



THRIVING

The Line: Foundation For The City
Part Three: Worship, Idolatry, Sanctification, Repentance
Taught by Pastor Aaron Youngren

key concept

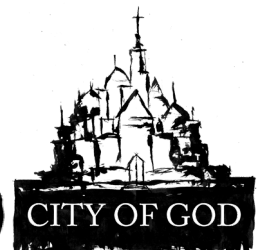
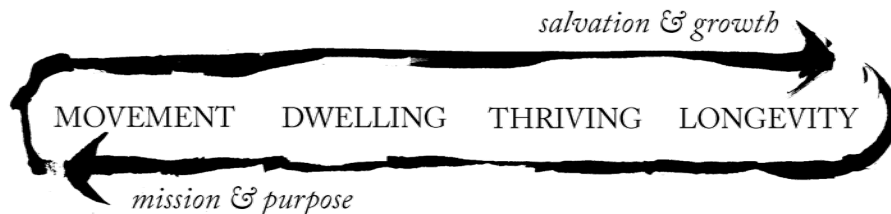
On the cross, Jesus made it possible for us to *thrive*. Christian morality is not an abstracted system of arbitrary rules, but rather a path toward *thriving* in the world and in Jesus.

thriving in scripture

WORSHIP: THRIVING IN GOD

Humanity was created to worship God. Far from being a weekly event, worship encompasses the entirety of human life. (Romans 12:1; John 4:19-26; Colossians 1:16; Deuteronomy 10:12-22). Harold Best defines worship as “The continuous outpouring of all that I am, all that I do and all that I can ever become in light of a chosen or choosing God.”

Two things are striking about the scriptural commands to worship God. First, that commands almost always demand that we worship God not blindly, but as a response to who He is and what He’s done (see, for example, Romans 12:1; Psalm 5:7, 11; 29:1-2; 96:6-8; Deuteronomy 10:20-22). Second, that worship of God seems to occur when the deepest desires of mankind are fulfilled beyond its imagination or comprehension (Psalm 16:11; 27:4; 37:4; 40:8; 51:10,12; 63:1-5; Ephesians 3:20-4:1).



The deepest tragedy, then, would be to mistake the morality that God demands from us as adherence to a set of arbitrary rules and regulations. Rather, it is *thriving*. Life lived toward Him, the ultimate fulfillment of human experience.

IDOLATRY: TRYING TO THRIVE IN ANYTHING ELSE

Humanity was created to worship God, but when it stopped worshipping God, it did not stop worshipping. According to the Bible, worship is not something Christians do, it's something humans do (Romans 1:18-26). And this is grievous and punishable wrong (Romans 1:27-32).

Sometimes, human idolatry takes the form of worshipping another God outright (2 Kings 17:35-36). Other times, idolatry takes the form of simply worshipping other created things (Exodus 20:4-5; Habakkuk 1:11, 16; Luke 16:13). Sometimes it takes the form of morally acceptable and even laudable behavior that isn't directed toward God (Isaiah 29:13; Matthew 23:25-28; John 5:39).

SANCTIFICATION & ONGOING REPENTANCE: TURNING FROM IDOLS, THRIVING IN JESUS

Jesus lived the life a life of perfect worship toward God (John 8:48; 10:18; Hebrews 4:15; Philippians 2:8). Because of this, we are daily being restored to ultimate human thriving (Jeremiah 31:31-34; Ezekiel 36:24-30; John 4:23-26; Romans 11:33-12:2; 2 Corinthians 3:17-18).

group discussion

1. What words are associated with the word "worship"?
2. Which areas of your life do you have a difficult time calling "worship"?
3. If idolatry is worshipping something other than God, what kinds of idolatry might be most prevalent with your friends and in your neighborhood?
4. Have you thought of Christian morality as *thriving*? What are the implications of this for the way you live life and pursue God?

questions for personal reflection

1. If idolatry is worshipping something other than God, what kinds of idolatry might you be most prone to?
2. What would it look like for you worship God in these things?
3. What kinds of help might you need along the way?

