

## With All Your Heart

Worship Without Compromise

July 5, 2026

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Week 6

Deuteronomy 12:4-8, 13, 30-31, 18:9-13

Welcome to week 6 of the series we are calling “With All Your Heart. To help us to engage in this week’s text, there are some things we are going to assume are true, at least most of the time.

# 1-- Things function best when they are used according to their design.

# 2-- Human beings were created by God with purpose and design.

# 3-- And if 1 and 2 are true, then we experience life at its fullest and best when we live according to God’s wisdom and design.

Read Deuteronomy 12:4-7.

Here we see clear instructions for worship. God is choosing a place for His dwelling. But If God is omnipresent, why do you think he would limit himself to one location for worship? Well, let’s look at our own context. The people that call E91 home benefit from having a building. We all know that church is the people and not the building, but this physical location gives us a place where we can establish rhythms. We can set aside time and space to worship God. Yes, we can absolutely worship in any place, but this physical location is beneficial to us physical beings.

### **1. What are some examples of how the E91 church building is beneficial for us in establishing rhythms?**

Moving to verse 8. “You are not to do as we do here today, everyone doing as they see fit” (Deuteronomy 12:8 NIV). As we’ve mentioned before in this series, the book of Deuteronomy was written to the Israelites. However, this verse sure feels applicable to us today. There are a couple ways we can apply this verse:

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- Stop trying to live how the people around you say you should live. In a culture that says that truth is relative and that you should pursue your happiness above all else, stop.
- Rather than trying to tackle problems on your own, you need to stop and pray first. Stop trying to solve everything the way that you think you should before you ask God.

Psalms 3:5-6 teaches us to, “Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight (Psalm 3:5-6 NIV).

## **2. What has been a circumstance or time when you did what you seemed fit instead of trusting in the Lord? How did it affect your path going forward?**

Now the Deuteronomy text goes into more specifics of what not to do--“Be careful not to sacrifice your burnt offerings anywhere you please.”

“...and after they have been destroyed before you, be careful not to be ensnared by inquiring about their gods, saying, ‘How do these nations serve their gods? We will do the same.’ You must not worship the LORD your God in their way, because in worshiping their gods, they do all kinds of detestable things the LORD hates. They even burn their sons and daughters in the fire as sacrifices to their gods” (Deuteronomy 12:13, 30-31 NIV).

We find further instructions, starting in chapter 18, verse 9: “When you enter the land the LORD your God is giving you, do not learn to imitate the detestable ways of the nations there. Let no one be found among you who sacrifices their son or daughter in the fire, who practices divination or sorcery, interprets omens, engages in witchcraft, or casts spells, or who is a medium or spiritist or who consults the dead. Anyone who does these things is detestable to the LORD; because of these same detestable practices the LORD your God will drive out those nations before you. You must be blameless before the LORD your God” (Deuteronomy 18:9-13 NIV).

Why is God telling them these things? They are going to enter a land where all of these things are happening. However, God’s people should live differently than the culture around them. They have been given instructions on how to worship, and they are not to compromise.

## **3. What is an example in your life when compromising is a good thing? Can you think of times or situations when compromising could lead to something not so good or even detrimental?**

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The Israelites have been instructed to worship in a specific way and to not compromise by following the cultures around them.

Let's revisit those assumptions that we started with:

- Things function best when they are used according to their design.
- Human beings were created by God with purpose and design.
- Therefore, we experience life at its fullest and best when we live according to God's wisdom and design.

How often do we assume that God made us so that we could be happy and do what we want? The cultural assumption is that we should live for our own happiness and what we want. But what is the Biblical view?

We were made to worship, and We were made to bring glory to our king.

If there is an area of your life that feels like it isn't going well, consider this: What if it's not going well because you're not going about it the way that God designed? Sometimes life is hard because this world is broken, but sometimes we make it more difficult than it has to be because we're not operating how God designed.

For instance:

- Are you someone that likes to work hard? Do you enjoy putting effort into something and then getting to see the results? These are not bad things, but do you find yourself liking to work hard because it gives you a sense of control?
- Or do you find worth and identity in how things are going in your life? When things don't go well, do you lose a sense of control that leads to worry and anxiety?

**4. In what ways do you find yourself seeking control, worth, or identity in places other than the way God designed? What effect does that have on your relationship with Him and others?**

God had his chosen people, the Israelites. He instructed them generation after generation on how to live. And generation after generation, they seemed to make poor choices to live alternatively to God's

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design. But God didn't give up. In fact, God did quite the opposite. God sent Jesus. And when we read about his life in the New Testament, we get an even clearer picture of how we were designed to live. Not that we are going to be perfect in living it, but Jesus is our perfect example.

**5. Where do you sense Jesus inviting you to move from your own way living to living as God design?**