

Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel.

—Philippians 1:27 ESV

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"Believers are making a statement about the gospel not only with their lips but also with their lives. The gospel is about love; therefore, we should be known as a loving people. The gospel is about justice; therefore, we should be known as a justice-seeking people.

The gospel is about life; therefore, we should display visible joy and vitality in our gatherings and relationships. The gospel is about liberty; therefore, we should not live as stuffy legalists.

The gospel is about humility; therefore, we should be a humble people, gladly serving others."

—Tony Merida and Francis Chan

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<sup>1</sup>So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, <sup>2</sup>complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind.

<sup>3</sup>Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. <sup>4</sup>Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.

—Philippians 2:1-4 ESV

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Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send Him to you. —John 16:7 ESV

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Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, <sup>2</sup>looking to Jesus,

the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

—Hebrews 12:1-2 ESV

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<sup>24</sup>And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, <sup>25</sup>not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

—Hebrews 10:24-25 ESV

Four Appeals for Participation in Worship

2. To Seek Community Over Individuality

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For we are the circumcision, who worship by the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh.

—Philippians 3:3 ESV

Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted. <sup>2</sup>Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.—Galatians 6:1-2 ESV

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"Corporate worship is designed to humble you by pointing out the depth of your need and enthrall you by pointing to the glory of God's provision."

—Paul David Tripp

Four Appeals for Participation in Worship

3. To Show Commitment Over Convenience

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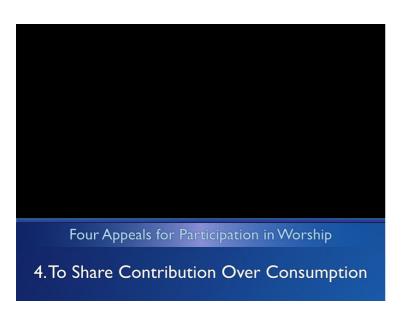
Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit,

but in humility count others more significant

than yourselves. —Philippians 2:3 ESV

"The church's shared mission is greatly affected by the church's scattered distractions in our day."

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