

Worship

Edited by Leon King

John 4:23-24 *But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.*

The word *worship* is a condensed form of the words *worth* and *ship*. To worship God means "to recognize His supreme worth and, as a result, to praise, honor, adore, revere, bow down, and fall on one's face before Him." God the Father is now seeking true worshippers who are ready, willing, and able to worship Him in spirit and in truth. Genuine worship is to totally submit oneself to the sovereign pleasure and will of Almighty God.

I. True worshippers worship God in spirit.

A. To worship God *in spirit* means "to worship Him out of a regenerate spiritual heart."

B. To worship God *in spirit* means "to worship Him with the highest part of man's being - the spirit by which he communicates with God."

C. To worship God *in spirit* means "to worship Him spiritually instead of physically or soulishly."

D. To worship God *in spirit* means "to worship Him under the direction of the Holy Spirit."

II. True worshippers worship God in truth.

A. To worship God *in truth* means “to worship Him out of a regenerate spiritual mind.”

B. To worship God *in truth* means “to worship Him truly instead of falsely totally on the basis of scripture, God’s Holy Word.”

C. To worship God *in truth* means “to worship Him in accordance with the truth of God’s Word.” The following elements of worship are taught in God’s Word:

1. Corporate Prayer. 1 Timothy 2:8 *I will therefore that men pray every where, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting.*

2. Public Scripture Reading. 1 Timothy 4:13 *Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine.* Acts 15:30-31 *So when they were dismissed, they came to Antioch: and when they had gathered the multitude together, they delivered the epistle: Which when they had read, they rejoiced for the consolation.* Luke 4:16 *And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up: and, as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and stood up for to read.*

3. Congregational Singing. Ephesians 5:19 *Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord;* Colossians 3:16 *Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.*

4. Biblical, Doctrinal Preaching. 2 Timothy 4:1-2 *I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall*

judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.

D. To worship God *in truth* rules out the following unscriptural practices:

1. Productionism. (i.e., putting on a show and providing entertainment). Much of today's "special singing" stresses performance and not praise and worship. Congregational singing does much to discourage this wrong tendency.

2. Ceremonialism or Ritualism. (i.e., performing meaningless religious rites) Instead of focusing on decency and order, many rigidly follow patterns and the innovations of man rather than the simple Word of God.

3. Charismaticism or Emotionalism. (i.e., creating an atmosphere conducive to the psychological manipulation of human beings). Emotions are a part of our make-up and are God-given. To stir them in order to create an "atmosphere of worship" is the wrong focus. Emotions are responders, and should, therefore, respond to worship in spirit and truth.

4. Successism or Decisionism. (i.e., gearing the service toward the securing of outward, visible, physical, measurable results). Modern pastors and evangelists are focused on "nickels and noses." Reports of their accomplishments flourish in Church and Denominational Papers designed to "make themselves a name."