

Worship, True or False?

One way to understand the nature of true worship (John 4:24) is to see it in contrast to false worship. False worship is...

Worshipping false gods: This results when people forget what God has revealed about Himself (Rom 1:20-25). There are two categories: those who worship material objects or possessions (Job 31:24-28), and those who worship images that represent human concepts of deity (Exo 20; Deut 4; Isa 2:6-9).

Worshipping God through false forms: Israel worshipped God through Aaron's golden calf, which met with God's great displeasure (Exo 32).

Worshipping God using false methods: Nadab and Abihu used strange fire to burn incense to the LORD (Lev 10:1-2). King Saul and King Uzziah performed acts of worship they were not authorized to do under the Old Law (1 Sam 13:8-14; 2 Chron 26:18-21). The Pharisees worshipped God through their traditions (Mark 7:5-13). Certainly we can view our worship practices and know whether they are authorized by God in the New Testament or whether they are merely human traditions.

Worshipping God with wrong attitudes: Everything else in the worship of God may be correct, but if our attitudes are wrong we are not "true worshipers". Communion must be taken in a worthy manner, discerning the Lord's body – His suffering and death at the cross (1 Cor 11:27-29; Matt 27). Teaching from God's word must be received with meekness, implying humble acceptance and obedience (Jas 1:21). Praying must be with understanding, not merely by rote or repetition (1 Cor 14:15). Singing must be with grace, making melody in our hearts to the Lord (Eph 5:19; Col 3:16). Giving of our means for work authorized by the apostles must be done cheerfully not grudgingly (2 Cor 9:7). How does our worship measure up?

Green Meadow church of Christ
3438 Green Meadow Dr.
San Angelo, TX 76904; (325) 224-2848
Sunday: 9:30; 10:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday: 7:00 p.m.