



# The Kind of Worship that Pleases God

August 21, 2022

1 Corinthians 3:16— “Do you not know that you are a temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?”

1 Peter 2:5— “you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.”

God wants His people to come together as living stones making a temple that the Holy Spirit fills; a temple offering up spiritual sacrifices to God in our worship.

Read John 4 — Jesus encounters a Samaritan woman at Jacob's well.

During Jesus' conversation with the Samaritan woman, she perceived that Jesus was a prophet, and asked Him where people ought to worship. Her main concern was **where** when it came to the subject of worship.

Jesus responds to her question, not about **where** to worship, but instead emphasizing the importance of **how** and **who** you worship. First, He draws her attention to the **how**.

John 4:21 — “Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe Me, an hour is coming when neither in this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father.”

Jesus wants her (and us) to understand that it is possible to worship God in vain in any place. Remember what God said through the prophet Isaiah, “This people honor me with their lips, while their hearts are far from me”. (Isa 29:13).

It isn't just the **how** that is important when it comes to worship, but also the **who**.

John 4:22–23 — “You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. 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.”

The two words, **spirit** and **truth**, correspond to **how** and **who** of worship.

**Worshiping in spirit** is the opposite of formalism, traditionalism, and worshiping in merely external ways.

**Worshiping in truth** is the opposite of worship based on an incorrect or inadequate view of God.

**Worship must have right thinking and right feeling.**

Back to Samaria... The disciples had gone into town for food. Jesus had been alone with the woman by the well. When the disciples returned, they offered Jesus lunch. But He said, “I have food to eat which you do not know.” (John 4:32) So, what was Jesus eating while they were gone?

John 4:34 — “My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to accomplish His work.”

What is the work of the Father? **The Father is seeking people to worship Him in spirit and truth.**

**First, let's talk about the importance of worshiping in truth. Thinking right about God.**

We worship the One true God, the Creator of heaven and earth, *Yahweh*, the great “I Am”.

**And He is an awesome God that deserves our worship.**

*Isaiah 40:25–26 — “To whom then will you liken Me that I would be his equal?” says the Holy One. Lift up your eyes on high and see who has created these stars, The One who leads forth their host by number, He calls them all by name; Because of the greatness of His might and the strength of His power, not one of them is missing.”*

*Job 26:14 — “Lo, these are but the outskirts of His ways! And how small a whisper do we hear of Him.”*

### **As Job says, “This is only a whisper of God...”**

When was the last time you peered into heaven with the eyes of your heart, prayerfully reading Revelations 4 and 5; and glimpsed at God sitting on the throne surrounded by glory and angels and awesome power and beauty themselves falling on their faces before Him?

*Psalms 40:5 — “Many, O LORD my God, are the wonders which You have done, and Your thoughts toward us; There is none to compare with You. If I would declare and speak of them, they would be too numerous to count.”*

We must know the truth about God if we are going to worship Him in truth and in the ways He prescribed.

*Psalms 95:1–3 — “O come, let us sing for joy to the Lord; Let us shout joyfully to the rock of our salvation. Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving; Let us shout joyfully to Him with psalms. For the Lord is a great God, and a great King above all gods.”*

Three important OT words describe how our praise to God should be:

1. Yadah — means to “throw one’s hands or to worship with outstretched hands.
2. Zamar — “to make music, praise in song.”
3. Halal — is the most frequently used term to describe praise in the OT, occurring 108 times. It conveys the idea of “praise which is demonstrative, boastful, noisy, and braggadocios.”

Biblical praise is demonstrative and enthusiastic. It is full of things like:

1. Singing — (Ps 9:11; 30:4; 33:1–3; 47:6–7; 66:1; 81:1; etc.)
2. Playing instruments — (Ps 33:1–3; 150)
3. Clapping — (Ps 47:1)
4. Lifting your hands — (Ps 63:4; 134:1–2; 141:2)
5. Shouting — (Ps 32:11; 33:1–3; 66:1–2)
6. Dancing — (Ps 149:3; 150:4)

We also see in Psalm 95 that our worship is to move from demonstrative to humble and intimate adoration.

*Psalms 95:6–7 — “Come let us worship and bow down; Let us kneel before the Lord our Maker. For He is our God, and we are the people of His pasture, and the sheep of His hand...”*

“Proskuneo”: to come close to and kiss, to reverence, to prostrate oneself, adore on one’s knees.

*Psalms 95:7–8 — “...Today, if you would hear His voice, Do not harden your hearts...”*

That is what God wants our meetings with Him to look like. That is how we are to come and meet with Him.

But it doesn’t stop there. Jesus said our worship is to be in **spirit** and in **truth**.

*Matthew 15:8–9 — “This people honor me with their lips but their heart is far from me; in vain do they worship me.”*

The way we worship in spirit is to make sure **our hearts are engaged in worship**.

True worship must include inward feelings that reflect the worth of God’s glory. If our worship is out of duty, then it does not honor God.

Worship that pleases God is a heartfelt pursuit of God. In His presence is the fullness of joy and at His right hand are pleasures forevermore.