

Introduction

Message 1: Fruitfulness

- Declare and stir an expectation for great fruitfulness. Despite your circumstances. You are fruitful because God blessed you to be fruitful.
- Genesis 1:26-28 ESV *Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." (27) So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. (28) And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth."*
- There was an interruption – a setback – the fall of man – but God a plan - Christ came to earth as a man to represent God to us and us to God – our mediator - He redeemed us by dying on a cross paying for the sin of the world once and for all – He restored our fallen state back to its original design and pattern – all by grace – and those who believe may actualise what is already given and made available – that is the Good News Jesus and the Apostles preached – the Gospel of Jesus Christ and His Kingdom is at hand, in your reach. We have the same mandate to pass this Good News on to all people. Through Christ we have been restored, empowered and mandated to live the life as described in Genesis 1:26-28
- What does God want from us? Fruit! - that is what he designed and purposed us to do!
- **Paul confirms it** - Philippians 1:21-22 ESV *for to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. (22) If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labour for me.*
- Stir your faith and hope in your potential... you are a fruit bearer by design...
- John 15:1-2 ESV *"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. (2) Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away (lifts up), and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit...*
- John 15:8 ESV *By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. (Take note! Our fruit is God's glory)*

Message 2: The power of the soil

- **How can we provide an environment as a church that will maximise each one's fruitfulness?**

- Soil has 5 components – in the same way the church needs 5 components to provide a healthy environment that will maximise each member’s fruitfulness.

The Power of the Soil – Genesis - Blueprint

- Worship – *“in our image and likeness...”*
- Stewardship – *“govern it, and reign...”*
- Fellowship – *“Lets us make man...”*
- Discipleship – *“multiply and fill...”*
- Hardship – *enmity and pain*

Today’s Message:

Worship

- **What is true Biblical worship? How must we worship? What did God have in mind?**
- Exodus 20:2-6 NLT *“I am the LORD your God, who rescued you from the land of Egypt, the place of your slavery. (3) “You must not have any other god but me. (4) “You must not make for yourself an idol of any kind or an image of anything in the heavens or on the earth or in the sea. (5) You must not bow down to them or worship them, for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God who will not tolerate your affection for any other gods. I lay the sins of the parents upon their children; the entire family is affected—even children in the third and fourth generations of those who reject me. (6) But I lavish unfailing love for a thousand generations on those who love me and obey my commands.”*
- John 4:23-24 ESV *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.”*
- Romans 12:1 ESV *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.*
- Romans 12:1-2 TPT *Beloved friends, what should be our proper response to God’s marvelous mercies? I encourage you to surrender yourselves to God to be his sacred, living sacrifices. And live in holiness, experiencing all that delights his heart. For this becomes your genuine expression of worship. (2) Stop imitating the ideals and opinions of the culture around you, but be inwardly transformed by the Holy Spirit through a total reformation of how you think. This will empower you to discern God’s will as you live a beautiful life, satisfying and perfect in his eyes.*
- We are going to draw insight by focussing our study on:
 - **God’s presence – God dwells among us – How do we relate and respond to God’s presence**

- **The Temple – Where God dwells – Our Priestly Role**
- **What does it mean to be God’s image bearers?** *Genesis 1:27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him*

Psalms 106:19-20 ESV They made a calf in Horeb and worshiped a metal image. (20) They exchanged the glory of God for the image of an ox that eats grass.

Acts 17:28-29 ESV for “In him we live and move and have our being”; as even some of your own poets have said, “For we are indeed his offspring.” (29) Being then God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of man.

Romans 8:29 ESV For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.

1 Corinthians 15:49 ESV Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven.

2 Corinthians 3:18 ESV And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

Image – “icon” – Images reflect a greater reality. Sin distorted the reflection of God’s reality – God’s image in us is restored through worship.

- **What is our mission – What must we fill the earth with? Disciples – what is a disciple? - image bearers of God. Our mission grows out of Adam and Eve’s commission to multiply image bearers who expand the boundaries of God’s glorious presence in Eden until it fills the whole earth. Our mission is fuelled by our worship as God’s image bearers, reflecting and representing God’s presence in the earth. Our mission expresses our worship – that’s the goal – that we might multiply more and more image bearers who worship the King.**
- **John Piper:** *Worship is what we were created for. This is the final end of all existence - the worship of God. God created the universe so that it would display the worth of His glory. And He created us so that we would see this glory and reflect it by knowing and loving it - with all our heart and soul and mind and strength. The church needs to build a common vision of what worship is and what she is gathering to do on Sunday morning and scattering to do on Monday morning.*
- In Scripture, God dwells not only up above the world in the heavens, but also among us, with us and within us.
- Our hearts have a deep longing for God’s presence. Worship is our response to God’s presence.

- One important way for us to understand God's presence in Scripture is through its teaching about the temple. Where God dwells (His presence is) can be referred to as a temple.
 - Jesus is the true temple
 - and even us as believers individually and corporately as the temple of the Holy Spirit.
- From Eden to the New Jerusalem, God's people are His temple on the earth, the first fruits of the new creation. God has always desired to dwell among us; now the church needs to follow its calling to extend the borders of God's Kingdom and take His presence to the ends of the earth.

What is Worship?

- In a nutshell:
 - Reflecting to God what we think He is worth.
 - It is to put the supreme worth of God on display!
 - It is a valuing or a treasuring of God above all things.
 - The inner essence of worship is the response of the heart to the knowledge of the mind when the mind is rightly understanding God's nature and the heart is rightly valuing God's worth.

William Temple: *Worship is the submission of all our nature to God. It is the quickening of conscience by His holiness; the nourishment of mind with His truth; the purifying of imagination by His Beauty; the opening of the heart to His love; the surrender of will to His purpose – and all of this gathered up in adoration, the most selfless emotion of which our nature is capable and therefore the chief remedy for that self-centeredness which is our original sin and the source of all actual sin.*

David Peterson: *Worship of the living and true God is essentially an engagement with him on the terms that he proposes and, in the way, that he alone makes possible.*

Harold Best: *Worship is the sign that in giving myself completely to someone or something, I want to be mastered by it.*