

**AM I A TRUE WORSHIPER?**  
**(John 4:23-24)**

**I. The aim of true worshipers.**

- A. Jesus told the woman at the well, "...and they that worship Him."
- B. God is the aim of one who is a true worshiper.
  - 1. God has always demanded this.
  - 2. De. 6:13.
- C. When the true worshiper begins to worship God, no matter what day of the week, his mind is focused on God.
  - 1. Worrying about ball games, meals or anything else is out of the question.
  - 2. God demands our all in worship.
- D. Sadly, many focus on themselves in worship - the "what I get out of worship" mind set.
  - 1. This is the attitude that causes innovations to be brought in the worship service.
  - 2. People want to get excited and make worship about them instead of about God.
- E. Worship is about pleasing God and not self.
  - 1. When worship is done properly, both of these occur.
  - 2. However, pleasing self is a by product of pleasing God.
- F. When the Corinthians made the Lord's Supper equivalent to a common meal, Paul said they were partaking unworthily.
  - 1. They were unworthy of partaking of the Lord's Supper because they did not understand the solemnity of the event.
  - 2. The Lord's Supper is just one of the avenues of worship, which means we can fail to understand the solemnity of the whole worship experience.
- G. Two of the scriptures we use to defend singing without instruments both command us to sing to the Lord giving thanks to God (Ephesians 5:19-20; Colossians 3:16-17).
  - 1. The reason for this is that worship is to be offered to God.
  - 2. We come together on the Lord's Day to worship God and not self.
- H. Paul was extremely frustrated when he was in Athens because of all the idols, even one to an unknown god.
  - 1. Paul told them they were worshiping gods ignorantly.
  - 2. He then taught them of the true God who should have been the aim of their worship.
- I. The word "worship," in the New Testament, means to "kiss the ring, prostrate oneself, to bow down."
  - 1. Our English word comes from an Old English word, "worthship," indicating something that is worthy of praise.
  - 2. God is the only one mentioned in the New Testament as worthy of praise in a worshipful sense.
- J. We sin when we replace God as the aim of our worship.

## **II. The attitude of a true worshiper.**

- A. Jesus told the woman at the well, “they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit...”
  - 1. The idea of worshipping God in spirit means the right attitude of heart.
  - 2. We are to have a proper attitude when coming to God.
- B. This attitude that is to be displayed is an attitude of reverence.
  - 1. God has always demanded this attitude (Psalm 89:7).
  - 2. He demands it in the New Testament (Hebrews 12:28).
- C. Reverence can be defined as awe, respect, deep devotion.
  - 1. One writer I read made the point that it is more than just respect.
  - 2. He went on to say it means more than just going through the outward motions because of respect.
  - 3. Anyone can be quiet and polite in a worship service but not have worshiped at all.
- D. Another word that is found in definitions of reverence is piety.
  - 1. Piety carries the idea of devotion to religious duty.
  - 2. It is the idea of being careful to worship God properly without offending God in any way.
- E. Another writer said that to worship in spirit takes work, real work.
- F. It does not mean there are no emotions involved.
  - 1. There is a great deal of emotion involved, but emotions do not dominate what we do.
  - 2. If there is no emotion then there is nothing from the heart.
- G. Curtis Cates wrote, “We actively lift up praise and adoration to God within His prescribed way out of a heart filled with reverence, gratitude, confession, praise and supplication.”
- H. We sin when we fail to worship God with the proper attitude.

## **III. The actions of a true worshiper.**

- A. Jesus went on to tell the woman that true worshipers will worship in truth.
  - 1. This means according to God’s word.
  - 2. It means worship in the right way.
- B. God demands that we worship Him in a certain way and God has never demanded something without telling us how to do it.
  - 1. Paul said we walk by faith, not sight (2 Corinthians 5:7).
  - 2. He also wrote that faith comes by hearing God’s word (Romans 10:17).
  - 3. Part of our walk on this world involves worship.
- C. Genesis 4:4 tells us that God had respect to Abel’s offering.
  - 1. Abel offered by faith (Hebrews 11:4).
  - 2. Abel was told how to worship and did it properly.
  - 3. The same holds true today.
- D. There are five avenues of worship we read about in the New Testament.
  - 1. Christians are told to worship in song (Ephesians 5:19).
  - 2. Christians are told to worship in prayer (Luke 18:1).
  - 3. Christians are told to worship by giving (1 Corinthians 16:1) - the

- 4.       only time for this is in the assembly on the first day of the week.  
Christians are told to worship by partaking of the Lord's Supper (Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 11:23-27) - as giving, this is only to be done in the assembly on the Lord's Day.
- 5.       Christians are told to worship in studying God's word (Acts 20:7).
- E.       When we add to these actions in any way that is not by the authority of Jesus we fail to worship with the proper actions.
  - 1.       All that we do must be done by the Lord's authority.
  - 2.       Colossians 3:17.
- F.       We sin when we fail to worship God with the proper actions.