

Dive-In, May 11, 2011

Worship – In Spirit and Truth

- A.** False worship – In the movie, The Wizard of Oz, how did Dorothy and her friends show honor and worship to the wizard?
- Bowed down and were timid. Had he earned their worship? Not at all. When they exposed the fraud, did he reveal himself worthy of their worship? Nope. What did he get caught up doing? Being something he wasn't. Did he meet their needs eventually? Yes but by just being himself.
- B.** True worship – God has EARNED our worship. He is 100% genuine and ALWAYS true to Himself. We know that we can always count on God being truthful with us, but He demands the same from us. Are we worshiping in truth if we say wonderful things to God but then spend our time focusing on other things?
- C.** Worship in Spirit
1. This means having a proper heart attitude. Worship truly is about the internal condition of the person doing it.
 2. In Christ's day (and even today), the big controversy was about where to worship. The Jews said Jerusalem and the Samaritans said (the mountain). In John 4, Christ tells the woman at the well that the where no longer mattered.
- D.** Worship in Truth
1. This means knowing what God has to say about worship. You need to be consistent with the Word.
 2. God's Word must be central to our efforts. We need to guard against things that make us FEEL good but aren't glorifying the LORD.
- E.** The Nuts and Bolts of worshipping In Spirit and Truth
1. What "god" do some people worship? Themselves – They use it as a way to make themselves feel better. Lift up their countenance.
 2. Why do we worship God? What He does for us; How merciful He is; His graciousness; He strongly desires constant contact; He demands it from us ("Thou shalt have no other god's before Me."); we are compelled when we think about all He is.
 3. What is missing from false worship that's practiced in other religions, and sadly from our own too often? Focus, thinking of emotions or fun instead of God.
- F.** [John 4:19-24](#)

What was the controversy about worship when Jesus lived on earth ([vv.19, 20](#))? Location (Jerusalem or the mountain – course there was a reason the Samaritans couldn't go to Jerusalem, ask me sometime!!)

What did Jesus say about the location of worship ([v. 21](#))? Won't matter

What is important about worship ([vv. 22-24](#))? Your internal condition (Spirit) and being consistent with the Word (Truth)

What is the difference between worshipping God physically and worshipping God in your spirit? I leave this answer up to you!!

Describe the god that some people worship? What is he like? Limited, Temperamental, There to serve us, All fluff and no substance, etc

Are you a true worshiper? If so, how? And if not, what needs to change?

Remember – EVERYTHING we do is supposed to honor God. The focus of worship has to be on Him (to be true). It's not about us. It's not supposed to be about this warm fuzzy feeling that makes us feel better. It is good to enjoy worship. It's good if you have fun doing it but don't lose yourself in the process. Don't forget who you are there to praise. Churches today are focusing on the user and not the Creator (if they were truly honest). We must continually analyze our hearts to ensure God is the focus off all our worship. Get your hearts right!!