

Introduction

- ➔ Since the beginning of time, mankind has been practicing **worship**—even in the garden (Gen. 4)!
 - We also read of many pagan peoples worshipping their false gods—some in despicable ways.
- ➔ Today, also, many have a false idea of what “worship” really is.
 - Some cheapen and shame the concept of worship by calling virtually **anything** worship!
 - I once read an article written to give readers six ways they could worship while on vacation.
 - ▶ Among these six were creating something (art, etc.), and even simply **going on a nature walk!**
- ➔ What they don’t realize is that **there is a divinely approved pattern of worship**, and such has always been so.

The Pattern

- I. The writer of **Hebrews** makes mention of a commandment that God gave to Moses: “See...that thou make all things **according to the PATTERN** that was showed thee on the mount” (8:5).
 - A. Thus, when Cain & Abel worshipped, God accepted *Abel’s*, but **Cain’s He REJECTED** (Gen. 4:3-5)!
 - B. When Nadab & Abihu offered “**strange**” fire—God **consumed** them in fire of His own (Lev. 12:1,2)!
 - C. 400 years before Christ, God declared His **total disgust** with the worship of the Jews (Mal. 1:6ff; 3:6ff)!
- II. If nothing else, one thing is certain: *There is a **right way** and a **wrong way** to worship God!*

“Worship”

- I. In the NT, there are different words used for different aspects of worship.
 - A. προσκυνέω (Matt. 4:10)—“**do obeisance to**, prostrate oneself before, do reverence to”¹
 - B. λατρεύω (Rom. 12:1)—to “**serve God acceptably** with reverence and awe”²
 - C. σέβωμαι (Matt. 15:7-9)—“worship; used to describe **useless or vain** worship”
 - D. ἐθελοθρησκία (Col. 2:23)—“**will-worship**” (ASV); “**self-made religion**” (ESV)
 1. “**self-chosen worship**”³
 2. “voluntary (i.e., **arbitrary**) worship,” Marginal Note: “Such as men have **chosen according to their own fantasy**” (Geneva translation of 1557; marginal note from 1560 ed.).⁴
 3. “**voluntarily adopted worship**, whether *unbidden* or *forbidden*”⁵
- II. Notice how the first two include the idea of **obedience** and **acceptance** in our worship; while the latter two plainly indicate that there is such a thing as **sinful worship!**

Worship in the New Covenant

- ➔ *We’ve seen examples of OT worship; But what about the NT?*
- I. **THE NT PATTERN OF DIVINELY APPROVED WORSHIP** (THE FIVE “ACTS” OF NT WORSHIP)
 - A. **Singing** (Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16)
 - B. **Praying** (Acts 2:42; 1 Tim. 2:10; *et al.*)

¹ Arndt & Gingrich, p. 716, emp. added.

² Arndt & Gingrich, *op. cit.*, p. 467, emp. added.

³ Jackson, Wayne. “Paul’s Condemnation of Will-Worship”. Web. Accessed April 4, 2014. Stockton: Christian Courier. <https://www.christiancourier.com/articles/1544-pauls-condemnation-of-will-worship>. Emp. added.

⁴ Hastings, James. *Dictionary of the Bible*. Vol. 4. Edinburgh, Scotland: T. & T. Clark, 1902; *per* Jackson, *ibid.*

⁵ Vine, W.E. *Amplified Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words*. Iowa Falls: World, 1991. p. 881. Print.

1. **Teaching/Preaching** (Acts 2:42; Rom. 12:7; Eph. 4:11)
 2. **Communion/Lord’s Supper** (Acts 20:7; cf. 1 Cor. 11:20ff)
 - a) Unleavened bread (Matt. 26:17,26; Mark 14:12ff; Luke 22:7ff)
 - b) Fruit of the vine (Matt. 26:29; Mark 14:25; Luke 22:18)
 3. **“Laying by in Store”/“Storing Up”** (1 Cor. 16:1,2)
- C. The latter two were practiced on the Lord’s Day **only**, and **every Lord’s day** (Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 16:1,2 | GNT).

Musical Worship in the New Testament Church

- I. When the Bible *speaks*, it is **not open to liberation**; when the Bible is *silent*, it is **not open to mitigation**.
 - A. Acceptance of **the authority of the Scriptures** are *paramount* to our right-standing with God.
- II. There are two chief passages in the NT that directly mention the musical worship of the NT church.

EPHESIANS 5:19	COLOSSIANS 3:16
Speaking	Teaching/Admonishing
One to Another	One Another
Psalms and Hymns and Spiritual Songs	Psalms and Hymns and Spiritual Songs
Singing	Singing
Making Melody	With Grace
In Your Heart	In Your Hearts
To the Lord	To God

- III. It is important for us to understand that **the commands of God are always exclusive**.
 - A. In other words, when God says **“Do THIS,”** it *automatically* means **“Don’t do ANYTHING else”!**
 - B. We understand this plainly in our *everyday* language, man-to-man.
 1. For example, **“Wash my car.”**—Simply *three words*, but **so many implied specifics!**
 - a) Don’t *paint, scratch, drive* (etc.) my car—**WASH** my car!
 - b) Don’t wash *his, her, that person’s* (etc.) car—Wash **MY** car!
 - c) Don’t wash my *house, cat, shoes* (etc.)—Wash my **CAR!**

APPROVED	DISAPPROVED
“speaking,” “teaching,” “admonishing”	Clapping, humming, etc.
“one to another,” “one another”	Choirs and solos
Psalms and Hymns and Spiritual Songs	Secular songs
“singing”	Mechanical instruments (and clapping, humming, etc.)
“making melody”—???	ψάλλω— <i>“to pluck the strings [of an instrument]”</i>
“in your HEART,” “in your hearts”	“Spirit-less” worship ; Specifies appointed instrument
“to the Lord,” “to God”	Performance-based worship

Conclusion

- ➔ This principle applies to the **MANNER** of worship—but not to *incidental circumstances* (e.g., place, time, etc.).
- ➔ Jesus summed it all up when He said that we **MUST** worship God **“in SPIRIT and in TRUTH”** (John 4:24)!