "Hey, this is a little on the side, it's kind of crooked, "it's not very ethical, but I'll cut you in on the deal." No. I don't want any of God's money in my pocket. Judas had some and it didn't end well for him. Worship is oftentimes singing, praying. But oftentimes it is deciding what actions we will take in the face of temptation. Okay. Back to the first two 10 commandments. If you have another god, you will worship it. If you have the one God, you won't worship anyone or anything else. In that moment, the reason Jesus didn't worship sex, He didn't worship fame, He didn't worship power, He didn't worship comfort, He didn't worship pleasure is because He worshiped God and God said, "No." Now let me ask you this. Today is Jesus having

a good day? Does He live in a big house? He does. Is He in comfort? He has an angelic staff, He's doing great. Financially, you pull it together, streets lined with gold. That's when you know you've made it. You're like, I don't know so much gold, maybe the driveway? I mean, when you're there. Even then like Kanye and moguls with oil wells are like, that's amazing, right? That's amazing. So what Jesus was trusting is that everything that He was longing for ultimately would be fulfilled in the Kingdom of God. And He was not going to worship Satan. He was gonna worship God and wait for God to give him the things that God knew were best for Him. You and I need to have that same long view. I don't need it now. I only want what God gives. If I take anything that God doesn't give, I'm gonna hurt myself. And I'm gonna wait until the end and whatever needs I have, the Father will provide for those forever. But I'm not gonna let Satan give them to me in the meantime. Okay? What is Jesus like in glory? So when we worship Jesus today... When we think of Jesus as we worship, it's important to worship Him. But as we worship, we look at His life and we learn from His life and it's a perfect, consistent model of worship. But when we worship Jesus today, I want you to see Him as He is. We talked previously about the resurrection. We got into the ascension. But if you were to see Jesus right now, this is how He would be. Isaiah shows us. John sees the same thing in Revelation. "In the year that King Uzziah died." And in that culture, when a king dies, a kingdom is in crisis. But there's a King over all the kings. And he's gonna see the real King. "I saw the Lord seated upon a throne," there's Jesus in glory. Okay. What's interesting is Satan came to Jesus. He said, "I'll make you a king and I'll give you a kingdom." God the Father, and Satan both offered Jesus the same offer. You could sit at the right hand on a throne and rule over a kingdom. The Father said, "Well, Son if that's the path You choose, "You're gonna need to go through the cross." And Satan said, "I'll give you the same deal, kingdom, "and you sit at my right hand, no cross." Jesus had to choose the pleasure path or the pain path. But they were both offering the same thing: sit at my right hand, on a throne, ruling and reigning over a kingdom. Jesus chose the pain path over the pleasure path. Sometimes to be a faithful Christian, you need to choose the pain path over the pleasure path. Trusting that when all is said and done the Father's gonna make it all right forever. Okay. He sees Jesus, "high and lifted up;" seated on a throne, "the train of His robe filled the temple." Big, big, big Jesus. Jesus is bigger than you can think. "Above Him stood seraphim," these are angelic divine beings. "Each had six wings: with two they covered their face, "with two they covered their feet, with two they flew. "And they called to one another," they're worshiping and singing, "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty; "the earth is full of His glory!" So right now Jesus is being worshiped by departed saints and divine beings. And where you and I to be there, it would be completely mesmerizing and overwhelming. And someday we will be there. "And the foundations of the thresholds "shook at the voice of him who called, "and the house was filled with smoke. "And I said: "Woe to me!" Isaiah is a prophet, he's a man of God. But when he's in the presence of a holy God, he realizes that he's got some unholiness. "I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips." He's like my whole family are union, and we've got a bunch of potty mouths. "For my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!" Now John 12:41, John was Jesus' best friend and kid brother. When he saw Jesus on the earth, he saw Him in humility. And then he saw Jesus ascend back up in glory. And he says this, "Isaiah said these things because he saw Jesus' glory "and spoke about Him." So even on the earth, when John was leading the early church, writing books of the Bible and worshiping Jesus, he saw

Jesus in glory. And he realized, "You know what? "Jesus is above everything on this earth. "Therefore Jesus is my highest priority, "my greatest affection, my deepest devotion." Ultimately everyone and everything is gonna pass before that Jesus. So I need to stay faithful and loyal to Him. Right now life is hard, but life with Him forever is going to be wonderful. I just need to be patient. So when you and I worship Jesus, it's that so much of this world becomes temptation for us. We need to see Jesus over it all and say, "You know what? "I'm going to worship Him. "Which means there are going to be people and things here "that I say no to because I'm ultimately loyal to Him." But when you see Him over everything, it becomes much easier to be loyal to Him. And then you realize why it is such a horrific thing to take someone or something and to exchange the truth of God for the lie to take Jesus off the throne, to put you on the throne, your spouse on the throne, your kids on the throne, your sex life on the throne, your income on the throne, your zip code on the throne, your HOA on the throne, your hobby on the throne, your comfort on the throne, your convenience on the throne, your credit score on the throne, your grade point average on the throne, and then make sacrifices to that god. Keeping it all in perspective helps us in the moment of temptation and struggle to have the decision made before the temptation comes. Okay. You need to have the decision made before the temptation comes. And a lot of life is really just down to: do I believe that Jesus is up there over all of this? And do I believe that Jesus is better than any of this? And in those moments, we make those decisions. Let me hit a few things quickly. I'll give you a quote from Queen Victoria, the longest reigning British monarch. She said, "I wish Jesus would come in my lifetime "so that I could take my crown and lay it at His feet." That's a great statement. Christian worship. So we're talking here, everybody worships. It's not just a Christian issue. But how do Christians worship? Hebrews 13:15-16. "Through Him," that is Jesus, so it's by the power of the Holy Spirit in us through Jesus, who is our mediator to God the Father, "let us continually offer up a sacrifice," this language of sacrifice as worship, "of praise to God, "the fruit of lips that acknowledge His name. "Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, "for such sacrifices are pleasing to God." And what he says is that true worship for the Christian, it is adoration and it's action. It is what you say and how you serve. Okay? So when we sing we're offering up the fruit of lips that acknowledges His name. When we sing, when we pray, when we worship, we are speaking our greatest value, our deepest treasure, our strongest devotion, ultimately to Jesus. But furthermore, it's not just the words that we say, it's the way that we live. That's where he says, share, be generous. One of the ways you worship is with your wealth. We'll hit that in a moment. And he goes on to say, to do good. To do good. And so part of our worship is private, part of it is public; part of it is internal, part of it is external; part of it is with speaking, which includes singing; part of it is with serving. So even when we get together as a church, everything that we are doing is worship. So you listening to the Word of God, that is an act of worship because what it is it's saying I come under authority, which is an act of worship. When we sing, we're worshipping. When we pray, we are worshipping. When we give, we are worshipping. When we partake of communion, remembering Jesus' broken body and shed blood, we're worshipping. When someone is baptized, showing the death, burial, resurrection of Jesus, they are worshipping. Everything in the Christian life has over it this great grand glorious theme of worship. And everything that we do when we get together is worship. And your worship is supposed to continue when you leave. What you say and how you serve, whether you're in

God's house or your house, is all how we worship. So even I'll make it practical. The kid who loves Jesus and mom says, "Take out the trash," and they take out the trash, they are serving; that's an act of worship. That's an act of worship. The employee who comes in and tells the employer, "I've got a little extra time, what can I do "so that I don't take advantage "of the compensation that you give to me?" They are serving. That's an act of worship unto Jesus. For the Christian, our worship is constant. And the ways that we worship are intermittent. Sometime we worship God by going to work, sometimes by taking a day off. Sometimes we worship God by saying something. Sometimes we worship God by shutting up. Sometimes we worship God by leading. Sometimes we worship God by following. That our worship never stops, just the ways that we worship shift and change throughout the course of the day. Do you see that? And sometimes when people, they will think that worship is what happens when they're in church. No, worship is what happens when you're alive. You're always worshiping just different ways, in different places. Hmm. I've got two more points, let me just jump to the last one. How do we become like what we worship? So to me, this is the big idea I wanna really, really drive home. One of the most powerful things about worship and one of the most dangerous elements of worship is who or what you worship you become like it. Okay. This hit me some years ago. I'm old, I'll date myself in a non-romantic way. But I was watching something called MTV when they used to have music videos. If you're under 40, you don't even know what I'm talking about.

- Yes, I do.

- You do, okay. All right, good, good. So they had something called the MTV Music Awards, which is they should just call it the Romans 1 awards. So they had the Romans 1 awards. And there was this breakthrough moment for this white hip hop artist named Eminem or Slim Shady. And if you know that, repent, okay. So... And he came out of the back. So the whole stadium, the arena is filled with people. He starts singing on a mic. Nobody knows where he is. He comes out of the back, down the center aisle wearing blue jeans, and what kind of T-shirt?

- [Congregants] White.

- Oh, you all saw this white T-shirt? And then behind him come like a hundred dudes look exactly like him. And they're all singing his song. And they're all wearing his pants and his white T-shirt and his shoes. And I thought he's a god. They're worshiping him. They're following him. They're singing to him. They are dressing like him. They wanna be him. It wasn't long after they came out with a show called "American Idol." And everybody's like, "Please pick me to be the next god. "I want everybody to know me and worship me. "I want them to adore me, I want them to be like me. "When I'm around them, I want them to say, ""You changed my life and I wanna be like you."" You become like who you worship. That's why worship is so important. Genesis 1:27, "God created man in His own image, "in the image of God He created him; "male and female he created them." So God made us male and female, and He made us to mirror. This language of image is the language of worship. You've got a mirror in your bathroom. You've got a mirror in your car. The mirror has one job that is to reflect the image of whatever is in front of it. The mirror does not create images. The mirror reflects images. You are not the creator, you are the

mirror. When God looks at you and me, we are to mirror, we are to image, we are to reflect Him. God wants it that when people look at us, they see Him. "You love me." "Yeah, He loves you." "You forgave me." "Yeah, He forgives people." "You were generous to me." "Yeah, He's generous." "All I'm trying to do is show you who He is." It says that Jesus is the, it says this in Colossians, that He is the image of the invisible God. But He perfectly reflected the character of the Father continuously throughout His entire life. Okay. And then what He does is He gives us the Holy Spirit so that we can be conformed to His image, that we can start to reflect His glory. I'll explain this, and then I'll give you a very practical kind of mindblowing perhaps point. 2 Corinthians 3:17-18. "Now the Lord is the Spirit," he's talking about the Holy Spirit. Jesus says we worship in Spirit and truth. The way that Jesus worshiped was by the power of the Holy Spirit. He sends the Holy Spirit so that we worship by the power of the Holy Spirit. "Where the Spirit of the Lord is," there's what? Freedom. Freedom to what? To enjoy whatever God has given you without making it a god to you. If you worship alcohol, you're not free with alcohol. If you worship sex, you're not free with sex. If you worship money, you are not free with money. If you worship your parents, you are not free. You are enslaved: that thing owns you, rules you as a master. It takes over your whole life and it destroys you. Where you have the Spirit of the Lord, you have freedom. Jesus drank alcohol, but He wasn't an alcoholic. Jesus had relationships with women, but He'd never crossed any bounds of propriety. Jesus could be around people with money and He wasn't attempted to steal anything. Jesus could be around very successful people without coveting what they had or how they lived. Jesus could eat food without being a glutton. He was free. The only way that you can truly be free is to worship. That's why we live in a country that people are pursuing freedom, never finding it because they're not worshiping God. And there is no freedom to enjoy people and things unless you're worshiping God. Okay. "And we all, with unveiled face," meaning there's a day when we're gonna see Jesus in all of His unveiled glory, "beholding the glory of the Lord, "are being transformed into the same image," being made more and more like Jesus so that we more and more mirror the character of God to the world. Now let me say this. One of the greatest errors in psychological teaching is that we are empty cups needing to be filled. See, I even hear Christians will share their testimony, and they mean well. They're like, "I was so empty and then Jesus filled me." As if the goal of the whole universe was to fill you up. The Bible doesn't say that you are a cup to be filled. The Bible says that you are a mirror to reflect. Okay? That you're a mirror to reflect. So what he says here, "Being transformed into the same image "from one degree of glory to another," reflecting better and better. "For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit." This is from the Lord who is the Spirit. Okay. Let me land the plane for you on worship and why we worship Jesus. You become like whoever or whatever you worship. Okay? If you wanna be like Jesus, you've gotta worship Jesus. And then the Spirit will help you become more and more like Jesus. The opposite of this is exactly what we're seeing in social media and celebrity culture. So let me blow everybody's mind, maybe, and then we'll do Q and A. So a few times I've met with Dr. Drew Pinsky. He is a psychologist to the stars. He gets brought on all the TV shows. And he had a show called "Loveline," where he would take people's sex questions and answer them with Adam Carolla, the comedian, because that's what every sexually-confused person needs is a lost psychologist and a comedian. I mean, that's exactly what they need. So Adam Carolla was gone. So I flew to LA and I got to co-host the show with

Dr. Drew, taking people's sex questions. Wasn't awkward at all. Grace and I were on his television show. And he was working on a project at the time, or maybe just released a book, I don't remember the sequencing. We were talking offline between calls and we got some time together in the radio station in LA. And I said, "Well, you know, what are you working on? "And what are you doing?" I don't get the indication that he's a Christian. He was working on or had just published a book, it's been out for a while now, called "The Mirror Effect." We're made in the image and likeness of God. We're made to mirror to reflect God. I don't think he's a Christian, but he came to the conclusion that all of celebrity culture is based upon mirroring. And what he said was this, and it was shocking. He said, "The problem in our culture "is that celebrities model behavior, "and then their followers mirror it." And he said, "So the way you become famous "in a social media environment "is not having great character or accomplishing anything. "It's doing something crazy, outrageous, "risky, or dangerous, "or overstepping a bound of cultural propriety "to do something that is shocking." And he said, "When people do that, they become famous." Not like Winston Churchill or Mother Teresa. They didn't do anything. Right? They just kept getting kicked in the groin and we put it on YouTube and now they're getting it monetized and buying a bigger house so they can get kicked in the groin in their bigger house. I mean, this is literally what we're doing. And so he said, "The problem is "when a celebrity models something "and then the people mirror it. "As soon as the people mirror it, "it's no longer shocking or scandalous. "It's just normal." So to be famous, what do you need to do? Something crazier. And he said, "So the level of extreme, "unhealthy, self-destructive behavior "keeps going higher and higher. "And then the people will mirror it, "they will reflect it, they will copy it." This is social media. This is Romans 1. This is worshiping the created not the Creator. We call these social media influencers. God would call it mirroring, imaging, reflecting. Here's what they're wearing; that's what I need to wear. Here's what they're doing; that's what I need to do. Here's who they're having sex with; that's how I need to have sex. All of a sudden we are seeing people self-destructing, and we want to be like them because we want to be famous because we want to be in the glory spot where people pay attention to us, where people know us, where people thank us, where people are talking about us, where people are paying attention to us. And so what you get now is this whole culture of celebrity culture, reality culture, which isn't reality, it's contrived. And do you ever wonder why these most famous people just completely self-destruct? It's because they make bad gods. It's why Anna Nicole Smith dies. It's why Kurt Cobain dies. It's why Jimmy Hendrix dies. It's why every kid who made it on Disney ended up being a drug addict and a train wreck in their 20s. It's why we have the Kardashians. And every season it's what is crazier now. True? And people are watching saying, "I'm gonna do that." And everyone who is following on social media, everyone who is drinking what they drink, eating what they eat, wearing what they wear, driving what they drive, going on the vacation that they go on, or trying to remake the sex tape that they released, every one of those people deep down doesn't really know it, but they want Jesus. Everybody who goes to a strip club is looking for Jesus. Everybody who goes to a bar is looking for Jesus. Everybody who goes to a stadium is looking for Jesus. Everybody who goes to a mall is looking for Jesus. Everybody who goes on Tinder is looking for Jesus. Everybody following somebody on social media is looking for Jesus. They just don't know it. They just don't know it. And so when you meet Jesus, all of a sudden the people and things in your life, they're in the right place. And now you're free to love them

because you're not using them. You're free to enjoy them because you're not abusing them.