

## 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?

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Sunday: 9:30; 10:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.  
Wednesday: 7:00 p.m.