

Worship Value 9/16/07 – “Are You Limiting God?”

(Personal/Group Study Guide for this week available. Bibles floor/under chairs - take home...)

Continuation of this month’s focus on our **Rejoice! Worship Value which is “God directed, Christ inspired, Holy Spirit led and life transforming worship.”** I am choosing to use a couple of the 10 Commandments to share about this worship value and last week we took a look at Commandment #1 **Deuteronomy 5:7 (page 129 or 189) “You shall have no other gods before Me.”** (Say it with me...) Remember that it is like God is hopelessly and endlessly devoted to you and I. God desires that our hearts were the same towards Him. Remember how I attempted to use the Olivia Newton John Video Clip from the movie “Grease” to depict how one can be “hopelessly devoted to another – Olivia Newton John to John Travolta. Well today I’m not going to risk it with a video clip so I’d like to share with you a pic of our **family dog, a Cocker Spaniel named Sophie** – like Olivia Newton John she wants to have no one else in her life and is hopelessly devoted to thinking that our hearts would be the same - it is her and no one nothing else that is our heart’s desire. Truth be known occasionally, probably more often than we would like to admit, Sophie escapes from the confines of our house, backyard or garage and ends up blocks away, we’ve even witnessed her traveling escapades taking her way across town – but she always comes back home to us – she loves us. Sophie’s even had the propensity to end up at some of the residences represented here this morning and by some gift and ability to talk with humans Sophie has been able to get you to call us to come and pick her up or she has talked you into driving her home and dropping her off. Sophie is so dedicated to her owners, so devoted that she whines at night in the garage if she can not be in bed sleeping with one of us – a person can not have their blanket, teddy bear/stuffed animal, spouse take the place of Sophie, for she will let her desire to be the sole recipient of all of our devotion be made known by howling, whimper, pouting all night. If she ends up in the house for the evening and not out traversing the community of LeMars or in the garage, Sophie will get between you and the person or object you intended to cuddle with. Sophie is hopelessly devoted to us and depending what day or hour it is we are likewise devoted to her as well! God loves us like such, so much so that he wanted no other gods in our lives taking up His rightful spot and God made such desire clearly known by giving humanity the 10 Commandments.

I would just like to remind us that the 10 commandments were not a condition of relationship with God. It was not like God was saying, “o.k. people, if you could keep all the commandments then you will be allowed to be a follower of mine.” Actually it was a confirmation of a love relationship already existing. Like God saying, “I’ve given you these because you are my children, I have chosen you. You did not deserve to be chosen or you did not earn this choice – you’re already in!” Kind of like you and me, if you have already accepted Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior – you’re in, you’re part of God’s family. It is His grace and your faith (which is a gift God gave you) that makes you a follower of His. It’s not about trying to follow a bunch of rules and regulations. God knew that even if we could keep the 10 Commandments perfectly, or to the letter, that there is no way that the 10 Commandments could make us good enough to get to heaven. So, “good enough” had nothing to do with it. If you are a follower of Christ, if you’ve put your faith in Jesus Christ and then out of thanksgiving live your life in accordance with the 10 Commandments you’re in (faith without works of gratitude is worthless = James)! And the Israelites were “in” as the children of God because God

loved and chose them – just like any parent who loves their children. A parent gives a child rules/guidelines to live by for the purpose of safety and teaching a child right from wrong. Such is what the 10 Commandments were and are. Why did your parents give you rules to live by? I suspect it was to help keep you safe! (**EXAMPLE:** Deodorant/Antiperspirant Spray bottle in the trash/fire barrel....) Parents give kids rules to live by so that kid's lives will go well, they will prosper and live long. The 10 Commandments were just as relevant today as they were back then. Today as we continue to focus on our worship value, we're taking a look at the second commandment as written in **Deuteronomy 5:8-10** ***"You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments."***

What does God really mean regarding idol or image? To help us understand this we will need some context. Back when God gave Moses the commandments, roughly 1400 years before Jesus came to planet earth, the culture Israel was living in was filled with all kinds of gods. Just about every person had an idol/image made to represent a god/gods/goddess. For the Egyptians who were keeping the Israelites as slaves, the prevailing idea was to worship as many gods as you could – that way one would have all his/her basis covered. You would also, allegedly, get all the blessings from these different types of gods. (**Colleague of Pics of gods/images**) They had a sun god, a moon god, a god of war, a god of government, a god of agriculture, a cow god, a god of the rain, a god of fertility, a river god....Such was the type of culture the Israelites were living in. So, when the one true God showed up and spoke to the Israelites, and said, "I am your God." I'm quite sure the Israelites just thought and said, "Yeah, no problems, we'll just add you to the list, your're #86 o.k...." But then God says, "you shall have no other gods before Me." That is a huge change! Scary! Wipe out all the other gods? Then a long comes a second command, you can not make any idols to represent Me - another major change for the Israelites. They definitely struggled with this! We see an example of this in Exodus. At this point God has freed the Israelites from slavery. In order for God to free them, God is leading them by day with a cloud of smoke and by night with a pillar of fire. When the Israelites were butted up against the Red Sea, and thought they were going to be killed by Pharaoh and his Egyptian warriors who were chasing them, God parted the waters of the sea in front of them. So the Israelites know that their God, the one true God is the real God. 3 months later they arrive at Mt. Sinai and it is there that God actually audibly spoke to all the Israelites (Deuteronomy 5:4-6:22). Now you would think that after everything they had just heard, seen and experienced and be convicted of that they would be highly motivated to keep God's commands, but look what happens while Moses is 40 days and 40 nights on the mountain with God as depicted in **EXODUS 32:1-4** (also in Deuteronomy 9) **and the Golden Calf scene.** **"When the people saw that Moses was so long in coming down from the mountain, they gathered around Aaron and said, "Come, make us gods who will go before us. As for this fellow Moses who brought us up out of Egypt, we don't know what has happened to him." Aaron answered them, "Take off the gold earrings that your wives, your sons and your daughters are wearing, and bring them to me." So**

all the people took off their earrings and brought them to Aaron. He took what they handed him and made it into an idol cast in the shape of a calf, fashioning it with a tool. Then they said. “these are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of Egypt.”

A 1 to 1.5 months earlier God had clearly and personally spoke to them, they were trembling with fear and had already declared “we are going to do everything God has commanded us.” Yet now they are molding, shaping, a calf to resemble their picture of God. **THEIR SIN(S) WERE: WORSHIPING A DIFFERENT GOD & USING SOMETHING TO REPRESENT GOD.** Notice Aaron’s (deeper) response and his going along with the crowd in **EXODUS 32:5-6** “**When Aaron saw this, he built an altar in front of the calf and announced, “Tomorrow there will be a festival to the LORD.” So the next day the people rose early and sacrificed burnt offerings and presented fellowship offerings. Afterward they sat down to eat and drink and got up to indulge in revelry.**” (Impatient, rose early, wanted to get into revelry or wild partying.) Look at, or take note of the word “LORD” in caps. That means they had the right God/LORD in mind. But they were worshiping a false representation of god and they were worshiping God in a false way. They were worshiping a golden calf and focusing their feelings about God on to the calf. They slide back to what was controllable and tangible for them. This might be a difficult concept to get our brains around, (play dough) but how many of us have ever been to one of the following pristine, beautiful, spots – raise your hand - **EXAMPLE: 1 Screen w/ Pic of Half Dome – Yosemite National Park in CA.; Lake Louise in Banff, British Columbia, Canada; Yellowstone National Park in Wyoming; Glacier National Park in Montana.** Now if you or I were to create a depiction of the colors and the grander and the experiences of these places or the scenery that captivates us, how would we go about making such out of play dough? There is no way you’re going to get anywhere near full representation of what the landmark/spot...looks like making it out of play dough – all the grander – it just isn’t close! In the same way God is saying, “don’t let anything represent ME, because there is nothing in all creation that can ever come close to representing Me/the Creator – nothing in all creation.” The moment we start to limit God in some form or way, we begin to violate commandment #2. Now, I don’t think any of us are going to go home today and do what the Israelites did and go home and melt down some fine jewelry/gold to make an animal, an molten image, of some sort. But let’s take a look at some of the ways we may knowingly and unknowingly violate this second commandment by limiting God in some way.

One way we may violate the 2nd Commandment by limiting God to LOCATION.

Ex: church tradition of catechism classes = going every Wednesday night.

(I remember going every Wednesday night – having Big, Bad, Betty Sneden as our teacher. I remember playing hide-n-seek in the church and running in the sanctuary. Betty would invariably yell out “Stop running in God’s house!!!” We would stop in our tracks for she appeared to be very strong, huge, and muscular – like the leader of the USA Olympian Shot Putting Team. Betty’s initial, verbose, “STOP” command was always followed up with that infamous “God’s house this & God’s house that speech.” Betty seemingly wanted us to believe that this was the only place God showed up! She left me with the impression that God was only active and working in that steepled/bell-towered building. (Interesting to note: a few years back the old First Reformed Church

church of Jamestown, MI. burned to the ground. But, Betty is still around, and the church has moved to a new locale & God is still present in the new church) Betty was only giving lip service to a half truth on her part. Sure, God was alive, living, working, present in that church, but I also learned that God is also present wherever and wherever only 2 or 3 are gathering in His name. That is one of the qualities that makes God who He is. God is omnipresent - meaning He is everywhere at every time! If we begin to limit God to only being active and working in building that is a form of idolatry because we are limiting God to only one place/room/building (background pic of Rejoice!). The building becomes the focal point instead of God. Now our campus is a fine place, but it is just one massive building and truly our prayer is that your worship would not only happen here, but also continue to be lifted up to God well beyond the walls of this place in additional worship venues in the future, as well as at home, work, school, in the shower, in the auto, tractor, simply by the way you live/conduct the affairs of life.

A 2nd way we may knowingly and unknowingly violate this second commandment is by limiting God to an OBJECT. If you have some sort of an object hanging around your neck or religious symbol (like a crucifix or cross) on the wall at home, the question you want to ask yourself is “does this serve as a reminder or is this becoming a representation of God?” Because a cross/crucifix can be a great reminder of what Jesus did for us, but the moment one begins to kiss it or give it some sort of supernatural power(s) it is no longer just a symbol, but it has crossed over and become an idol (like prayer beads). A necklace or picture does not carry God’s power. A statue never saved anyone. A cross never saved anyone. Jesus did & does. A potato chip or grilled cheese sandwich in the likeness of Jesus doesn’t have the ability to heal. Only our God does. Every time I see a story like the potato chip & grilled cheese sandwich in the news/newspaper/on the internet, I am reminded that we are not very much different than the Israelites. Our human, finite, nature just seemingly cannot get comfortable with an eternal, limitless, God, so we feel compelled to make God into something tangible, real, controllable. Our God is a lot of things, but He is not containable or controllable! Nothing in all creation can come close to representing the Creator. When we limit God to an object, we are limiting God!

A 3rd way we may knowingly or unknowingly limit God and violate the 2nd commandment is by limiting Our View of God. Let me ask you a question – close your eyes for a couple seconds (I know a risk here). When you mentally conjure up, or focus, or draw a picture of God what do you picture? What picture comes instantly on the radar screen of your mind? For many it is the natural reaction or picture of an older, gray-haired, long-haired, white bearded guy. He’s joyful, happy, gracious and loving and when we stumble and fall He picks us up and dusts us off. From time to time we see Him putting us on His knee, even hugs us, covers us with His loving and just simply holds us – kind of a “Grandpa God.” Others of us would say that God wears a black robe, totes a gavel, and sits behind a bench with His arms crossed and a stern eyes & angered face all the while waiting for me to make a mistake. And when I do He picks up the huge gavel and slams it down and points to me and says “you’re nothing but guilty – shame on you!” He’s simply a radical mean, stern, judge! The truth of the matter is, is that anytime we start to look at God in one certain way, when we start to think of God as one certain type of God, we’re risking breaking the 2nd commandment again. God is both like grandpa

and judge, but the Bible also says God is our Master, Healer, Provider, Shepherd, Shield, and Rock. When we limit our view of God basically we are saying, “I like these qualities about God, but I really do not like these qualities about God. I like thinking about God this way, but not that way.” Fact is, God is not like a Taco John’s menu where we get to pick and choose or Burger King where we can “have it our way.” As Christ followers, we need to accept all of who God is. When we begin to think of God only in one way, that is idol worship because we are choosing the way God is going to be. We are limiting God to those qualities that we like to think about. Don’t limit God, or you are simply just putting God in a box. Don’t reduce God from being God. Need to embrace God in all the plethora of qualities/characteristics He is. (Problem of too much law & too much grace). So what is idolatry? Anytime/thing/way we begin/actually limit God!

We’ve looked at 3 concrete ways we could be knowingly or unknowingly be violating this 2nd Commandment. Then God shifts a tad and shows us how this commandment is still relevant to us today. God is saying, “Hey, you, if you limit Me and put something else in the place of Me – the place only I should occupy – **when that happens I will be jealous**. Reminds me of **our family dog Sophie** – if a little child comes over and gets all the attention (like someone’s infant child being held by my wife Sophie goes bizerk! If anyone sits by my wife and Sophie is in the room, Sophie will jump up on my wife’s lap or wedge herself in between the other person and my wife. Sophie can not stand to have anyone else get the attention she feels she is rightly entitled to. Sophie reminds me, albeit ever so minutely, of God who is very clear in this 1st & 2nd commandment that He does not want anything/anyone else receiving our worship, attention, and devotion. **Stuart Briscoe has written “With all the intensity and integrity of His being, God will defend and insist His rightful place at the center of the universe – the throne of his creatures hearts. God will resist with all His almighty power anything that infringes on this position.”** Anything that completes for Lordship, God is flat out going to be jealous of and He will take action on such jealousy – like any lover would over his/her beloved!

Making God **jealous doesn’t just affect us, but it also affects our families as well. Deuteronomy 5:9b-10 states that God will punish the children for the sins of their fathers to the third and fourth generation who hate Me, BUT....** Wow! God says, that’s right – He will & promises to – that He will lay the punishment for the sins of the parents upon their children. Your family will be affected! This is why this worship value at Rejoice! (using Commandment #2 as our backdrop) is so important to get right & so important and relevant for us today and our family tree’s tomorrows! This God honoring, Christ Focused & Holy Spirit inspired worship needs to be happening and a vital part of our waking hours so that our children are not affected negatively! If we won’t do it for ourselves, do it for our kids – we say we’ll do anything for them – this is the best thing we can do for them for years to come – the gift that keeps on giving – **WORSHIP!** It is so that our choices do not affect our kids or future generations negatively! So are we setting an example for our kids and grandkids to follow? If God does not get first place in our lives, things will more than likely not be any different for, to, with them (next generation(s)). In fact, it will probably snowball into results that are deeply dark. According to this commandment, the same struggles that we’ve had, because of not giving God first place, and all of our worship focus, and all of the honor in our lives – our children will have visitation of the same type of struggles (to a greater

degree). The question all of us needs to be asking is: **Isn't it time to cut the cycle!?! Is God getting all my undivided attention/worship or Have I limited God in some way and elevated someone/something else to God's status and outright position in my life?** EXAMPLE: Slips of PaperOn the one hand, God is jealous towards anything that competes for His love relationship, worship, focal point in our lives, but on the other hand, God also tells us that He rewards those who put Him in His rightful place of honor in their lives! Keep reading! **Deuteronomy 5:10 - "But showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments (anchor)"** God is saying, is making a promise that, "I lavish unfailing love for a thousand generations to/for those who love Me and obey My commandments." Here we see the goodness of God. He doesn't want to have to correct or discipline us, but He loves us enough to do so. That correction may last three or four generations (and the longevity of such correction is quite up to us), but for those who have/place Jesus Christ on the throne of their lives, who put God first and worship Him, God says he is going to show His love for a thousand generations. I like this ratio! **THAT IS GRACE, MERCY, LOVE!**

Everyone of us here is a product of 1 or these 2 guidelines. Some of you here this morning, if you are honest with yourself, are saying that you are struggling with the same issues, problems, addictions, your parents and maybe even grandparents had. Some are here struggling with a multi-generational values system that limits God or places something else in the place that only God can/should want to occupy and as a result your living out the same scenery as your parents and grandparents. You would probably also honestly say "I'm at risk at passing this on to my kids – the next generation."

Others of you are enjoying God's unfailing love, grace, mercy...because of the Christ-centered values that started generations ago in your family. I'm sure if I asked and for an honest inquiry you'd say "life has not always been smooth and easy!" But you would say that you've experienced God's unfailing love in all kinds of ways, not the least of which you have always felt anchored when the storms of life hit. You've been secured by that His anchoring and are committed to holding on to that anchor forever for you believe "that if God is for you who can be against or stand against you. You believe that nothing can separate you from the love of God no matter where you go or what life throws at you. You can look back to grandparents and great grandparents and honestly see and share that the value of God honoring, Christ inspired, Holy Spirit let worship was prevalent in their lives and passed down, caught, by you. You are the recipient of their obedience. You are living proof that God keeps his word. Is there hope for those of us who did not have that type of background? Is there hope to stop passing on that incorrect value system unto our kids and grandkids? The answer is absolutely. The key is **DO NOT LIMIT GOD!** Don't reduce God! Do not unknowingly practice idol worship! Put God first, or in the rightful place He belongs in your life and practice ideal worship! But you can't do it by yourself that is why God has lavished his love on you through Jesus Christ and His work on the Cross.....**COMMUNION** & communion is not a ...it is a remembrance of...**GRACE!** Don't limit what God can do, has done in and will do thru Christ Jesus (a feast of – from revelry/party or to celebration of remembrance, communion & hope)!

Jesus tells us what ideal worship looks like in John 4:23-22. God is looking for worshippers who worship as such! Why? So He can lavishly dispense His unfailing, multi-generational, love on such persons. (The gift that keeps on giving). To worship in Spirit and truth means that we worship God with the right attitude and the right way. Attitude means when we worship it is not for or about us! It is for God! When we come together it is not for our sake that we worship, it is for God's sake. Note: Worship is the only thing God can't give Himself! It has to come from His creation. Worship needs to come out of a sense of gratitude for who He is and what He has done. It should be done to honor and please God – not us! Such is our weekly corporate goal as a prelude to personal/individual daily worship. So, it is our desire at Rejoice! to create/offer an environment through instruments, video, lights, sound, voice, Scripture, Bible Talk, Prayer, Children's gatherings, drama, where we can give genuine heartfelt worship to our Creator and Lord and God. So if you've ever walked out and said "I did not get anything out of worship" I think God would say, "You did not worship Me with the right attitude." (Attitude = Spirit) As for worshipping in Truth – I'm not talking about how a person may or may not stand up, sit down, jump, raise hand, clap, close eyes, speak in tongues, ...in worship. What I am talking about is worship not just a part or component of your life or is it your life – your true lifestyle? Our prayer is that worship happens in here and outside our walls, because usually only about 1 hour of the 168 hours in each week are spent in here and if this is the only place where you are thinking about God, praying to God, singing to God, learning God's Word, serving God – I know God would say to you that "you are not worshipping Me in the right way. That is not worshipping Me in truth." You see a lifestyle of worship is taking what we learn here with us out there so that we are the same persons out there as we are here.

That is a truthful lifestyle of worship. God does not want us to limit Him in any way, for by limiting Him to a place or object we are actually elevating something else to the place only He should occupy. When we do that, we'll likely place/parlay that value system unto our kids and grandkids. But when God, God alone, occupies the top (Bulldogs/College ratings) spot in our lives then we and numerous future generations will experience God's unfailing love. We'll experience the "anchoring affect" of God's unfailing love. 2 Questions I want to leave with you to ask yourself today/this week. 1)Have I limited God and put something in the place He should only occupy? 2)Am I bringing God my ideal/best worship?

Communion Tie....(Songs)

What maybe idol (write out) need to lay down on the alter prior to communion so can be a true, Spiritfilled, worshiper?

Personal Study Guide & Group Discussion Guide Week of 9/16 - "Limiting God?"

This month at Rejoice! we are looking at our **worship value** – **"God directed, Christ**

inspired, Holy Spirit led and life transforming worship.” This week we are taking a look at worship via the 2nd Commandment God gave as written in **Deuteronomy 5:8-10.**

“You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments.”

Just as a reminder from last week’s study, the culture Israel was living in was filled with all kinds of gods. Just about every person had idols/images made to represent a god(s).

The prevailing idea was to worship as many gods as you could – that way a person would have all of his/her bases covered. Persons would also allegedly get numerous blessings from these different types of gods. So when the one true God spoke to Moses to have Moses share with the Israelites, and said, **“I will be your God,”(Exodus 5:22-6:12)**

many of the Israelites may have just thought, “Yeah, no problem, no big deal, we’ll just add you to the list - you’re #86 on our ‘gods listing’, o.k.” Consequently, after leading the Israelites out of bondage God institutes a command, **“you shall have NO other gods**

before me” (Exodus 20:3). That is a huge change for the Israelites! A scary thought for

them! Really wipe out all the other gods in our lives? No images? Ever wonder what

they really took with them in their knapsacks as they escaped the clutches of Pharaoh and

his chariot-riding army. Most likely, idols/images were toted along allegedly just for

good luck. The “no other god thing – only one God command – or have no other gods

before Me” was a major change for the Israelites.

After having been spared from the plagues, after having miraculously walked through the Red Sea on dry ground and witnessed the drowning of Pharaoh’s Army, after

having had manna, quail, and water miraculously supplied for them on a daily basis, after having encountered the glory of God hovering mightily over Mt. Sinai (**Exodus 7:14-12:43; 13:17-14:31; 15:22-27; 16:1-36; 17:1-7; 19:1-2; 19:14-21**) one would think that the change to obey this first command would be easy. But, in **Exodus 32:1-4** we read of the Israelites becoming impatient with Moses for being up on the mountain for 40 days and nights receiving directions and commands from the one true God. So they created and worshiped a false god (a Golden Calf). Aaron, the leader in charge during Moses' absence, tried to take the edge off of such disobedience, or sinning, and in **Exodus 32:5-6** we read "**When Aaron saw this, he built an altar in the front of the calf and announced, "Tomorrow there will be a festival to the LORD." So the next day the people rose early and sacrificed burnt offerings and presented fellowship offerings. Afterward they sat down to eat and drink and got up to indulge in revelry.**" So not only were the people of Israel disobeying the 1st Commandment, they were also guilty of worshiping the one true God/LORD in a false way – or focusing their feelings about God/LORD on to a golden calf. They slid back to what was controllable and comfortable for them. Again, God forbade having anything in all of creation represent Him, for there is just nothing in all creation that can ever come close to representing Him. At the moment one starts to limit God in some form/way, one begins to violate Commandment #2. Then God gets jealous and serious, long lasting, punishment happens!

Key Verse: Deuteronomy 5:8-10

Additional Scripture Readings: Daniel 3 & 6 & John 4:1-26 & Galatians 5:19-21

-Look up the word "*Pharisee(s)*" in a Bible Concordance and read in Matthew, Mark, Luke & John of all the numerous images/idols they were hanging on to and what Jesus had to say to them. Matthew 23 could be labeled as a fine summary of the idols that plagued these Pharisees.

Ephesians 5:5; Colossians 3:5; 2 Kings 17:12-15; Psalm 31:6 & 97:7; 1 Corinthians 6:9 & 8:4; Revelation 21:8 & 22:15; Jeremiah 2:8-18 & 50:1-38

Ezekiel 6:6-9; 14:1-6; 20:7-39 & 23:49 & 43:9; 1John 5:21; 1Peter 4:1-11

Discussion Questions:

1)How, if at all, do you limit God to a location? Ask God to reveal such limiting to you.

Confess any “location limits” you have placed on God and ask God to prepare your heart for meeting Him and being with Him in His unlimited meeting/dwelling places.

2)God is omnipresent, or in all places at all times, what does this mean to you? How

can/does this change your image of God? How does this change/call you to meet with God?

3)What is your favorite Name for/of God (Creator, Love, Sustainer...) and why?

4)In what way(s), if any, do you limit God to an object? Perhaps you limit God to a

a religious symbol (like even the Cross or a Church) and what does Commandment #2 have to say about this? Pray to God and ask Him to reveal to you through the Holy Spirit if you are limiting Him to an object. Spend time confessing such. Ask God how He would like to give you more insight into who He is and who He can be in your life – life away from the limitations you’ve placed on Him.

5)Is there any way you are limiting your view of God? Like thinking God to be just a

“Grandpa God” (Mercy, Love & Grace) or a “Judge”? In the partaking of Holy Communion, what does God want to us/you to view Him as?

6)Is there any way you are making God jealous by giving another the affection of your

heart or by making/creating an image of God?

7)Are you experiencing God’s jealousy? What does such look/feel like? How is God’s

jealousy affecting your children and your children’s children? Can you see any way(s) in which God’s jealousy has affected your family tree negatively? Are the same old addictions, issues, problems...evident in your family tree for generations? What about the phrase “the apple doesn’t fall too far from the tree” - is such (negatively) true in your family tree? If so how?

8)Are you ready to stop the cycle of sin, disobedience, and the experience of God’s

jealousy? It’s time to confess such sin, receive Christ, and repent (change directions) – It’s time to pray and receive God’s grace in and through Jesus Christ. It’s time to walk the grace-filled life.

9)What are the benefits, for generations to come, if a person puts God in His rightful

place of honor in one’s life?

10)How can you, how will you, take action to forgo making idols/images of God this

week? How can Rejoice! help you? How can your small group help you and hold you accountable?

