

Vain, Ignorant, or True

Introduction

1. There are at least three different kinds of worship mentioned in the New Testament - and God disapproves of two of them.
 - A. Thousands believe that if you praise God, then God accepts it. (If it pleases us, then it must please God.)
 - B. However, God will only accept the worship to Him which He has determined.
2. Let's examine these three types of worship and gain a clear understanding of what God will accept.

Worship

1. Vain Worship Matthew 15:1-9

- A. The scribes and Pharisees' traditions had supplanted the commandment of God (V6).
- B. These hypocrites were nullifying God's law by observing their man made laws instead.
 - 1) By substituting their selfish desire for God's moral right to legislate, they became hypocrites in their worship and God would not accept it!
- C. Jesus' reply showed where man's commitment must be - to God.

D. How does this apply today?

- 1) Those who practice a “lip service religion,” claiming subjection to God, but actions prove no regard for what God has said.
- 2) Teaching man’s doctrines and passing them off as if they were given by God.
- 3) **VAIN WORSHIP:**
 - a. “Supposedly” aimed at God, but is the work of man. Man’s satisfaction and pleasure is the real objective.

YOU GET:

- 1) Rock bands, choirs, special “day” services, Super Bowl fellowship parties, etc. etc.

E. This kind of worship is branded by Jesus Himself as hypocritical (play acting), it is VAIN.

Matthew 15:13-14 But He answered and said, "Every plant which My heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. "Let them alone. They are blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind leads the blind, both will fall into a ditch."

2. Ignorant Worship**Acts 17:22-31**

- A. Although religious, their religious service was not pleasing to the true God of heaven.**
- 1) It was being accomplished without the proper knowledge of what God wanted or more importantly who God was!**
 - a. He is Creator, Spirit, Giver, Judge, Savior, Father.**
 - 2) Their worship centered on the physical and was not according to what God had revealed to man.**
 - 3) Well-intentioned people go in wrong directions because they are ignorant of the truth.**

3. True Worship**John 4:23-24**

- A. Jesus had just taught the Samaritan woman about worship that was pleasing to God.**
 - 1) God wants all to worship Him in the proper spirit and truth.**
 - a. Spirit: With sincerity, from the heart.**
 - b. Truth: According to God's will in the New Testament**
- B. True worship must consist of both elements, Spirit and Truth.**
 - 1) They are of equal importance, one is not greater than the other.**
- C. True worship is found in the New Testament, not the Old.**
 - 1) Burning incense, instrumental music, animal sacrifices, are not found in the new covenant!**

Ephesians 2:14-15 For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace,

- D. There are five acts of worship found in the New Testament that Christians engage in. These are:**

Acts of Worship:

1. The Lord's Supper

- A. Jesus instituted the communion, or Lord's Supper, on the night he was betrayed.
 - 1) Paul recounts that night:
1 Corinthians 11:23-32
 - a) bread represents Jesus's broken body
 - b) cup represents His shed blood
- B. Taken in remembrance of Jesus on the first day of the week.

Acts 20:7 Now on the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread...

- C. The phrase “to partake worthily” means to properly discern the Lord’s body (death and resurrection).
 - 1) Block out other thoughts
 - 2) Think of Christ’s sacrifice and resurrection
 - 3) Be quiet, do not disturb others

2. Singing

A. Singing has a dual purpose of praising God and exhorting others.

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.

Ephesians 5:19 speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord,

- 1) **Songs should be from our heart to our Father.**
- 2) **Songs help to teach and admonish one another.**
- 3) **Our hearts are more important than our voices.**

3. Giving

1 Corinthians 16:1-2

A. Paul tells us how to give for the work of the church.

- 1) **Not by raffles, bingo, rummage sales, entertainment events or even tithes.**
- 2) **Each Sunday - to give as God has prospered us.**

B. Our giving should be done cheerfully.

2 Corinthians 9:6-7

C. Some keys to giving.

- 1) **Consider how God has blessed you and give back accordingly.**
- 2) **Don't wait until the basket is in your hand to decide--- you must have purpose.**
- 3) **Be happy to return a portion back to God who gave it.**

4. Prayer.

- A. Paul encouraged all to “Pray without Ceasing” (1 Thes 5:17).**
- B. As men lead prayer, all should lend their hearts to the words.**
- C. Keys to prayer:**
 - 1) Prayers should be spoken by the heart.**
 - 2) Ask only for those things that are according to God's will.**
 - 3) Maintain reverence (not necessary to use King's English).**
 - 4) Address God respectfully and pray in Jesus's name or by his advocacy**
 - 5) Speak to God, not as a show (Matt 6:5-15).**
 - 6) Listen carefully, can't Amen if you don't pay attention.**

5. Teaching

- A. Paul preached for the assembly in Troas (Acts 20:7).**
- B. The message seeks to evangelize or edify with scripture**
 - 1) Sermon teaches truth, not opinion; It leads men to obey Jesus or grow in Him**
 - 2) Lessons extend Christ's invitation to come to Him for salvation.**
- C. Many hours are needed to prepare lessons to help the congregation grow and learn.**
 - 1) The audience should listen attentively and respectfully, both of him and God.**
 - a. Remember, this is God's message for man.**
 - 2) Trips to the bathroom and fountain should be made before services start if possible.**
 - 3) Note passing, doodling, picture drawing, conversations, and napping should be forbidden.**
 - 4) All should participate by studying together. KEYS:**
 - a. Pay attention, take notes, turn to passages**

Conclusion

- 1. Let us not be guilty of vain, or ignorant worship.**
- 2. The true and living God demands that we worship Him in the proper spirit and in truth.**
- 3. Let's make sure that we are here to worship and please God, not man.**

