

ONLY ONE TRUE WAY TO WORSHIP

John 4:23-24

(Not entirely original with me)

Introduction: Jesus had quite a discussion about "religion" with a Samaritan woman at a well. She was of the people that had a "mixed" religion in which they had incorporated many other forms of religion and when Jesus confronted her with what was the only true manner of worship, she defended her beliefs. Jesus exposed the sins of the woman and that caused her to begin to take Jesus seriously. He then showed her that there was but one true way of worship and there was only ONE God to worship. The same situation exists today all over this world. Nevertheless there is still but ONE God to worship and only ONE true way to worship Him.

I. THERE IS FALSE WORSHIP AND THEN THERE IS TRUE WORSHIP

1. False worship is outward religious work, rituals, ceremonies, formalities and forms of service.
 - All true worship is basically inward. (*John 4:23-24; Isaiah 1:2-18; Matthew 5, 6, 7*)
 - Humility, faith, and repentance are inward things, not some outward show.
 - Prayer is done in secret, not before others and for their benefit.
 - Giving is to be done from the heart, not for recognition.
2. In any Christian assembly of members, there are "worshippers" and then there are WORSHIPERS.
 - They stand together.
 - They sing together.
 - They bow heads together in prayer.
 - They read the scriptures together.
 - They all hear the same sermon together.
 - However there is a great difference between them. Some are there to worship God.
 - To know Him.
 - To hear from Him.
 - To know His will.
 - To honor Him.
 - Sadly, some are there out of a sense of duty, to please a friend or relative, out of habit, but have no real interest in what is going on, just waiting until the service is over.

II. TRUE WORSHIP INVOLVES A PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

1. Jesus has made it possible for the believer to have access to God which no one ever had before He came.
 - *Hebrews 10:19-22*
2. The Holy Spirit has brought the believer into the Family of God by adoption.
 - *Romans 8:14-17*
3. Believers in the Lord Jesus Christ have the power, the authority and the right to be called the Children of God.
 - Believers in the Lord Jesus Christ worship God as their HEAVENLY FATHER!
 - *1 John 3:1-2*

III. TRUE WORSHIP IS POSSIBLE BECAUSE OF GOD'S GRACE

1. No person can truly worship God if God had not found him/her first and then taught that person by His grace how to worship HIM in Spirit and in truth.
 - *Psalms 65:4*
 - Worship is not something a person does for God, it is something God does in believers by His grace.

2. Worship and praise are not things which a person decides to do but are things which God has put into the hearts of all His Children and are a part of his/her new spiritual nature.

IV. TRUE WORSHIP IS SPIRITUAL WORSHIP ONLY

1. The Greek word for "worship" means to "kiss the hand, as a pet would lick its master's hand. It means to bow, prostrate one's self."
 - All these things reflect an act and attitude of the heart, something inward and spiritual.
 - There is no true worship unless it takes place in one's heart first.
 - True worship is not some physical, bodily function.
 - True worship is not some feeling of emotion.
 - True worship is a spiritual work of the heart.
2. True worship does not involve images.
 - No religious images, crosses, symbols, pictures or statues which represent God or Jesus.
 - Spiritual worship is simple, unadorned worship from the heart.
 - ***Exodus 20:3-5***
3. True worship does not involve "Holy" things.
 - True worship does not recognize/honor some particular day as a "holy" day nor some place as being a "holy" place.
 - Every day is holy and every place is holy for the Lord Jesus is present at all times in all places.
 - Sunday is a day set aside commemorating the Lord's Resurrection, but it is no more holy than any other day of the week.
4. To worship God in the Spirit is in faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - ***Romans 10:9-13***
5. True spiritual worship is becoming more rare.
 - People want a "god" they can see, feel, something they can show to others.
 - People want a "god" they can impress and get favors back by giving it gifts and works.
 - It is easier to go through some form, ceremony, ritual than it is to worship God in spirit and truth.
 - People don't want to acknowledge, confess and seek forgiveness of sins, so they have other gods.
 - True worship doesn't involve things, priests, holy places, rewards to be won or lost so people had rather have something else.

CONCLUSION:

1. If a person wants to truly worship God, then he/she must worship God in Spirit and in Truth.
 - ***Matthew 15:8-9***
 - ***John 17:17***
2. If a person wants to truly worship God, then one must:
 - Confess his/her sins as did the publican in his prayer Jesus spoke about.
 - Trust the blood of Jesus and His righteousness as being accepted by God for the believer.
 - Come by God's free grace alone, nothing else.
 - ***Exodus 20:24-26***
3. There is no other way to truly worship the Lord God.
 - By the blood atonement
 - By the power of the Holy Spirit.
 - With a heart of Faith.
 - Looking to the Lord Jesus Christ.

