

## IS TODAY'S WORSHIP GENUINE?

Revelation 2:4-5

(Not entirely original with me)

**Introduction:** For years we have been sending missionaries all over the world but things have been changing in our country. If Jesus continues to delay His return, how long do you think it will be before missionaries from other countries will be coming HERE, led by the Lord? Silly? Absurd? Ridiculous? Unheard of? Perhaps you need to take a good look at what is called "worship" today in many, if not most Churches. Unless American Christians arouse ourselves spiritually, unless we are brought back to genuine love and adoration and worship, the Lord just may remove our "candlestick!" Somebody may need to show us just what genuine, vital Christianity is.

### I. GENUINE WORSHIP INVOLVES FEELINGS

1. What should be one's "feelings" over being sought out by God, convicted by the Holy Spirit, led to God's Son, Jesus Christ, then upon one's belief in Jesus, he/she was then indwelt with the Holy Spirit and sealed for all eternity to be one of God's own Children and have a home in heaven be?
  - FEELINGS!
  - Forgiven, restored, don't some kind of "feelings" go with that happening to a person?
2. Christians should be a "feeling" people for they have received so much from the Lord and any person who claims to be a Christian says that he/she has no particular feelings, needs to take a good, long look at his/her profession of faith.
3. Genuine worship comes from the "inside" of a person, the mind, the spirit, the emotions.
  - It is true that at different times there are different "degrees" of wonder and love but one's mind and heart will be consistent if there is genuine worship.
  - Parents don't always show openly the same degree, intensity of love to their family for they are sometimes tired, depressed, things on their mind, but nevertheless their love for their family has not changed.
  - Christians also have times when outwardly their behavior seems changed, but inwardly, they love the Lord just as much as they ever did.
4. Remember the woman with the issue of blood who fought her way through the crowd to be near Jesus and when she touched the hem of His robe, she was instantly healed - she FELT healed and knew then that she was. She then fell at the feet of Jesus and worshipped and praised Him.
  - If YOU haven't had any feelings in your heart for the Lord then you are not just sick, you are DEAD!

### II. GENUINE WORSHIP EXPRESSES ITSELF IN ADMIRATION, AWE AND HUMILITY

1. Proud, arrogant Christians cannot worship God any more than the Devil himself.
  - There has to be humility in the heart of any Christian who would worship God in spirit and truth.
  - True worship cannot be engineered or created or manipulated by the music director or the pastor.
2. The Holy Spirit directs Christians in their worship and always there will be admiration, awe, and humility expressed by that worshipping Christian.
  - If the Holy Spirit is not present, then admiration, awe and humility will be absent.
3. If God can be understood then there is no need to worship Him. There is nothing to be awed about, there is nothing to admire, there is nothing to be humble about, IF God is just like us, but He's NOT!

### III. GENUINE WORSHIP OCCURS WHEN PEOPLE HUNGER AND THIRST FOR GOD

1. When Christians become hungry and thirsty for the things of God, there comes a deep love to worship.
  - Christians worship gladly when they have a respect and Biblical view of God, not the view that most have today of a reduced, lesser God.
2. Genuine worship occurs when Christians can go to God without doubts, without fears, knowing that He will never leave or forsake them.
3. God does not need to be helped, rescued or assisted in any form as so many seem to think.
  - God made us in His own image and therefore we have the capability to appreciate and admire who He is and what He does.
4. God is NOT the Santa Claus of Christians, He is more than the "one" who puts out gifts and gives us things that we ask for.
5. Genuine Worship will fascination and moral excitement with the Christian worshipper.
  - To adore God means to love Him with all that is within one's self with fear, wonder and awe.
  - *"...love the Lord thy God with all thy heart..and with all thy mind..." (Matthew 22:37)*
6. Genuine worship is a completely private, personal experience between God and the one worshipping.

### CONCLUSION:

1. Christian, until you have been able to meet God in genuine, sincere, true worship, you will never really know what it is to love others.
2. Where there is genuine adoration and fascination, there will be genuine worship.
3. God puts yearning and desire within the Christian's heart and he/she who seeks God's face in repentance and love will worship Him genuinely.
4. What Christians need today, what Churches need today in this country is a genuine visitation of the Holy Spirit and the bestowment of the spirit of worship among God's people.
5. If God's people don't stop "playing Church" and get down to genuine worship, the Lord may very well, and rightfully so, remove His presence from us.
6. What say you?