

God's Blueprint for the Church
The Heart of Worship
John 4:21-26

Introduction

1. Question: Why are worship styles in the church so controversial that congregations split over what should or should not be done in the service?
Answer: The devil knows the importance of heartfelt worship and he will do all he can to get believers to destroy it with bitterness and contention.
2. Today we focus on the heart of worship with our Lord's answers to 5 simple questions.

The Message

1. **Who do we worship? Vs. 21**
 - a. We were created to worship (love, praise, and adore) God.
 - b. When we do not worship Him our hearts become idol factories. Rom. 1:21-23
2. **Where do we worship? Vs. 21**
 - a. True worship is not dependent upon a building or location.
 - b. Biblical worship flows from the hearts of God's people. Col. 3:14-17
3. **How do we worship? Vs. 23-24**
 - a. Jesus' focus is not on music, liturgy, or styles.
 - b. Jesus set down two requirements:
 - Worship God in spirit. Mt. 15:6, Mk. 12:28-30
 - Worship God in truth. Heb. 1:1-3
4. **Why do we worship?**
 - a. When Jesus told the woman at the well He was the Messiah she was looking for, her heart and life were changed. She immediately ran to bring others to meet the Lord.
 - b. We worship God because He has opened our eyes and reconciled us back to Him. Our desire is now to bring glory to Him and to call others to do the same.

The Challenge

1. We are here to worship the God who gave His Son on the cross to give us new life.
 - We declare He is the awesome God who alone is worthy of our praise.
2. In God's name we call everyone to come to Christ and join us in worshipping this great and mighty God.

“Oh come, let us worship bow down; let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!”
Ps. 95:6

John 4:21-26 - Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. 22 You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. 23 But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. 24 God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." 25 The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming (he who is called Christ). When he comes, he will tell us all things." 26 Jesus said to her, "I who speak to you am he."

Rom. 1:21-23 - For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. 22 Claiming to be wise, they became fools, 23 and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things.

Col. 3:14-17 - And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. 15 And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. 16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. 17 And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Mt. 15:6 - he need not honor his father.' So for the sake of your tradition you have made void the word of God.

Mk. 12:28-30 - And one of the scribes came up and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, asked him, "Which commandment is the most important of all?" 29 Jesus answered, "The most important is, 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. 30 And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.'

Heb. 1:1-3 - Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, 2 but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. 3 He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,