Are You Insulting God in Worship? by Sam Storms, desiringgod.org (7 Jun 15)

The misunderstanding of a short, three-letter word can transform an act of heartfelt worship into a slanderous insult.

Perhaps you’ve heard Matt Redman’s song “Here for You” and are familiar with its lyrics. Here’s the first verse:

Let our praise be Your welcome
Let our songs be a sign
We are here for You, we are here for You

Let Your breath come from heaven
Fill our hearts with Your life
We are here for You, we are here for You
Little words can mean a lot. They can make the difference between good and evil, between heaven and hell. In this case, a right understanding of a single word is the only thing that prevents an act of worship from degenerating into a colossal insult to God. It’s the word “for.”

HERE TO HELP?

Imagine for a moment that a person in your church has fallen ill and is bedridden. While he is helplessly laid up, his house suffers from disrepair. The yard is overgrown and desperately in need of care. You and a small group from the church show up unexpectedly at his home, prepared to do for him what he simply cannot do for himself.

“Why are you here?” he asks. “What’s all about?”

“We are here for you,” everyone responds in unison.

Think about the meaning of “for” in that sentence. You are telling your friend that you are present in order to provide a service for him. He is weak and sickly and in great need, and you and your friends are here to do for him what he lacks the strength and ability to do on his own. He is in lack. You are here in order to supply for him a service that he is unable to accomplish in his own power.

Once the house has been cleaned and the yard has been mowed, the hedges trimmed, and the trash hauled off, he says, “I can’t believe you are so kind to me. That you would provide this service for me is amazing. I’ve been so weak and exhausted and I simply didn’t have the time or energy to do for myself what you’ve done for me. Thanks so much.”

What are we doing when we gather corporately and sing our praise to God? What is our intent? What is it that we believe we are achieving?

When we sing, “We are here for You,” in what sense do we use the word “for”?

GOD DOES NOT NEED YOU

If you are singing and praying and praising God and thinking, “God does not need me,” you may be misspending your time and energy. If you are rejoicing and exalting the Lord and saying, “I am here for You,” you are making a profound and powerful statement about what you believe about the role of the believer and the nature of God.

Congratulations to SPC Noah Hill on his promotion.
and preaching in order to do “for” God what you and your friends did “for” that sickly and needy man, you have insulted God. Now, why do I say that? Consider what the apostle Paul said in his speech on Mars Hill:

“The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything.” (Acts 17:24–25)

Simply put, God does not need you or me. He is altogether self-sufficient, dependent on no one. He is, in fact, the one who is responsible for the existence and preservation of all life, yours and mine. Therefore, he cannot be “served” as if he were needy or exhausted or weak or lacking something that only you and I and the people of your church can supply.

To arrive on a Sunday morning and declare to God, “We are here for you,” in the sense that you believe there is something you can give to God that he doesn’t already have, or that you can shore up a weakness, or fill a gap or overcome a deficiency, is to insult God to the very core of his being.

That is why we must be extremely careful that we are never there “for” God in the sense in which we might be there “for” an invalid or someone who is destitute of the resources to care for himself.

HERE TO BE REFRESHED

But let’s go back to your gracious and loving service “for” your friend who is bedridden. Let’s assume that after your hard day at work in his yard in one-hundred-degree temperature, you are desperately thirsty.

Suddenly there appears a truck at the curb, offering ice-cold, refreshing water. You run up to the driver and say, “We are here for you.” Your obvious intent is that you are there for what the driver can supply. You don’t pretend to bring him anything other than your thirst. You are desperate for refreshment. Without it, you will faint. You are there humbly asking him for what he alone can provide: life-giving, thirst-quenching, soul-refreshing water.

That is how we are here for God in worship. We cannot add to his resources as if he were in lack. He is infinite and immeasurably abundant and needs nothing from us. Rather, we are here for God in the sense that we need him as a thirsty man needs water, as a hungry traveler needs food, as a bankrupt beggar needs money, as a guilty soul needs forgiveness, as a broken heart needs healing, as a lost sinner needs salvation. That is why we are here for God. Only he can supply what we lack. Only he can give us what we need.

If we gather for God, thinking that he stands in need of us, we insult him. But if we gather for God to drink deeply and feast upon all that he is for us in Jesus, we honor him.

By the way, we should give Matt Redman credit for making this quite clear in his song. If we ask of the lyrics, “Why are you here for God?” the answer is clear:

Let Your breath come from heaven
Fill our hearts with Your life

The worshiper comes not to infuse God with breath, but to receive it from him. The worshiper makes no pretense at filling up what is lacking God, but cries out that God fill his heart with divine and supernatural life.

Such is how a simple, short, three-letter word can be used either to denigrate and dishonor God, or to honor and extol him.

May it always be the latter when we come together and say, “We are here for you.”

5 Tips when Communicating with Men by Ron Edmondson, ronedmondson.com

1 Jun 15

In my position, I hear from men and women continually. In most relationships — communication appears to be the biggest struggle. It’s a constant work in progress in my own marriage. The difficulty is in the way men and women communicate.

My counseling background and years of experience working with couples has given me insight into some of the barriers men and women face when communicating. I realize not all men are alike — and these are generalities. I can’t emphasize that enough — so if you comment that these aren’t true for everyone — I with you! (Please re-read this statement.) The only way to know is to talk with the men with whom you are trying to communicate to see if these are true for them. My hope is that these — as general as they may be — may help some women better understand a man and improve communication. (The companion post will follow.)

We meant what we said. Often not what you heard — That is true 99% of the time. (Statistically verifiable. ) Men are usually more literal, and frankly simple-minded.
Women may have multiple meanings with a statement. That's less likely with men. So, when a man says something, try to hear only what was said — without attaching extra thoughts triggered by emotions. If in doubt, ask if his statement had a deeper meaning before making assumptions. Most likely he meant only nothing more than what was said. (I can't tell you how many classic examples of marriage problems I've seen develop with just this one tip.)

**We don't often like to give details** – If we said where we were going, who we had a discussion with or what we had for lunch, that's usually enough for us. End of discussion. (At least in our minds.) We may not like going into detail beyond those simple facts. I understand you may need and even deserve more information. That's especially true when a man has given reason to disprove his trustworthiness. In learning how to communicate, however, it's important to know details may be out of his realm of comfort to provide. When it's not a matter of trust, the less you pump for details the more likely he will be to share facts, and even occasionally, details. (For Cheryl and me, she has learned that if she gives me time, and especially if we are doing something together — like walking — that I'm more likely to share the details she wants without having to ask for them.)

**Our range of emotions is limited** – Most men don't feel as deeply or multi-faceted as a woman feels about an issue. It's not that we don't care. It's just that we are wired differently. Because of this, men tend to communicate more factually and less emotionally. If you ask us how we feel “happy” or “sad” may be as descriptive as we can get for you. That may be it. I've heard so many wives who want to know their husbands “deeper” emotions. She may not understand that he's shared the depth as well as he knows how to share them.

**When you may tend to cry we may tend to get angry** – I get criticized for this point sometimes, but it’s a difference in wiring. Please understand, there is never an excuse to misuse anger and abuse of any kind should not be tolerated. But anger in itself is not a sin. The Bible says "in your anger do not sin", but it seems to assume we will have moments of anger. The same things that may cause female’s emotions to produce tears, often cause a man to develop anger. A godly man learns to handle that anger responsibly, but it doesn't eliminate the response. When an issue riles a man emotionally, it helps if you understand his emotions may be normal and you may even be able to help him channel his response to that emotion. Cheryl does this for me continually.

**Making Shelter**


**Underground Shelter**

This underground shelter is ideal for use in arid zones. Note how the airspace created in the top of the shelter provides a layer of still-air insulation that protects against the heat of the sun.

**Sometimes we have a hard time communicating what’s on our heart.**

**often we never fully do** – This is sad and we may even know it. Here’s a tip. When you make us feel we will be respected regardless of the emotions we display, the more likely you’ll see our true emotions.

Please understand. I’m not making excuses for men. The basic premise of all of these is to remember that men and women are different. I'm simply trying to help you communicate with a man.

**5 Tips when Communicating with Women** by Ron Edmondson, ron@edmondson.com

(2 Jun 15)

I should say I don’t feel as comfortable with this side of the discussion. Obviously, this is not my gender. I love my wife — and I study her. I have worked with hundreds of couples — many times in distress. Still, I don’t feel I'm qualified to speak for the gender.

My degree in counseling and experience working with dozens of couples, however, has helped me process some thoughts about men and women and how they communicate. I wrote these, but ran them by my wife prior to posting.

As I said with the men, remember these are generalized statements, so not all women will fit in each of these. If they don’t fit with you, dismiss them. Simple as that. Men, if you wonder — ask. The only intent here is to be helpful.

**There may be a deeper meaning** – What a woman says most likely represents the way she feels, which may or may not be captured completely by the words she uses. It's harder to put emotions into words. I find it important to ask Cheryl to clarify what she is saying often. It sometimes helps if I repeat back what I think she's saying, then allow her to tell me what I'm missing.

**Emotions are attached so the way you say it is important** – Most women place a very strong value on relationships and people. Because of that, women may think and communicate more with their hearts. It's more difficult for a woman to “set feelings aside” when communicating, for example. They are relational and more subject to getting their feelings “hurt”. Women don't necessarily want to avoid discussing the difficult issues, but they do want men to consider how they say things. Words can have heavier meanings for a woman, since they are often interpreted with emotions.

**Details are important if they are attached to someone they love** – I always joke that Cheryl can remember where the socks in the house are, because they are worn by someone she loves. Women want to know details of a man’s life because she loves the man. I have to remember this when Cheryl asks for more details about my day. Sometimes her questioning is just so she can be a part of it; not to burden me with questions. Also, because trust develops with information and experience, and because women may live closer to the emotions of an issue than even the facts sometimes, details can be important in learning to trust a man. Knowledge and information helps keep the woman’s heart from emotions such as worry or fear.

**Crying may simply be a way to express and release emotions** – With intense emotions — sometimes a woman can feel overwhelmed with stress, anger, grief or even pleasure — tears are a natural reaction. Cheryl knows, however, that when she cries I get uncomfortable. Just as a man needs to learn to use anger responsibly, the same is true of tears for a woman. It can help a man communicate better when he understands tears may simply be a way of expressing emotions. (One thing Cheryl does for me if she's crying is to release me from responsibility...
They don’t always need you to fix things — They may need you simply to listen as they work through something. This is a hard lesson for a man. Cheryl processes with me as she shares the burdens of her day, a stress she feels, or a disappointment in her life. She doesn’t usually want me to have an answer — at least not immediately — she wants me to be a sounding board as she thinks through the issue. I’ve learned that sometimes it is best to say nothing — just listen — until she asks me for an opinion. Of course, when she says “Go” I’m usually ready with the solution.

Learning to communicate better as men and women makes life more enjoyable for both genders. Most women I know are willing to admit that a woman can be more complicated to understand than a man. I’ve learned by experience that when I don’t understand how to communicate with Cheryl — or what she is saying — or when I mess up — I get tremendous credit for asking her to help me understand. Cheryl always seems patient with me when I’m attempting to communicate better. Men, it’s worth the effort!

Daily Devotional

8 JUNE

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? (Romans 8:35, ESV)

...or war or an ocean or deserts of sand or ... you fill in the blank. There are so many things in this world that seem to separate us from God. Sometimes it is we ourselves that run from His love. Is it possible? Can we get away? Whatever the world throws at us or whatever reasons make us pull ourselves away, it is not enough. God’s love is too strong. Stop running away. Stop looking at the circumstances that try pitifully to stand in the way and face the facts: God’s Love: it’s everywhere, get used to it.

Prayer: Lord, there’s no where I can go that can get away from you.

9 JUNE

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. (Psalm 46:1, ESV)

You know all about needing refuge. You know how important it is to have a strong hold to run to in times of conflict and danger. Where do you “run for cover” when it’s the world that’s attacking you, or an unseen enemy? God is a refuge, a strong hold, and He’s always there to help in times of trouble.

Prayer: Lord, you are my safety.

10 JUNE

For his anger is but for a moment, and his favor is for a lifetime. Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes with the morning. (Psalm 30:5, ESV)

David has a lot of things in his life that God could have been angry about. David messed up a lot. Read the Psalms through, you will see all the times where David cried out to God, feeling His anger. You’ll see his tears of pain but then you will read his songs of rejoicing. He knew what we need to remember. God does get angry. We will reap what we sow. God’s anger is strong but His love is stronger and He gives us mercy new every morning!

Prayer: Lord, I can only exist in your mercy.

11 JUNE

but they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint. (Isaiah 40:31, ESV)

Hope is such a strange word. The modern definition says, “to wish for something with expectations.” It seems like nothing more than wishful thinking. “I hope so,” we say over and over. We might as well be saying, “I wish.” Unless we use the archaic meaning of the word, the biblical meaning of the word hope: “to have confidence and trust.” Wishful thinking is futile and drains our energy but this verse reminds us that if we hope in the Lord we will renew our strength! We will not grow weary and faint away but be confident, trusting in Him!

Prayer: Lord, you are my strength.

12 JUNE

And the ransomed of the Lord shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away. (Isaiah 51:11, ESV)

Ever have a deep sigh escape your lips? Is the sorrow of the day pressing in on you? Do you feel like a prisoner in a land that you are trying to flee? We have all been held captive, in one way or another, by sin. God has paid the price. He sent His son to die in our place so that the sorrow and sighing can cease. Gladness and joy will have its day when we turn from our captor to our Savior. Ultimately, when Christ returns to this earth to claim us as His own for all eternity.

Prayer: Lord, you are my joy.

13 JUNE

1 O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water. 2 So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary, beholding your power and glory. 3 Because your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise you. 4 So I will bless you as long as I live; in your name I will lift up my hands. 5 My soul will be satisfied as with fat and rich food, and my mouth will praise you with joyful lips. (Psalm 63:1-5, ESV)

Praise God, as David did, in the midst of your desert. Choose to see God in the wilderness and let Him fill your soul with the richness of His power and glory.

Prayer: Lord, you are my all sufficient...

Heidelberg Catechism week 15

Question 33 Why is he called God’s “only begotten Son” when we also are God’s children?

Answer Because Christ alone is the eternal, natural Son of God. We, however, are adopted children of God—adopted by grace through Christ.

Question 34 Why do you call him “our Lord”?

Answer Because—not with gold or silver, but with his precious blood—he has set us free from sin and from the tyranny of the devil, and has bought us, body and soul, to be his very own.
**Strong Bonds for Married Service Members**

**Mission:** Invest into your Marriage: A Payoff for a Life Time  
**Focus:** Lasting Intimacy through Nurturing Knowledge and Skills  
**Location:** To Be Determined (Tucson, AZ)  
**Registration Dates:** 14 Jul - 13 Aug  
**Event Dates:** 28-30 Aug  
**Audience:** Married Service Members

**Strong Bonds for Singles Service Members**

**Mission:** Develop Leadership Potential and Leadership Vision  
**Focus:** 7 Habits of Highly Effective Soldiers  
**Location:** To Be Determined  
**Registration Dates:** 22 Jun - 22 Jul  
**Event Dates:** 6 Aug  
**Audience:** Single Service Members

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**Weekly Bible Quiz**

1. Which sea did the Israelites cross through to escape the Egyptians?  
2. What is “more difficult than a camel going through the eye of a needle”?  
3. For how many years did the Israelites wander in the wilderness?  
4. What does a “good tree” bring forth?  
5. Which small body part can “boast of great things”?

**Answers**

1. Red Sea (Exo 13:18)  
2. A rich man entering the Kingdom of God (Matt 19:24)  
3. Forty (Josh 5:6)  
4. Good fruit (Matt 7:17)  
5. Tongue (Jam 3:5)

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**Philippians**

11 June - 27 August

- Thursday Lunch & Bible Study 1130-1300

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**Follow Me!**

**Ruck For Freedom Helping Hands Outreach**

July 2, 2015 ~ 0500-0800 ~ Sentinel Field  
10K Spiritual Fitness Ruck March  
Nonperishable Food Drive  
For The Fort Huachuca Food Locker  
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Soldiers Helping Soldiers and Families

POC: Clll Andrew Calvert, 584-323-1232, andrew.a.calvert.mil@mail.mil