



Church of Christ

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204 Dix Road Jefferson City, MO 65109

Heart to Heart...

Worship is about the holiness of God. It is a reverence and awe of His holiness. It's called *Afear of the Lord*. @ *Therefore, since we received a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us show gratitude, by which we may offer to God an acceptable service with reverence and awe; for our God is a consuming fire.*@ (Heb. 12:28-29) Worship is about gratitude shown to God. It's thankful hearts bowing low for the love and kindness bestowed. Gratitude shown must be an offering to God that is **acceptable** to Him out of reverence and awe. It's not a *what stirs us up*@ or *what makes us feel good*@ but a sincere, genuine service toward God Himself.

When people take upon themselves to approach God as they see fit, God does not honor that worship. God's holiness decides what is acceptable and unacceptable. Man takes upon themselves to determine what God will accept. It gets promoted that *Adifferent styles*@ of worship are alright to pursue and brethren are buying it! Why doesn't someone ask God? Man cannot improve God's ideas or desires. In fact, man corrupts the things of God when they take upon ourselves to follow their own desires. God warned Israel about the altars they used in worship with these words, *And if you make an altar of stone for Me, you shall not build it of cut stones, for if you wield your tool on it, you will profane it.*@ (Ex. 20:25) Man's self-centered desires always corrupt and profane the holiness of God. Worship is about God's holiness and it must come from a heart that's been cleansed and made holy by Christ. It's pure, undefiled and stands in reverence of our holy God. The songs of praise are genuine from the heart. They are offerings of words out of reverence and awe. God sees and knows that. The prayers are from a sincere faith that expresses our dependence on God. The Supper is a reminder of the cost and love of the new covenant. Thankful hearts bow in worship.

The Corinthian brethren began going backward spiritually rather than forward. They were fleshly and acting *As mere men.*@ (I Cor. 3:3) They should have a higher standard than the world around them but their fleshliness had corrupted them. What would you expect to find in their worship to God? They were using the assembly of the saints for **self expression!** Brethren with spiritual gifts were running over the top of those without spiritual gifts. They thought less of those who couldn't *Aperform.*@ (I Cor. 12-14) Their services were lively and a lot of commotion was taking place. (I Cor. 14) When someone felt like speaking, apparently they spoke with little regard to others around. Who determined if they were acceptable or unacceptable? **GOD!** They thought they were perfectly alright, until God sent them a letter from Paul, His apostle. It was God who placed each member where He desired. (I Cor. 12:18) It is God who gives more honor to that member which lacked and the weak are necessary. (I Cor. 12:22-24) The spiritual gifts were to build up people and NEVER to be used for self proclamation or promotion! (It's not a stage show for people.) It is always about *Aoffering to God an acceptable service with reverence and awe!*@ Worship is not about self expression. When one worships, they reflect their knowledge of God! (I Cor. 14:24-25) Paul explains that God is not a God of confusion but of peace and there needs to be self control in worship. (I Cor. 14:31-33)

Real worship takes place in the heart of the worshiper. It's un-orchestrated by external means. When worship is spoken of as dull or dead, we need to look at our own hearts and see if the death of Jesus is affecting me. It always comes back to, *Ashowing gratitude with reverence and awe*@ because our God is majestic and great! Do you worship or profane God's holiness? Think about it!!!

Brent