

## Lesson 5 of 8: What is acceptable worship in the church Christ built?

- I. A church is not a church in the sight of God unless it is built on the foundation of Christ.
- The one true church belongs to Christ.
    - **Matthew 16:16-18** <sup>16</sup> Simon Peter answered and said, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” <sup>17</sup> Jesus answered and said to him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. <sup>18</sup> And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock **I will build My church**, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.
  - Why must a church be built upon the foundation of Christ?
    - **Matthew 7:24-27** <sup>24</sup> “Therefore whoever **hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock:** <sup>25</sup> and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock. <sup>26</sup> **“But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand:** <sup>27</sup> and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall.”
    - **Matthew 15:13-14** <sup>13</sup> **But He answered and said, “Every plant which My heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted.** <sup>14</sup> Let them alone. They are blind leaders of the blind. **And if the blind leads the blind, both will fall into a ditch.”**
  - Christ is concerned with our obedience and allegiance to Him, not just good deeds.
    - **Matthew 7:21-23** <sup>21</sup> **“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. <sup>22</sup> Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?’ <sup>23</sup> And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!’**
  - Throughout time God has made it clear that one way is not just as good as another.
    - Before we examine some passages, remember that we are to learn of God’s nature and the examples within the Old Testament.
    - **Romans 15:4** <sup>4</sup> **For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.**
    - **1 Corinthians 10:11** <sup>11</sup> **Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.**
    - Before the flood God chose one boat, built upon His commandments, to be saved.
      - **Genesis 6:13-22** <sup>13</sup> And God said to Noah, “The end of all flesh has come before Me, for the earth is filled with violence through them; and behold, I will destroy them with the earth. <sup>14</sup> **Make yourself an ark of gopherwood;** make rooms in the ark, and cover it inside and outside with pitch. <sup>15</sup> And this is how you shall make it: The length of the ark shall be three hundred cubits, its width fifty cubits, and its height thirty cubits. <sup>16</sup> You shall make a window for the ark, and you shall finish it to a cubit from above; and set the door of the ark in its side. You shall make it with lower, second, and third decks. <sup>17</sup> And behold, I Myself am bringing floodwaters on the earth, to destroy from under heaven all flesh in which is the breath of life; everything that is on the earth shall die. <sup>18</sup> But I will establish My covenant with you; and you shall go into the ark—you, your sons, your wife, and your sons’ wives with you. <sup>19</sup> And of every living thing of all flesh you shall bring two of every sort into the ark, to keep them alive with you; they shall be male and female. <sup>20</sup> Of the birds after their kind, of animals after their kind, and of every creeping thing of the earth after its kind, two of every kind will come to you to keep them alive. <sup>21</sup> And you shall take for yourself of all food that is eaten, and you shall gather it to yourself; and it shall be food for you and for them.” <sup>22</sup> **Thus Noah did; according to all that God commanded him, so he did.**
      - **Genesis 7:23** <sup>23</sup> So He destroyed all living things which were on the face of the ground: both man and cattle, creeping thing and bird of the air. They were destroyed from the earth. **Only Noah and those who were with him in the ark remained alive.**
      - **1 Peter 3:20-21** <sup>20</sup> who formerly were disobedient, **when once the Divine longsuffering waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight souls, were saved through water.** <sup>21</sup> There is also an antitype which now saves us—baptism (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God), through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,
      - Before the 10<sup>th</sup> plague God chose one way, built upon His commandments, that would save the first born child from death.
      - **Exodus 12:21-23, 29** <sup>21</sup> Then Moses called for all the elders of Israel and said to them, **“Pick out and take lambs for yourselves according to your families, and kill the Passover lamb. <sup>22</sup> And you shall take a bunch of hyssop, dip it in the blood that is in the basin, and strike the lintel and the two doorposts with the blood that is in the basin. And none of you shall go out of the door of his house until morning. <sup>23</sup> For the LORD will pass through to strike the Egyptians; and when He sees the blood on the lintel and on the two doorposts, the LORD will pass over the door and not allow the destroyer to come into your houses to strike you. (...) <sup>29</sup> And it came to pass at midnight that the LORD struck all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh who sat on his throne to the firstborn of the captive who was in the dungeon, and all the firstborn of livestock.**
- II. What are the different types of worship?
- All worship that is unacceptable to God is vain worship.
    - **Mark 7:6-8** <sup>6</sup> He answered and said to them, “Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written: ‘This people honors Me with their lips, **But their heart is far from Me.** <sup>7</sup> **And in vain they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.’ <sup>8</sup> For laying aside the commandment of God, you hold the tradition of men—the washing of pitchers and cups, and many other such things you do.”**
  - Ignorant worship is a type of vain worship.
    - **John 4:20, 22** <sup>20</sup> Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, and you Jews say that in Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship.” (...) <sup>22</sup> **You worship what you do not know; we know what we worship, for salvation is of the Jews.**
    - **Acts 17:23** <sup>23</sup> for as I was passing through and considering the **objects of your worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Therefore, the One whom you worship without knowing, Him I proclaim to you:**
  - Man imposed worship is a type of vain worship.
    - **Colossians 2:20-23** <sup>20</sup> Therefore, if you died with Christ from the basic principles of the world, **why, as though living in the world, do you subject yourselves to regulations— <sup>21</sup> “Do not touch, do not taste, do not handle,” <sup>22</sup> which all concern things which perish with the using—according to the commandments and doctrines of men?** <sup>23</sup> These things indeed have an appearance of wisdom in self-imposed religion, false humility, and neglect of the body, but are of no value against the indulgence of the flesh.
  - Those that who do not abide in the doctrine of Christ and worship falsely and in vain do not have God.
    - **2 John 9** <sup>9</sup> **Whoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God. He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son.**

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- True worship is worship that is acceptable to God.
    - **John 4:23-24** <sup>23</sup> But the hour is coming, and now is, **when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him.** <sup>24</sup> **God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.**
- III. How does God command us to worship Him in spirit and truth?
- What day is the church to come together to worship God?
    - On the first day of the week.
    - **Acts 20:7** <sup>7</sup> Now **on the first day of the week**, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul, ready to depart the next day, spoke to them and continued his message until midnight.
    - The elders may appoint additional times and days to gather for bible study.
    - **Hebrews 13:17** <sup>17</sup> **Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you.**
    - In being obedient to God, members of Christ's church are to attend worship on the first day of the week as well as days appointed by the elders.
    - **Hebrews 10:24-25** <sup>24</sup> And let us consider one another **in order to stir up love and good works,** <sup>25</sup> **not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.**
  - The Word of God is to be preached and taught in truth.
    - The church is to worship God in having His word accurately taught and proclaimed.
    - **Acts 20:7** <sup>7</sup> Now **on the first day of the week**, when the disciples came together to break bread, **Paul, ready to depart the next day, spoke to them and continued his message until midnight.**
    - **Acts 20:27** <sup>27</sup> **For I have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God.**
    - **Matthew 28:19-20** <sup>19</sup> Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> **teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.** Amen.
  - Prayer is a part of worship.
    - **Acts 2:42** <sup>42</sup> And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, **and in prayers.**
  - Another part of worship is giving. We are to give cheerfully and not of necessity; therefore, it can't be forced by leadership and doesn't have to be a tithe.
    - **1 Corinthians 16:1-2** <sup>1</sup> Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given orders to the churches of Galatia, so you must do also: <sup>2</sup> **On the first day of the week let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper, that there be no collections when I come.**
    - **2 Corinthians 9:7** <sup>7</sup> So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, **not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.**
  - When the church is gathered together on the first day of the week to worship God, the Lord's Supper is to be taken.
    - **Matthew 26:26-29** <sup>26</sup> And as they were eating, **Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said, "Take, eat; this is My body."** <sup>27</sup> Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, **"Drink from it, all of you.** <sup>28</sup> **For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.** <sup>29</sup> But I say to you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father's kingdom."
    - **Acts 20:7** <sup>7</sup> Now **on the first day of the week**, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul, ready to depart the next day, spoke to them and continued his message until midnight.
    - **1 Corinthians 11:23-28** <sup>23</sup> For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread; <sup>24</sup> and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, **"Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me."** <sup>25</sup> In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, **"This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."** <sup>26</sup> For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes. <sup>27</sup> Therefore whoever eats this bread or drinks this cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. <sup>28</sup> **But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup.**
  - Singing is also a part of worship.
    - **Hebrews 2:12** <sup>12</sup> saying: **"I will declare Your name to My brethren; In the midst of the assembly I will sing praise to You."**
    - Those worshipping God are to sing to Him using their lips and make melody (translated as "pluck the strings") in their hearts. We are to play our hearts.
    - **Ephesians 5:19** <sup>19</sup> speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, **singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord,**
    - **Hebrews 13:15** <sup>15</sup> Therefore by Him **let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name.**
    - Singing praises to God is a way to teach the truth to others while playing the instrument that God gave to everyone, our heart! All can play their hearts.
    - **Colossians 3:16** <sup>16</sup> Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, **teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.**
  - God is the audience in worship as we are worshipping Him. It is not a party and is something that is to be done decently and in order while revering God.
    - **1 Corinthians 14:40** <sup>40</sup> **Let all things be done decently and in order.**
    - **Hebrews 12:28** <sup>28</sup> Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, **by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear.**
- IV. We are not to go outside of what God has authorized in worship.
- We are not to take away or add to God's commandments.
    - **Revelation 22:18-19** <sup>18</sup> For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: **If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book;** <sup>19</sup> **and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.**
  - The Old Testament provides an example of God's displeasure in worshipping in a way in which He has not commanded.
    - **Leviticus 10:1-2** <sup>1</sup> Then Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, each took his censer and put fire in it, put incense on it, **and offered profane fire before the LORD, which He had not commanded them.** <sup>2</sup> **So fire went out from the LORD and devoured them, and they died before the LORD.**
    - Failure to follow the commandments and doctrine of Christ results in the absence of God.
    - **2 John 9** <sup>9</sup> **Whoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God. He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son.**