

# How Shall We Worship?

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## Introduction

Worship, the most sacred and solemn of all activities, affords communion between man and God (Psa. 29:1-2; 95:1-7) and provides a foretaste of heaven (Rev. 4:8-11; 5:11-14). Men answer the question, "How shall we worship?" in various ways: charismatic emotionalism, staid formalism, mystic ritualism, etc. Actually, there are only two answers: Shall we please God or self (Gal. 1:10; 1 Thess. 2:3-4)? Not all worship is acceptable. Rejecting all forms that violate His will and word, God demands that we worship with the right mind-set and according to the revealed mode.

## Unacceptable Worship

**Mocking Worship:** God does not accept worship that is offered in mockery, scorn or contempt (Matt. 20:17-19; 27:27-31; Mark 10:32-34; 15:16-20).

**Ignorant Worship:** God does not accept worship that is offered in ignorance (Acts 17:22-31; Rom. 10:1-3; Eph. 4:17-19; 1 Pet. 1:13-16).

**Feigned Worship:** God does not accept feigned worship, but demands harmony in conduct and confession (Isa. 1:11-18; Amos 4:4-5; 5:21-24; Mal. 1:6-11).

**Pretentious Worship:** God does not accept pretentious worship that is offered to be seen of men (Matt. 6:1-4, 5-8, 16-18; 23:1-12).

**Unauthorized Worship:** God does not accept unauthorized worship that upholds human traditions while rejecting divine decrees (Matt. 15:1-9; Mark 7:1-13; Col. 2:16-23; Titus 1:10-16).

## Acceptable Worship

In order for our worship to be acceptable, it must be "in spirit and in truth." Speaking to the woman at the well, Jesus said, "*But an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will 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).

**Offered In Spirit:** To worship "in spirit" means that we manifest the proper attitude, approaching God with reverence (Heb. 12:28-29), humility (Zeph. 2:3), penitence (Luke 18:9-14), and thanksgiving (1 Thess. 5:16-18).

**Offered In Truth:** To worship "in truth" means that we obey the divine pattern (John 17:17; Rom. 6:17-18; 12:1-2; 1 Pet. 1:22-23).

In the New Testament, there are five divinely-prescribed acts of worship: Observing the Lord's Supper (Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 10:16-17; 11:23-30), Giving (Rom. 15:25-27; 1 Cor. 16:1-2; 2 Cor. 9:6-7), Singing (Acts 16:25; Eph. 5:18-19; Col. 3:16-17), Praying (Acts 12:5; Col. 4:2-3; Phil. 4:6-7), and Preaching (Acts 2:42; 20:25-32; 2 Tim. 4:1-5).

## Conclusion

The Lord has always required proper attitude and action from those who would approach Him (Deut. 10:12-13; Mic. 6:8). Will you render obedience to the gospel of Christ (Rom. 1:1-5; 16:25-27)? Will you worship the Father in spirit and in truth (John 4:23-24)?