

John 4:24 says, "God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth" (NASB). To worship is to praise and adore. We show our love and appreciation for God when we worship Him. Not to worship God is to fail to be grateful for all that He has given us. Three things strike me about this passage...

First, that worship is to be done in spirit. That is, the emotions must play a role in our praise. Jesus condemned the worship of the Pharisees because it was rote, and "their hearts were far from Me" (Mt. 15:8-9). If our worship is only a going through the motions, without emotions, then it is unacceptable!

Second, worship must be done in truth. Man is not at liberty to choose how he will worship God. God has instructed, through His word, how He wants to be worshiped. We must be this kind of "true worshiper" as Jesus discussed (Jn. 4:23) for it is this kind of person the Father seeks. Both emotions and truth must be present if God is to be worshiped correctly. They must be in balance one with another so that our worship is not overly "wet" with feelings, or overly "dry" with truth. Ask yourself, is your worship balanced between these two?

And third, God is a spirit, and the more that I know about His character and nature the better my worship will be. To know God is to know how to worship Him. As I learn about God's goodness, mercy, forgiveness, righteousness, and wrath, the better I can worship Him in spirit and in truth.

Do not take worship lightly; it is an important part of our lives. Worship is to be done collectively with other saints (Heb. 10:24-25) and individually in our daily walk (Rom. 12:1-2). May we always live to praise Him!

-gls