

What's it all about anyway?

Have you ever wondered what church is supposed to be all about? Have you ever wondered why God encourages us to not give up getting together, but rather to keep on meeting? What's it all about? Why? Why?

Is "church" about celebrating our denominational distinctiveness? Is it a religious duty? Is it something we endure so we can get "attendance" points to help prop up our "brownie points" when we stand before God after we die? What's it all about?

Maybe it's purpose is to enhance other's opinions of us; after all, knowing that a person is a church-goer **does** impress some people. Maybe not. There have certainly been others who, disillusioned by the goings on in their church, have simply chucked the whole thing and declare that they just worship God on their own. What's it all about???

There is a chorus sung at some Christian gatherings, the name of which is "All About you. Here are the words:

You are the Holy One
You are the Living Word
You are the center of my focus, Jesus

You are the Son of God
You are the Solid Rock
You are the center of my focus, Jesus
You're the Lover of my soul
And I adore You only

Chorus: It's all about You
All about You
It's all about You, Jesus
It's all about You
All about You
It's all about You, Jesus.

You are miraculous
You are supernatural
You are the center of my focus, Jesus
You are all powerful
You are so wonderful
You are the center of my focus, Jesus
You're the lover of my soul
And I adore You only

It's all about You, Jesus
It's all about You
All about You
It's all about You, Jesus ccli343883

It would seem that a lot of us attend church services for reasons less than that. Comments made by individuals *after* church often tell us a lot about the motivations that propel some folks to church. Here are some well-worn favorites:

I don't like choruses.
I can't stand old hymns.
The preacher was too long-winded.
The service was too long.
I don't like modern services.
I don't like old-fashioned services.
I was offended by the sermon.
People were dressed up way too much.
Half of "those people" looked like hippies.
etc., etc., etc. (by the way, notice the thrust of the "I's"!!!)

Now I believe that individuals who speak such things actually mean exactly what they say! And accompanying such statements are looks of dis-pleasure that match the words they have spoken! Yet I think there is something at the heart of their dissatisfaction that may never have been addressed. And pray, what is that? Indeed **WHAT IS IT ALL ABOUT?** Are you ready to be blessed? Have those sentiments been yours in the not-so-distant past? There's hope for you! Read on!

God is God! We are His! **God is worthy** of our presence together as believers! **God is eminently worthy** of our worship and adoration! You see, we have had it upside down for so long that we can't begin to make sense of what is going on at church! We have long thought that we go to church "to get blessed." It is as though the whole reason we are to meet together is so we can leave feeling good. We often operate on the principle that we "have to get something out of it" or else it was a waste. Let me translate that attitude bluntly: An individual who really believes this is actually saying, "**It's all about ME!**" Is it really? Hmmmm, let's see what God has to say about this, shall we?

Here's one of the songs that are sung in heaven by those enjoying the Lord there:

"**You are worthy**, O Lord our God, to receive glory and honor and power. For **You created everything**, and **it is for Your pleasure** that they exist (are) and were created." **Revelation 4:11 NLT**

So what does this have to do with anything? Everything! **It is God** who created us! **He** is the Worthy One! **He** is worthy to receive glory from you, and honor from you and power from you. Because **He** created everything! What does the word "everything" include? **YOU!!!! and me!!!!**

And **why** did Father created you - - and me? According to this Scripture, He created us **for HIS pleasure! to give Him pleasure! To make His heart happy! To thrill Him with our worship and adoration, and with our lives lived out** in grace before Him and before each other and before an unbelieving world in which we now live.

Think of this: **He made you for His pleasure!** Try saying this to Him: "Papa, You made me just to give Yourself pleasure! Wow, Daddy! You made me just to thrill Your heart! Just to bring You joy! Father God, You are awesome!"

Try approaching "church" from **this** vantage, from embracing the purpose for which you even have air to breathe, and it will change you! It will become quite evident that church is not at all about "us." It never was, isn't now, and never will be! Why, **It's All About Him!** That's what it's all about!

May I encourage you to take this thought with you before the Father. Bring it to Him and talk with Him about this. Do it today or before you go to sleep tonight. Then start thinking about how you might comport yourself from that moment on. This is something I'm really trying to learn to do myself. And it is changing my entire life!

When I talk to Him (prayer), I need to realize that He is just waiting for the opportunity to smile at me, to laugh, to dance over me because of the joy I am to Him! What am I going to spend my words on while He and I are together? Is it going to be, "Father, bless Aunt Bessie; Father, help our country; Father, I need a new car; Father help Jimmy on his math test.....?" Hm.....

And when I am joined with my brothers and sisters as His Bride, His Body, how might I join with them in bringing Him pleasure? I'll begin by being there! Then I'll sing whatever song of praise to Him or worship of Him is being offered. And I'll make certain I sing it to Him; and I'll mean it with my whole heart. I'll listen for Him to speak to me in His Word. And I'll love that preacher who seemed so long-winded last week! And oh yes, I'll thank Him for the way He loves those young kids with ear-rings coming out of every part of their faces!

So what's it all about? "Darling Father, Precious Jesus, Wondrous Holy Spirit, it's all about You! You! You! I love You! I delight in You!"

After this, the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision: "Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your very **great reward.**" [Ge 15:1](#)

"Indeed, Papa, **You** are my great reward! Your pleasure is my joy! Your delight is what makes my heart dance! So, Father, from today onward, I'm going to set my heart on thrilling yours. In my personal time with You, and in my times together with the family of faith You've given me, I purpose to fulfill the reason You made me – to give You pleasure!"

Let's set our hearts on giving our Lord great, great pleasure! Let's do it when we're alone with Him; and let's do it when we come together! As a matter of fact, if you really can row your taste boat into this stream of His good pleasure, you'll

find yourself wanting to get together to give Him pleasure – more often than once a week! Wow!

Isn't it amazing how His words work? They really do work! They are not only true, they actually *do things* to those who absorb them into their hearts and act on them.

Try it! Devote yourself to giving Him pleasure and here's what I'll bet you'll experience: You'll find that as you simply place all of your energy into giving Him pleasure, delighting His heart, listening and sharing His cares and burdens, all of your little "want" lists will have one of two things happen to them: either they will all be answered by Him or else they will disappear as so much fluff in the light of His arresting beauty and loveliness.

30 For the nations of the world seek after all these things (stuff, favors), but your Father knows that you need these things. **31 Yet (if you will) seek God's kingdom, all these things (your needs, your heart's desires) will be added to you.** **32** Don't be afraid, little flock, for **it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.**.. Luke 12:30-32.

Here's what you'll end up with: more joy than you can handle, peace like a river, the inexpressible pleasure of experiencing His approval, and finally, you'll learn to wear comfortably and humbly the robe of His righteousness that He will simply GIVE you! You'll become utterly convinced that

...the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.
Romans 14:17

You, Jesus, are the Holy One!
Lord, You are the Living Word!
You are the Son of God!
You are the Solid Rock!

You are miraculous!
You are supernatural!
You are the center of my focus, Jesus!
You are all powerful!
You are SO wonderful!

You are the Lover of my soul!
I adore You only!

What's it all about? Oh Papa, Oh Jesus, Oh Holy Spirit,

It's All About You! Yes, You! Yes, You!

