

W O R S H I P

I urge you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.

(Romans 12:1)

The original spelling of the word “worship” was “worthship.” In worshiping God, we acknowledge the worth of our object of love—God. How do we worship God? Let us read again the above verse, because there is the answer to this question. According to this verse, our spiritual service of worship is to make our bodies available to God.

To Worship God Is to Walk in the Spirit—to Walk in Love

Beloved, God wants us to love each other as He has loved us. We worship God with our every breath. It comes directly from our heart, and it is the attitude behind all we do, the motivation for why we do what we do. If we are always looking for the interest of others and not just our own—in that we worship God. If we don’t respond to our angry and upset spouse with angry words, but with pleasant and healing words—in that we worship God. If we don’t yield to a temptation—in that we worship God. If we thank God for everything, if we always rejoice in the Lord, if we forgive others as Jesus forgave us—in that we worship God.

To worship God is not just what we consider the spiritual things like going to church, reading Bible, praying, etc. We worship God even in the most mundane tasks. How? We do all things in the name of the Lord. We have a proper attitude toward everyone and everything. We walk in the manner worthy of God.

If I am a child of God, God wants me to live like one. He gave me everything for life and godliness. I have to believe it and act upon it—in that I worship God. If I no longer live for self but Jesus—in that I worship God.

We can be believers and still not worship God. How could we say we worship God if we don’t do what He says to do? How could we say we worship God if we rarely even think about Him, read His love letters—the Bible, or pray to Him without ceasing? How could we say we worship God while being prideful, loving the world and the things in the world, constantly complaining, worrying, using improper language, returning evil for evil, and insult for insult, not fervently loving one another from the heart and not submitting to each other? How could we say we worship God when we are not diligent and steadfast? God is not interested in our lip service and our luke-warm approach to Him. God demands action on our part. How could we worship God without acting upon His Word?

Beloved, what counts is what we do on Monday, Tuesday, and the rest of the week. What will last eternally is only that which we do in the energy of the Spirit. The flesh profits nothing. We have to keep that in mind.

True worship is what we do in our everyday life. This is the simple truth of biblical worship under the New Testament.

The gospel of John, chapter 4:19–26, records a conversation between Jesus and a woman of Samaria about worship. The woman spoke of her ancestors worshipping in the mountains and of the Jews worshipping in Jerusalem. Jesus told her that something “new” is here, and reveals Himself to her as the long-awaited Messiah.

But an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers shall worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers.

God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.

(John 4:23, 24)

We see clearly that under the New Testament, worship has to be done in spirit and truth.

Worship is not just going to the “house of worship” on Sunday morning, praying, and singing there, possibly lifting our hands. Any lost person can do that. If only this is worship, do we think two hours a week (for some, possibly a few more, if they go back to “worship” on Wednesday night), is what Jesus is talking about? Beloved, we have to think everything through with the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Some congregations are based on emotions instead of truth. They have been tending to the flesh, and the flesh loves it! The problem is that just like everything else done in the flesh, it doesn’t satisfy for very long. We are constantly looking for something more and something new. Where is the rest Jesus is talking about?

Don’t get me wrong. It is good and profitable to get together and praise God and study His holy Word. That is what we do at the gatherings. We praise God through songs and His Word. What is more important, and I want you to be honest with yourself and ask yourself this question: “Is the truth being taught in the place I am attending?” and “Am I supporting with my presence and my finances the truth?” For many are supporting the errors, which are being perpetrated by people who may have zeal for God, but not in accordance with knowledge.

To be able to discern the truth from the error, we have to know God and His Word. There are many false prophets. Jesus warned us about them. We should never put anyone on a pedestal. Just because someone is standing behind a pulpit, it doesn’t mean that he has a handle on everything. Just because a lot of people believe something, it doesn’t mean that it must be truth.

Satan always tries to subvert the child of God and keep him from the truth. He doesn’t care what we do and how, as long as we don’t do it in the Spirit—God’s way. He is a master of deception and confusion. That is why knowledge of biblical truths is paramount for our growth. It is the truth that will set us free. Error will always keep us in bondage, and if we are in bondage, we are not free.

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

(Philippians 3:3)