Let Us Faithfully Worship The One True God

Intro: God has placed within man the need to worship. This is why we observe that in every civilization man has had objects of worship. Those objects of worship were not always the right object. But they still worshiped. Thus, let us study the aspect of the worship of God.

I. WHAT IS WORSHIP.
   A. The most common Greek word is προσκυνεῖν (proskuneo).
   B. It means:
      1. Strong’s says, “to kiss the hand to (towards) one, in token of reverence.”
      2. Orientals would fall to their knees and touch their foreheads to the ground as an act of profound reverence.
      3. While it lost the designation of the external act of prostrating oneself, it denotes the inward prostration of the heart in humility.
   C. Worship is not for the entertainment of man.
      1. Worship should be enjoyed by man
         a. Psa. 122:1 “I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the LORD.”
         b. Yet, the congregation is not the spectator role while those leading in worship are the performers.
      2. God is the audience not man.
      3. All men are to be participating in the worship to God.

II. TRUE WORSHIP.
   A. John 4:23-24 “But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. 24God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.”
   B. If there is true worship there must also be false worship.
      1. Vain Worship
         a. Mat. 15:9 “But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.”
         b. They were substituting man’s word for God’s doctrine making their worship vain.
         c. When we teach traditions of man as the law of God then our worship is vain.
      2. Ignorant Worship
         a. Acts 17:23 “For as I passed by, and beheld your devotions, I found an altar with this inscription, TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Whom therefore ye ignorantly worship, him declare I unto you.”
         b. They did not know who or what they were worshiping.
         c. When we do not know who or what we are worshiping (not knowing God’s Will) then our worship is ignorant and does not please God.
      3. Will Worship
         a. Col. 2:23 “Which things have indeed a shew of wisdom in will worship, and humility, and neglecting of the body; not in any honour to the satisfying of the flesh.”
b. Will worship is worship which one devises and prescribes for himself, contrary to the contents and nature of the faith.

C. Proper Object of Worship
1. God is the only proper object of worship.
   a. Mat. 4:10 “Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.”
   b. Exo. 20:3-5 “Thou shalt have no other gods before me. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me;”

2. He is worthy of our worship.
   a. He created us; Rev. 4:11 “Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.”
   b. He sustains us; Col. 1:17 “And he is before all things, and by him all things consist [all things hold together—NASV and RSV].”
   c. He saves us; Eph. 2:8-9 “For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.”

3. A. W. Tozer said, “Worship, I say, rises or falls with our concept of God.... and if there is one terrible disease in the Church of Christ, it is that we do not see God as great as He is” (Worship: The Missing Jewel of the Evangelical Church, 25).

4. Sadly, we tend to forget whom we are to worship, and our worship turns into a worship of man instead of God.

D. Proper Attitude in Worship
1. Phi. 3:3 “For we are the circumcision, which worship God in the spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh.”

2. Albert Barnes wrote, “The word spirit, here, stands opposed to rites and ceremonies, and the pomp of external worship. It refers to the mind, the soul, the heart. They shall worship God with a sincere mind; with the simple offering of gratitude and prayer; with a desire to glorify him, and without external pomp and splendor” (Barnes Notes “Luke-John” 218).

3. God will not accept worship without the proper attitude; Isa. 1:11-15 “To what purpose is the multitude of your sacrifices unto me? saith the LORD: I am full of the burnt offerings of rams, and the fat of fed beasts; and I delight not in the blood of bullocks, or of lambs, or of he goats. When ye come to appear before me, who hath required this at your hand, to tread my courts? Bring no more vain oblations; incense is an abomination unto me; the new moons and sabbaths, the calling of assemblies, I cannot away with; it is iniquity, even the solemn meeting. Your new moons and your appointed feasts my soul hateth: they are a trouble unto me; I am weary to bear them. And when ye spread forth your hands, I will hide mine eyes from you: yea, when ye make many prayers, I will not hear: your hands are full of blood.”

E. Proper Way Of Worship
1. We are to worship according to truth.
   a. God’s Word is truth.
      (1) John 17:17 “Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.”
(2) 2 John 4 “I rejoiced greatly that I found of thy children walking in truth, as we have received a commandment from the Father.”

b. Thus we must worship according to God’s Word.

2. The truth reveals how we are to worship.

F. What God has revealed as acts of worship to Him.

1. Singing
   a. We must sing with the spirit.
      (1) Do we mean what we sing?
      (2) Do we understand the words that we sing?
      (3) Do we just allow the words to come out of our mouth without ever thinking about them?
   b. It must be done in truth.
      (1) Make sure that the songs we sing teach the truth.
      (2) Humming.
      (3) Making our voices sound like instruments of music (singing groups like: A Cappella)
      (4) Singing to the accompaniment of musical instruments.

2. Lord’s Supper
   a. Must do so according to the Truth.
      (1) Not changing the elements of the Supper.
      (2) Not altering the day of partaking it.
   b. Partake of it in spirit.
      (1) Centering our minds upon the death of Christ.
      (2) Do we allow our minds to drift and think of other things that have no bearing in the Supper?

3. Prayer
   a. Praying with the spirit.
      (1) Listening to the prayers that are lead, thinking about what is said, and making that prayer our prayer.
      (2) Do we allow our mind drift to thinking of other things?
   b. Praying according to the Truth.
      (1) Addressing our prayers to the Father through the mediatorship of Christ.
      (2) Making sure our request to God are in harmony with His Will.
      (3) Men leading the prayers when women are present.

4. Contribution
   a. Giving with the right spirit.
      (1) Giving liberally, cheerfully not out of a feeling of guilt, or necessity.
      (2) Often we rob God by not giving as He has prospered us.
   b. Giving according to the Truth.
      (1) Getting its proceeds from the freewill offering of the members.
      (2) Not having bake or cake sales, garage sales, selling tee-shirts, or going into business activities.
(3) Using the money in the way God ordained (work of the church).

5. Preaching
   a. Engaging in that study with the proper attitude.
      (1) Realizing the importance of it.
      (2) Listening (paying attention) instead of talking, sleeping, passing notes, etc.
      (3) Listening to learn; not to catch mistakes, to contradict, refute, etc.
   b. Studying God’s Word according to the Truth.
      (1) Studying the Bible, not psychology, one’s own thinking, Pealism (how to win friends), etc.
      (2) Studying all of God’s Word, not just parts of it.
      (3) Making sure it is true and not doctrinal error.

III. BEING FAITHFUL IN WORSHIP TO GOD
   A. God desires that we worship Him.
      1. John 4:23-24 “But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.”
      2. We are to come together in one place for the purpose of worshiping God; 1 Cor. 11:17-34
   B. We need to be dependable in our attendance to worship services.
      1. Acts 2:42 “And they continued stedfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.”
      2. Acts 11:26 “And when he had found him, he brought him unto Antioch. And it came to pass, that a whole year they assembled themselves with the church, and taught much people. And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch.”

Conclusion: Are you worshiping the one true God faithfully? If not, you are not pleasing to God.