



Kronicle

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W. O. R. S. H. I. P.

"And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him."

Romans 12:1 (NLT)

Have you ever noticed that the whole world is getting acronym-happy? Seriously, every organization has some catchy 3- or 4- letter name that stands for something longer. It seems that churches have jumped onto this band wagon BIG-TIME. For example, I used to attend Community Presbyterian Church (WAY too many syllables) so they called it CPC. Well if you Google "CPC," you get nearly 22 million results, some of which are Climate Prediction Center, Chinese-American Planning Council, and Choroid Plexus Cysts (A disease of the brain). So the name of my church became a three-letter-word with an ambiguous meaning. Don't even get me started with the "text" generation, with the BRB's, BTW's and BFF's. Makes me want to LOL... E-I-E-I-O...



I used to poke fun at our Children's Minister, Erin, because she COULD NOT STAND acronyms. She chose the name "The Adventure" for our Children's Ministry, partially so no one could make an acronym out of it! So, being the brat that I am, I made one for her:

A Diligently Vital Endeavor Not To Underestimate Righteous Education.

(No, she didn't fire me; she laughed! And rolled her eyes a bit...)

Now don't get me wrong; I don't have anything against a meaningful acronym. I wear a tiny golden frog earring, and every time someone comments on it, I'm reminded to **Fully Rely On God**. It's a great opening to witness to people! Which brings me to the title of this article. There have been many acronyms made for the word "worship," but none of the ones I've seen have quite worked for me. So I made up my own: **Ways Of Responding, Seeing His Infinite Power!**

You would think, as a music minister, I would feel the need to put some kind of musical term in there, but no. The Bible does not limit worship to singing praise to Him, so neither should we. Worship is, quite simply, anything and everything we do and say in response to who He is and what He has done for us. I explain it to my children's choir like this: Imagine it's Christmas time, and there's a present that you've been asking for all year long. Your parents give it to you Christmas morning, and you open it, then put it down and forget about it. No! You squeal with delight, jump up and hug Mom and Dad and say "Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! You're the best!" Now think about the God of the universe, the one who gave us our very lives, our families, good food, shelter, puppies, and on and on and on... How do we respond to Him? Any way that we tell Him "Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! You're the best!" is an act of worship, whether it's obedience, witnessing, singing, dancing... Just about anything.

Worship is a spontaneous response, and can not be forced. The thing is, in order to truly worship Him, we have to KNOW Him. We have to be aware of all He's done for us. If we want our future worship leaders to truly worship, we need to give them a solid understanding of Who we are worshipping. Like the children of Israel, we need constant reminders of God's goodness and faithfulness. We can only respond if we've seen His infinite power!

Our church had a great series last year on the Characteristics of God, which gave the kids a good background: God is Everywhere, God is Merciful, God is All-Powerful, God is Love... You get the picture. Each month we impressed upon the kids a different reason to love and worship Him.

The tough thing is, with kids (and sometimes adults too!), it's sometimes hard to tell if it's sinking in! But really, it's not our job to make it stick. The Holy Spirit is assigned to that task: preparing hearts, making them into fertile ground to receive the seeds we are sowing. We need to pray diligently that He will do this work and guide us into ever more effective ways to teach His truth. Then, when they truly see God, the natural response is worship! TTFN!

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