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**THE SURE WORD By Jonnie Hutchison**

**ARE YOU WORSHIPPING GOD?**

Worship has always been a part of God's will for mankind and God has always regulated worship which is directed to Him. Jesus taught, "God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth" (John 4:24). To worship is to pay homage, express adoration, praise, and reverence to God. Acceptable worship requires the proper direction, the proper attitude, and the proper acts of worship.

Our worship is to be directed only to God. "When Satan tempted Jesus, he showed him all the kingdoms of the world and said he would give them all to Jesus if Jesus would fall down and worship him. Jesus' answer was, "Get behind Me, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve.'" (Luke 4:5-8). Yes, our worship is to be directed only to God.

God must be worshipped "in spirit." This concerns the proper attitude in expressing worship to God. It must be from the heart, from our spirit to God who is Spirit. Such worship requires an attitude of reverence, awe, and submission. Worship is not just going through the outward acts. The mind must be focused on God, consciously directing our worship to Him. The Psalmist expressed this attitude toward God in the words of Psalms 103:1 "Bless the Lord, O my soul; And all that is within me, bless His holy name!"

Our worship must be "in truth." This involves the proper acts of worship. God has revealed in the New Testament only five acts of worship in which the church is to engage. He has authorized the church to partake of the Lord's Supper each first day of the week (Acts 20:7). He has authorized singing in worship (Ephesians 5:19). He has authorized giving (1 Corinthians 16:1-2). He has authorized preaching (Acts 20:7). He has authorized praying (Titus 2:8). God is silent regarding any additional acts of worship. Attempting to worship God in ways that He has not authorized in His word makes worship vain. Jesus said, "These people draw near to Me with their mouth, and honor Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me. And in vain they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men."

According to Jesus, it is imperative that our worship be directed to God and God alone. It is imperative that we worship God with the proper attitude of mind and utilizing the proper avenues of worship which he has revealed to us in the New Testament. What a joy it is to worship God in spirit and in truth! <http://greenplainchurchofchrist.org>.