

**Bible Study Series “Singing the Unsung”
Session Seven - Why We Worship**

Imagined scenario set in 2020 (!)

“...no one expected the power outage... that’s what might happen in 2020.”

“Despite its faults... I believe in The Church... The Body of Christ.”

The body of faith has transformed itself continually since Pentecost, sometimes into:

- Orthodoxy
- an ecclesiastical them park
- an oasis of radical discipleship
- ...all of which may be necessary as foils to the other.

Faith is a corporate activity - not a sequence of private, spiritual thrills

“I may be made in the image of God, but if my devotion to God - my understanding of God, my commitment to God - is based solely on my own experience and reflection, then that God will not be the Lord and Father of Jesus Christ. That God will be the child and servant of John Bell’s imagination.”

There has to be a coming together, a congregation, a church of whatever shape or form to let that bigger knowledge of God be a reality.

“I cannot go it alone”

The church has believed in each of us - valued for being, not for doing

The failures and sins of religion are not unknown

In following Jesus, there is:

- a need to be disciplined (because Jesus was not casual about the salvation of the world)
- an accountability to each other for what we do with the faith that is in us, and for the fabric and finances which we call our own (because Jesus did not deal with closed sessions or reserved business)

For discipline and accountability, there has to be some kind of patterning of faith and life: there has to be a church

Decisions that have to do with depth that confront us in the church today:

- 1) We are the inheritors of an architecture of the past (what is the purpose of the building in which we find ourselves?)
- 2) Are we into connectedness/participation or estrangement? (For faith to mature, we have to be able to say about the church, this is not the place where primarily our private aspirations will be fulfilled, but this is the place where the public word of God will come to us... and sometimes we’ll feel blessed, and sometimes we’ll feel upset - that’s the purpose of God’s Word)

Being the Body of Christ has to have a corporate feel about it; having a private devotional life can create a better appreciation for the public worship time of gathering

(Those are two of four options noted, above; the decisions, or options, continue in the next session)



For discussion:

Discuss the first two of Bell’s “four alternatives” confronting the church today:

- a. Form vs.Function
- b. Connectedness vs. Estrangement