Desiring the Kingdom: Worship, Worldview, and Cultural Formation
by James K.A. Smith
Reviewed by Darren Cronshaw

Some of my(binaries as a learner have emerged in a context of worship. At these innumerable times I did not necessarily acquire a lot of information. But looking back on my life and the desire for God's purposes have been shaped more in worship than in lectures. At times, formations have happened during worship, such as when...}

Desiring the Kingdom offers solid foundations for how worship and learning are connected, and how both worship and learning can foster formation and discipleship. Elkovich processes that focus on what Christians think and how they understand the world, and that for others who are interested in understanding the world through the lens of cultural analysis, this book provides a valuable resource.

For Smith, worship and education is not primarily about what we know but what we love. He lifts the stakes and says that, at best, worship and education will set us on a spiritual path toward the Kingdom of God.

A valuable contribution of the book is its challenge to foster a theocentric approach to worship, education, and society. It encourages students to think critically about the way we engage with cultural narratives, especially those that are often normative in our society. The book aims to encourage students to reflect on the role of worship and education in shaping their understanding of the world. It calls for a more theocentric approach to these disciplines, where the focus is on what it means to be Christian in the context of our culture.

James K.A. Smith, Desiring the Kingdom: Worship, Worldview, and Cultural Formation (Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2009), pp. 230-231. I would have loved to read more about the practices that Smith advocates for in shaping our understanding of the world. I found the book to be a helpful and thought-provoking read for anyone interested in the intersection of worship and education.

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