

A.M. OUTLINE
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ACCEPTABLE WORSHIP

(John 4:19 – 26)

INTRODUCTION - (John 4:23-24) "But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth"

People ask, "Does it really make a difference how we worship God?" "Yes!"
We do not instruct God on how He is to be worshipped; rather, God instructs us.

1. VAIN WORSHIP

(Matthew 15:7-10) (v9) "And in vain they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men"

They worshipped, but "in vain," because the "doctrine" was based on "commandments of men" (v3) "Why do you also transgress the commandment of God because of your tradition?"

2. WORSHIP WITHOUT KNOWING OR NOT BEING TAUGHT

(Acts 17:22-23) "... I perceive that in all things you are very religious ... therefore, the One whom you worship without knowing, Him I proclaim to you"
They were worshippers, had "objects of worship," and one altar to "the unknown God," and they thought this was acceptable worship. (note v16)

Also, some in Rome thought the same was OK: (Romans 10:2-3) "they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God"

3. SELF-IMPOSED RELIGION / WORSHIP

(Colossians 2:23) "These things indeed have an appearance of wisdom in self-imposed religion, false humility ... " (KJV "a show of wisdom in will worship")

These had a "self-imposed religion," and "appearance of wisdom," meaning, it was a self-devised worship, a worship they invented for themselves, and based on personal likes and dislikes.

4. "WORSHIP THE FATHER IN SPIRIT AND IN TRUTH"

Do not worship these: Satan (Matthew 4:8-11), angels (Revelation 22:8-9), idols (1 Thessalonians 1:9), apostles (Acts 10:24-26 and 14:11-15), any man (Psalm 111:9, Matthew 6:9 and 23:8-10)

"in spirit" - involved; to be attentive; focused; attracted to it; right frame of mind.
(Psalm 122:1) "I was glad when they said to me, let us go into the house of the Lord"

"in truth" - (John 17:17) "Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth"
So, our worship is to be according to the word of God.

It comes with a warning: (Revelation 22:18-19; Galatians 1:6-10)
Acceptable worship is having it His way.