
The Believer's Acceptable Worship

(Selected Scriptures)

The supreme duty of every creature of God for time and eternity is to worship Him (Psalm 95:6-7; 29:2). We were created to worship God and to enjoy Him forever (Psalm 16:8-9).

To worship God means to ascribe to Him honor, adoration and glory. God commands and seeks worship (John 4:23-24) from His people. Worship that is based upon truth (John 14:6; 17:17) and not on false gods or mere external ritualism which He detests (Exo. 34:14; 32:7-9; Hosea 6: 4-6; Amos 5:21; Matt.15:7-9). Consider four key elements of acceptable worship:

1. A _____ *with God.*

We cannot worship what we do not know (John 4:22). The foundation upon which true worship is based is redemption. God the Father and the Son have sought to redeem us that we may become worshippers (Luke 19:10; John 4:23). Worship is first and foremost, the internal condition and character of the heart (Mark 7:6-7). Therefore, only God's people could worship God truly (Romans 12:1, 1:7).

2. A _____ *with God*

Since God is Spirit, the only way we can commune and fellowship with Him is through our spirit (John 4:24). And as Christians, we have been united in God through Christ by the Holy Spirit (Rom. 8:16). Real worship takes place inside of us, in our spirit (Psalm 45:1; 103:1). Acceptable worship must include sincerity, enthusiasm and sound doctrine.

3. A _____ *before God*

We have been given the great privilege of coming into God's very presence (Hebrews 4:16). But as we come into His presence, God is interested with the posture of our soul. We must be prepared to meet God in worship. (Example: Israel in Exo. 9:10-11). We must be prepared. Our heart must be in the right posture, and the right posture before God is the posture of humility, brokenness and submission (Psalm 34:18; Isaiah 57:15). Illustration: Luke 18:9-14. God resists the proud but gives grace the humble (James 4:6).

4. A _____ *before God*

God says, that he accepts worship that comes from a pure and contrite heart (Matthew 5:8). God despises the worship of those whose hearts are not pure (Amos 5:21-24). But those whose hearts are pure, He delights in their worship (Psalm 24:3-6).

God created us for His pleasure. Worship is not about us. It's about God. It's about pleasing Him. And we please Him when bring Him glory through our attitudes actions, thoughts and words.

"To worship is to quicken the conscience by the holiness of God, to feed the mind with the truth of God, to purge the imagination with the beauty of God, to open the heart to the love of God, and to devote the will to the purpose of God." – William Temple (Archbishop of Canterbury)