

How do we worship God in a manner that pleases Him?

God created all things and has also given us a path way to eternal salvation. Who could be more worthy of our worship and praise than the supreme being? Clearly no being is more worthy of our admiration and worship. God does however expect to be worshiped in a certain way. Worship to God after all is about pleasing Him not entertaining ourselves. God through the Bible has told us how to please Him in worship and anything else is not acceptable, because it is simply not what He has commanded. In this lesson we will go to the Bible and examine how God has prescribed that we worship Him.

Matthew 15:8-9 “This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me. But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men” We can worship God in a way that does not please Him and therefore does us no good. Apparently God wants worship to not be just lip service but to actually come from your heart, or to be truly deep down meant. Also, worship can be done in vain if it is done according to the commandments of men and not God.

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” God wants true worshipers to truly worship Him according to truth and not some made up way that man wants to worship the creator.

John 17:17 “Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth” Ok, so what is truth? Fortunately for us we do not have to guess what truth is, God provided it for us in His word. So we need to worship God according to what the Bible tell us or it is vain and useless.

Attendance is actually important.

Matthew 6:33 “But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you” We must put forth the effort to put God first in our lives. How can we say we are truly putting God first when we don’t even bother to attend services? Clearly this does not mean if one is sick, you must be at services, but that our life should prioritize God.

Hebrews 10:25-27 “Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching. For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries” and **Galatians 6:9** “And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not” God actually wants us to be at worship service so it must be important to be there. It helps us to be stronger Christians when we attend services and we can find comfort in being around other people that also want to properly worship God. We can more easily put God first in our lives when we make it a priority to go to worships services and we can also make time for the things that are important to us.

So we understand that we must be at worship service if it is possible for us to be there, so what are the acts of worship that God through His Word tells us to do?

The Lord's Supper

Matthew 26: 26-29 “And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body. And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it; For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins. But I say unto you, I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom” Jesus established this Himself. The Lord's Supper, or communion, is an act of worship each Christian should partake of and it is made up of two things. It is made up of unleavened bread representing the Lord's body as He was crucified and fruit of the vine, (grape juice), representing the blood that Christ shed on the cross for all of us.

1 Corinthians 10:16 “The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ?” The Lord's Supper is also described in this verse. We do this to remember the great sacrifice that Christ made for us and reflect on what that means for us.

Acts 20:7 “And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow; and continued his speech until midnight” We are also told that the early Christians partook of The Lord's Supper every Sunday. So we know not only do Christians need to worship God by partaking of The Lord's Supper but that this is something that should be done every Sunday. If we don't do this as God has prescribed then we are not properly doing this act of worship.

Prayer

Philippians 4:6 “Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God” and **1 Timothy 2:1-2** “I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honestly” Praying to God is also an act of worship the scriptures inform us about. Praying was practiced by Jesus, one example is **Matthew 26:36-42** “Then cometh Jesus with them unto a place called Gethsemane, and saith unto the disciples, Sit ye here, while I go and pray yonder. And he took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be sorrowful and very heavy. Then saith he unto them, My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death: tarry ye here, and watch with me. And he went a little further, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt. And he cometh unto the disciples, and findeth them asleep, and saith unto Peter, What could ye not watch with me one hour? Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak. He went away again the second time, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if this cup may not pass away from me, except I drink it, thy will be done”

John 16:23 “And in that day ye shall ask me nothing. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you” , **1Timoty 2:5** “For thereis one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus” and **1 John 2:1-2**“My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world” We pray to God Pray through Christ our mediator with God.

Acts 2:42 “And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers”, **Romans 15: 30** “ Now I beseech you, brethren, for the Lord Jesus Christ's sake, and for the love of the Spirit, that ye strive together with me in your prayers to God for me” , and **2 Corinthians 1:11** “Ye also helping together by prayer for us, that for the gift bestowed upon us by the means of many persons thanks may be given by many on our behalf” We pray as a group of Christians together.

Mathew 6:6 “But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly” We also pray as individuals in our own quiet places. Praying was a part of the early Christians worship in the examples that we are given in the Bible.

Preaching or teaching God's word

Matthew 28:19-20 “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.” and **2 Timothy 4:1-4** “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. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables” Christians have been commanded to go out and spread the word of God so that others can hear it.

1 Peter 2:2 “As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby” and **2 Timothy 2:2** “And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also” A Christian must grow in their knowledge of the word of God over time so that they can both grow themselves and help others to learn about His word.

Acts 10:42 “And he commanded us to preach unto the people, and to testify that it is he which was ordained of God to be the Judge of quick and dead” and **1 Corinthians 1:21** “For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe” God wants the world to hear his message so Christians must spread it. God wants all Christians to tell others about Him We have many examples in the Bible that early Christians found preaching and teaching Gods word to others publicly or privately to

be something that God wanted them to do. Preaching or teaching others about Christ is another example we have of how early Christians worshiped God.

Giving

1 Corinthians 16:1- 2 “Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given order to the churches of Galatia, even so do ye Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come” and **2 Corinthians 9:7** “Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver” Christians are also told to give on every Sunday. Christians are commanded to give of their material means to help further the cause of Christ As the example in the Bible of the early Christians shows us we are commanded to set aside part of our income to give to the work of the church so that God’s cause might be furthered. There is not a set amount given that we must give but we are told to do so every Sunday. However, we are told it should be done cheerfully and not grudgingly. It is not sinful to be rich or to be poor but it is sinful to not give back to God. Set aside to God first what you intend to give Him and don’t treat Him as an afterthought. **Matthew 6: 21** “For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also” Giving is another example of how the Bible tells us the early Christians worshiped God.

Sing

Acts 16:25 “And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them” Paul and Silas worshiped God with singing.

Ephesians 5:19 “Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord” and **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” This act of worship is a very good example of using singing to teach as we are commanded to in then we learn that singing is yet another way the Bible tells us early Christians worshiped. We also see that the New Testament or Law of Christ which you and I live under give us examples of Christians using the voice and their hearts to sing with the purpose of worshiping God.

2 John 1:9-11 “Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son. If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed: For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds” We have no New Testament example of Christians using instrumental music so to stay true to our Biblical guide we can not do so either.

Conclusion

God has left us a blue print in His word showing us both that attending worship service is required to please Him and that only certain acts of worship are acceptable to Him. Remember the purpose of worship is not to please or entertain mankind but to be pleasing to God. If I want God to be pleased with my worship I know what to do because His Bible tells me.