

DO YOU AGREE WITH JESUS?

QUESTION: How should we worship God?

Man has various ideas and views of what worship is. To some, it is a solemn, serious exercise. To others, it is a time of great emotion and excitement. Sadly, worship has fallen upon hard times in our society. Many treat worship as nothing more than a spectator sport. The masses have turned worship into a theatrical performance designed to please the audience. Is this what God intended when we come together to worship? Is man, and what pleases him, the focus of worship?

Jesus said, “But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth” (John 3:23-24). If Jesus speaks of “true worshippers,” then it must logically follow that there are false worshippers. Jesus teaches us that God is the object and focus of our worship. Therefore, all that we do in worship must be designed to honor and please the God of heaven. Worship has never been about what pleases man! It has always been about what pleases God! God has directed us in His word as to what He desires of us in worship. To add to, take from, or alter in any way God’s design for worship is to move out of the realm of that which is surely pleasing to Him into the realm of that which is questionable at best and forbidden at worst. When we change God’s plan for worship we fall into the condemnation of the Lord: “But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men” (Matthew 15:9). Let us never be guilty of feeling or thinking that worship must cater to our needs and wants. It is true that we get something out of worship—we get out of it what we put into it. Let us worship God as he directs, and be content with His way!

Do you have a question that you would like for us to consider together, or a comment regarding what has been written? If so, please email us at sixthavenue@bellsouth.net, or write to us at the Sixth Avenue Church of Christ, 1501 Sixth Avenue, Jasper, Alabama, 35501.