



CREATIVELY INNOVATIVE BUT DEFECTIVE

WORSHIP

OF THE TRUE GOD

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One of the great tragedies of all time is the false worship of the true God by genuine Christians who are ignorant of Bible doctrine. Satan is successful in substituting human creative innovation into God's perfect blueprint of worship that results to false worship of the true God.

The majority of Christians cannot tell between the real and fake worship since the world has distorted its true essence and conception. They are not aware that their worship of the true God by their false ways is rejected and bringing them closer to their lustful desires than closer to God. Worship today care about appearances and premium on pretense rather than reality. The focus of worship today revolves around public relations, people's opinion, and competition.

The Old Testament biblical worship revealed basic criteria:

- God is the only recipient of true worship.
- Worship was done according to the means prescribed by God alone.
- It was unlawful to alter the worship designed by God.
- Worship was assigned in the Tabernacle and later at the Temple.
- Worship was led by Levitical priests
- Worship comprised of sacrifices, ordinances and rituals which were accepted if done according to its meticulous prescription.

People friendly but deadly elements of worship today:

- Personality oriented: extremely dependent on appearances
- Public relations – putting more effort on how we appear to other than on what we really are
- People's opinion – concern about what others think
- People's feeling – how people feels about it

Unbelievers cannot worship the true God:

- They are not spiritually regenerated
- They have no indwelling Holy Spirit
- They have no metabolized Bible doctrine frame of reference in the their souls

Carnal & reversionist believers cannot worship God:

- They are not filled with the Holy Spirit
- They are not thinking divine viewpoint
- They are not capable of perceiving the truth
- They cannot use the available divine power

Identification of false worship:

- Unbelievers: worshipping the false gods
- Believers: worshipping the false gods
- Believers: worshipping the true God apart from the filling of the Holy Spirit and Bible doctrine
- Believers: worshipping the true God by false ways

Categories of false worship:

- Vain worship – not done as prescribed by God and failure to comply with what God requires.
- Ignorant worship – worship with the truth of the Word of God (Acts 17:22-23)
- Humanly worship – self-style, presumptuous using human invented systems (1 Sam. 13:8-14)
- False gods worship

The outward appearances of false worship:

- Zealousness for their beliefs or teaching
- Centers on outward emotional things
- Concerns about public relationship
- Busyness for the kingdom not for the King
- Dependency on men rather than on God
- Pleasing and acceptable to all men
- Confused inside but false stability outside
- Materially and emotional beneficial to men
- Culturally and traditionally accepted practices
- Intellectually praise innovation and creativity
- Promising all sorts of solutions to problems
- Dedicated and loyal to their leaders
- Fanatics to their group or denomination
- Committed to sacrifice to work and serve
- Proud to be members of their group
- Exalting and honoring their religious leaders
- Projection of false hope and confidence

Six basic snares to true worship:

- Arrogance – self-righteousness
- Ignorance of Bible doctrine – zeal w/o truth
- Worldliness – wickedness
- Legalism – rituals w/o reality
- Works of death – human good works
- Rejection of grace – substituting works
- Grieving and quenching the Holy Spirit

Checklist for defective worship:

- Worship that highlights how we appear before men rather than God (Gal. 1:10).
- Worship that reduces the truth of the Scripture bringing God to human level.
- Worship that is frenetic for transformation into entertainment.
- Worship that is seeking the appreciation and approval of the unbelievers.
- Worship that follows the tradition of men rather than the Word of God.
- Worship that is designed to make the agnostics at ease and entertained (Mt. 17:5-7)
- Worship that calls for the participation of the unbelievers to support the ministry.
- Worship that is led by the celebrities and famous men of the world rather than by men of God's Word (James 2:1-7).
- Worship that brings laughter and smiles in the face rather than godly sorrow in the heart pierced by the truth of God's Word.
- Worship that seek the approval of men rather than the approbation of God (1 Cor. 2-5).
- Worship that manifests the power and wisdom of men rather than of God.
- Worship that is concerned about numerical growth (statistics) rather than spiritual growth.
- Worship that follows the pattern of the world pleading for the unfit for the kingdom of God to participate and join.
- Worship that entitles only the wise men of the world to speak in the pulpit (1 Cor. 1:26-27).
- Worship that requests the sacrifice or offering of the wicked (Prov. 15:8).
- Worship that seeks the gifts, contribution and support of those who neither know God nor love Him (John 4:23-24).
- Worship that centers on giving of money, pledges, vows, contribution, making covenant and tithing.
- Worship that advertises pleasing personalities and easy solution to life's problems.
- Worship that is seeker sensitive by catering to the request, clamoring and demands of the people.
- Worship that becomes the center of the spiritual life instead of the Word of God.
- Worship that is designed to evangelize the lost but to starve the believers.

The worship is for believers not for unbelievers. The worship is for communication of Bible doctrine not for evangelizing the unbelievers by inviting them to come. Christians must go to the unbelievers in the world to evangelize them not trick to attend the worship service. The believers can worship God in evangelism but the unbelievers cannot worship without salvation, filling of the Holy Spirit and the resident Word of God in the souls. The approach to genuine worship:

- Will quicken the conscience with God's holiness
- Will feed the mind with the truth
- Will open the heart with love of God
- Will devote the mentality with His purpose
- Will offer spiritual sacrifices by His grace

The sensitivity of true worship will reject the:

- Wrong motive of the worshipers
- Wrong methods of the worshipers
- Wrong manners of the worshipers
- Wrong mode of the worshipers
- Wrong mentality of the worshiper

There are 13 categories of grace that are related to worship of the true God by true believers:

- Regenerating grace (Eph. 2:1-5)
- Justifying grace (Rom. 5:1-11)
- Sanctifying grace (Heb. 10:10-14)
- Preserving grace (Phil. 1:6)
- Instructing grace (John 16:13)
- Directing grace (prov. 3:5-6)
- Confronting grace (John 16:7)
- Reviving grace (Isa. 57:15)
- Sufficient grace (2 Cor. 12:9)
- Enduring grace (2 Tim. 4:5)
- Overcoming grace (1 John 2:13)
- Sustaining grace (Gal. 3:4)
- Glorifying grace (1 Cor. 6:20)

The basic requirements (elements) of true worship:

- Salvation by grace in Christ alone in faith alone
- Spirit-filled life adjustment by rebound
- Scripture content of the soul

Basic facts about true worship:

- Ascribes worth to God
- Done in reverence (genuine humility)
- Comes deep from within the soul
- Involves the whole being
- Reserved for God alone
- The soul's highest occupation (occupation with the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ)
- Involves giving not getting from God
- Growing in quality of relationship with God
- Resulting to deeper appreciation of God
- Enjoying deeper intimacy with God
- Not attainable by sincerity
- Made possible by the Lord Jesus Christ for sinful men to come to God as they are.
- Excludes human self righteousness

Four requirements for God centered worship:

- It must focus on the glory of God
- It is defined by God alone
- It is according to what God prescribed
- It is possible only through Jesus Christ

For worship to be true:

- It is for God's glory alone (Rev. 4:11)
- Defined by God alone
- Derived from God alone
- Designed to bless man

Since we have the old sinful nature, we are not the authority for knowing how to worship God. The best way we can do is simply to obey God's definition of worship (1 Sam. 15:22). Worship is the most important duty of the believers in time and worship will be our highest and primary occupation in eternity. The problem in knowing the divine definition of worship is not the absence of definition. There is no definition of the Trinity, Hypostatic Union or grace giving in the Bible but the principles are all well presented. The Bible did not provide us a concise, accurate definition of worship, no precise indication of specific action of worship, no specific examples of action of worship and no specific manners of worship.

The principles of worship are well presented all over the Bible. Worship covers all areas of our life; all of our life is worship when we are filled with the Holy Spirit inside the pre-designed plan of God. We just need to follow God's definition not ours. For example is God's definition of worship between a man and a woman. The marriage of lesbian or homosexual couple is not marriage in the eyes of God. Marriage is not a matter of legality, license or document issued by the government but a matter of divine definition. Men called holy laughter worship but God called it abomination. Men called slaying of the spirit worship God called it heresy.

Worship consists of reverential acts authorized by God that are directed toward God alone and performed to honor Him alone.

Deadly criteria of false worship:

- As long as it feels right and good
- Accepting the traditional practices
- Adopting the denominational practices
- Appealing to majority
- Admit what people are clamoring
- Accommodating suggestion of other
- Applying innovation and creativity
- Accepting imitation from others
- Allowing false teachings

What is not true worship?

- Any action without the filling of the Holy Spirit and the sanction of the Word of God
- Any acts that are offered contrary to God's design of worship (John 4:23-24)
- Any actions offered with wrong motives
- Any actions invented by men
- Any action designed to please men
- Any action to honor or exalt men
- Any action that are done in wrong manners

Invalid definition of worship:

- Worship is a matter of the heart of the worshipers. This will make anything permissible as long as it feels right.
- Worship is what is done in the church. (Then falling to sleep while the Word is being communicated will be an act of worship.)
- Worship is what man does for God. This gives license to anyone to do anything and call it worship.

God regulates worship:

- By exclusion of the negative elements, modes, approaches, rituals, ceremonies and practices.
- By inclusion of the positive elements, acts, forms, modes, ways and elements.
- By Old and New Testament warrant, scriptural precepts and instruction.
- By the words, instruction, commands, principles, examples of the Lord Jesus Christ and the apostles.

God's ways of regulating worship:

- God gave regulative principles of worship for our legitimate worship (Jn. 4:23-24, 1 Cor. 11 & 14).
- God does not allow worship elements, modes, expressions, practices, rituals and ceremonies for which He did not warrant.
- God demands that we worship Him only as He prescribed it.
- We are not free to make any innovation, invention or creativity to add something to worship but only to follow God's design.
- We are to follow and obey the demands and valid examples set in the Scripture for us.
- God alone is the absolute authority in worship and we have no rights to add or subtract from what God has designed.

True worship of the true God by true ways will always:

- Reject creative human expression - emotion
- Reject human invention and innovation
- Reject non-biblical traditions & practices
- Reject human imaginations
- Reject human genius and wisdom
- Reject extra biblical practices
- Reject human invented music

Characteristics of defective worship:

- Worship that focus on man and his gifts
- Worship that draws on man's authority not on the authority of God's Word
- Worship that depends on taste of men rather than doctrinal conviction
- Worship that makes sense to men except with God
- Worship with zeal but lack doctrinal conviction

Timeless principles of worship:

- God alone defines worship.
- Anything that God does not require by His Word is not true worship (Mt. 28:18-20)
- God has defined the elements, expression, modes, approaches, forms and acts of worship.
- True worship of the true God consists of authorized reverential acts (Ps. 96:9).
- God cannot tolerate false worship of false god. God tolerate no rival (Ex. 20:4-6)
- God cannot tolerate false worship directed toward Him.
- God punishes false worship (1 Cor. 11:29-30).
- Sinful and finite men cannot determine what is the right way to worship God (Deut. 29:29)
- Man have the tendency toward idolatry and worship creature specially – self (Rom. 1:18-23).
- Men have no rights to change worship designed by God in any way.
- Worship in the Church Age is well defined in the New Testament by the commands, examples and instruction of the Lord Jesus Christ and the apostles.
- The Church Age believers are not to make alteration, addition, or innovation to what God has mandated and designed for worshiping Him.
- No one changes the form of worship (worship practices) without changing the content of worship (doctrinal conviction).
- Satan will try everything to make every believer worship the true God by false ways and forms.
- Defective theology or doctrinal beliefs results to defective worship.

The larger proportions of our worship are rejected by God, they are good for nothing and yet the most difficult task concerning worship remains. It is difficult to know what specific actions are acceptable and what are not. And our primary task is to know what true worship is and what false worship is. False worship is old as the devil and yet no one bother to examine them and discard them for good of the spiritual life. Most Christian churches are worshipping the true God

How do false practices get into our worship?

- By welcoming human innovations and creative factors for church growth.
- By accepting new trends, practices and forms of worship that are in among other churches.
- Accepting the new changes brought by waves of what they called spiritual explosion such as the Evangelism Explosion or Purpose Driven Life.
- By compromising with the denomination or with association policy to adopt certain practices.
- By experimenting on certain practices that result to super dynamic effects of numerical growth.
- By fellowshiping with those who practice false worship.

Descriptions of true worship of the true God by genuine believers through acceptable practices:

- Required regeneration: Salvation by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone (1 Cor. 2:12-14). The filling of the Holy Spirit is the first essential element in true worship (John 14:17).
- Regain in truth: The worship of the true God is not possible without the truth of Bible doctrine (Acts 2:42) since it is our valid access for communing with Him.
- Reverent in heart: There must be awe of devotion to God characterized by high degree of respect (Acts 6:14, 18:7). These are not feelings but about direction of the heart leaning toward God.
- Respectful in action: This is bowing low in respect and reverence by consciously acknowledging God for who and what He is. Not bending the knees but bending the big “I” in you that is constantly stubborn to submit to God (Psa. 95:6, Psa. 2:12, Mt. 28:9).
- Rendered in service: True worship will always result to spiritual service (logical service of worship Rom. 12:1, Phil. 3:3). In the OT ritual service was true service provided they were done according to God’s design. One term for worship in Greek is *latreuo* (liturgy) which means to serve God.
- Radiated in proclamation: Believers are the representative of the Lord Jesus Christ on earth in His absence. In worship the believers are declaring the glory of God. Rebound for example proclaims the justice of God.
- Resounded in praise: To praise is to commend, glorify, and honor God before men and angels beyond verbal expressions (Heb. 13:15) by taking up your cross defying the OSN in you.
- Responds in prayer: True worship of God link the believer into the most expression of prayer bound by intimacy with God by the intercession of the Holy Spirit in a very personal communion.
- Reflected in divine good works: Intimacy with God allows the believers to see what God wants them to do (Eph. 2:8-9) by the power of the Holy Spirit for the benefits of others.
- Rejoices in truth: True worship of God energizes and rejuvenates the believers to endure all things by the grace of God resulting to sincere gratitude for everything.
- Right in focus: True worship produces genuine intimacy with God. It directs the heart and mind to concentrate on God being occupied with the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ.
- Ready for battle: Those who are intimate with God have the capacity to win all the battles of life and angelic conflict using the divine assets. They become the invisible heroes, the catalyst for blessings and prosperity of their nation.

Approaches to right worship:

- Set your goal to worship – break the dichotomy between the secular and the spiritual things (1 Cor. 10:31). Prepare your soul to worship God in proper ways. Break the link from the influence of the world (Rom. 12:2) refusing its standards, values and priorities (1 John 2:15-16), breaking the old habits (Col. 3:5-9) be different by living as an alien in the world (phil. 3:20).
- Set your priorities – let His indwelling presence captivate your mind. Priority means God is always in your mind in everything you do (Mt. 22:35-37) and allowing His love to overflow within your soul (John 14:15). The devil wants to see you giving up your priority and make him frustrated by your dependency on God's grace.
- Set your spiritual diet – dieting does not mean reducing the food intake to starve but eating right for you are what you eat. Nourish your soul by feasting on the Word of God consistently, systematically and progressively. You will never have spiritual indigestion for the Holy Spirit is the one responsible for assimilating it into your body.
- Set your mind – always be ready for the changes the Holy Spirit will bring into your goals, priorities and spiritual diet. The keep factor for renewal of the mind is the Holy Spirit metabolizing the doctrine that you have perceived and understood.

Worship that honors God is marked by:

- Private confession of sin –Rebound (1 Jn. 1:9)
- Active faith connected with God
- Evidence of experiential righteousness
- Fulfilled and contented heart
- Sincere gratitude for all things
- Perseverance in suffering –no complaining
- Showroom of God's grace to others
- A mind occupied with Person of Christ
- An intimacy with God – unknown to men but known to God

Results of true worship of God (personally /corporately):

- God is glorified
 - The believer is sanctified (experientially)
 - Believers are purified
 - The church is edified
 - The unbelievers are evangelized
- ✓ True worship takes time (Eph. 5:16) and it is about God, not about us. We must give of ourselves in order to truly worship God, no shortcut, no few easy steps.
- ✓ Worship takes thought –it means active works of the mind in paying attention and concentrating in the Word of God. Sleeping while listening to the Word of God means you are lazy to work.

False worship given to the true God by true believers:

- They worship God not according to God's plan
- They worship God outwardly only (Isa. 29:13)
- They worship their worship, focusing on their worship rather than on God
- Their worship centers on men not Bible doctrine
- They have wrong motives (like pleasing men or exalting men rather than pleasing God)
- Their worship focus on personalities of the worship leaders, musicians, presentations and speakers not on the person of Jesus Christ.
- Their worship focus on activities, ceremonies, programs, baptism, offering and singing not on the Word of God.
- They worship God in ignorance of Bible doctrine and substitute the teaching of men for it.
- They worship God in arrogance assuming they know how and what God is.
- They worship God even without examining and evaluating the teaching and practices that they knew about.
- Their worship has the appearance of life but only shadow of reality with warmness for people but lacking the fire for God.

Worship is an active work of the mind in thinking Bible doctrine with concentration. One of the issues of worship is what you are thinking. Worship takes the work to control of your mind to think God with your life from His perspective. Worship involves the thinking of the right things (Phil 4:8, Col. 3:2) in the right way. One might be in act of worship but if the mind is dwelling on the details of life, five things are certain:

- It is nothing but outward form of worship
- That worship is in ignorance of bible doctrine
- That act of worship in vain worship
- That act of worship is rejected by God
- It is worshipping God in false ways

False worship operates and functions by substituting:

- Human plans for God's plan
 - Human power for divine power
 - Human system for divine system
 - Human deception for divine truth
 - Human wisdom for divine wisdom
 - Man-made virtues for divine virtue
 - Human imagination for divine arrangement
 - Self-righteousness for God's righteousness
 - Divine system of worship for manmade worship
- ✓ The essence of true worship (John 4:23-24) refers to the outworking of God's saving grace to worship God in Spirit and in truth based on knowledge of doctrine.
- ✓ The place is never an issue in worship since God is Spirit and those with the Spirit of God can worship God when they operate in God's power.

The only valid preparation for worship is enclosed in the principles of “worship in the Spirit and in truth” of John 4:23-24. Prayer and fasting, sounds, instrumental music or special number, and other inventions we assumed from God have nothing to do with preparing man for worship.

The preparation for worship is sum up in these principles:

- In Spirit – that is to be filled by the Holy Spirit (spiritual) and the basic mandate is to rebound (1 John 1:9) that is to adjust the justice of God by acknowledging the work of Christ in forgiving our personal sins.
- In truth – that is having the right mental attitude based on doctrinal thinking –the mind of Christ.

As you work your way into God’s presence to worship Him, it might be helpful to remember the following principles:

- Never a moment without distractions on earth when you start a life of worship of God.
- Relax mental attitude is necessary to work through any kind of distractions of the spiritual life overcome by the power and grace of God.
- Right focus –that is concentration in the Word of God. Walk slowly as you mine the Word of God for its treasure.
- Worship is not a matter of convenience but of grace that you have to leave the comfortable Christianity for vital relationship with God.
- Overcome laziness and passiveness to face the challenges of change toward the will of God and rejecting anything that will keep you distant from God and the Word of God.
- Refresh your soul after you have tried and failed being sidetracked by arrogance, ignorance or wickedness, you need to be revived by constantly drinking at the fountain of His grace.

Common errors of true worshipers of the true God:

- They are trying to invite God to come in the place they intend to worship God instead of learning to meet God in “*places He develops*” for them to use consistently.
- They are trying to bring God in their church which has been brought into the same values of the world instead of going into His presence.
- They are trying to bring spiritual growth by human discipline instead of allowing growth come out of His presence in us.
- They are trying to build spiritual zeal (that is the strong desire to please, serve and glorify God) by their dedication apart from life in God.
- They are trying to make an impression to men with worship performance and thinking that God is glorified by such statistical success.
- They are easily deceived by the success that carries the integration of cosmic attractions into the church covering its desperate sickness with the applause and approval of men.

True worship is described by intimacy with God that only flourished genuineness rules over empty appearances and pretense. People in pretense are occupied in conformity with the world and bound from bondage of subjective disorder. They are drowned or sinking in the flood of religious activities being disillusioned and confused with the lifeless pattern of spiritual retardation. They are enslaved to endless activities, performances, programs and ceremonies that are robbing them their precious intimacy with God and very important worship of God.

The most important needs of the believers:

- Feeding: Our longing for intimacy with God needs to be fed in the pasture of biblical reality.
- Finding: Our emptiness must seek satisfaction, sustenance and security in our relationship with God by consistently worshipping Him.
- Fending: Our dependency on men must come to an end by learning to putting our faith on active employment in all aspect of life and godliness.
- Framing: Our plans, desire, aspiration, ambition, and agenda must seek its fulfillment in the person of the Lord Jesus Christ not in the world.

Intimacy with God is necessary to have significant worship of God but it is also true that consistent worship of God result to intimacy with God. Both intimacy with God and worship of God becomes reality when there is hunger for God. The big problem is that there is no easy steps, no secret formula for developing hunger for God. Medical doctors may blame obesity for stress, genetic, metabolism or body structure but obese people have one thing in common called appetite. They keep eating and the more they eat the more they become hungry.

Reasons why Christians are not hungry for God:

- Their caterers (spiritually retarded pastors) are feeding them nothing but junk food from Satan’s inorganic farm.
- They failed to examine that they are not growing spiritually form what they assumed as the Word of God which is actually not Bible doctrine.
- They wanted to follow the Lord Jesus Christ and their blind leaders are dragging them into the pit of destruction without a slight suspicion.
- They failed to realize that without Bible doctrine and the Holy Spirit spiritual growth is impossible.

I like to challenge Christians who have been worshipping the true God by false ways to rebound and start worshipping God in the right way. If you want to follow God, He will provide you the time, energy, power and determination to have your spiritual success.



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