

## What Is Pure Worship? Does God Demand His Children to Strive for It? How Particular Is God About Your Practice of Worship of Him?

Pure worship is the sincere, obedient, and wholehearted reverence of the one true God according to His truth. It is not based on human tradition, ritual for its own sake, or external appearance, but flows from a transformed heart aligned with God's commands. The Bible teaches that God is very particular about how He is worshiped and calls His children to strive for purity in worship.

Jesus addressed this directly:

“But an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers. God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.” (John 4:23–24, LSB)

This statement reveals two essentials: worship must be spiritual—genuine and from the heart—and grounded in truth, meaning it must be consistent with God's revealed Word.

God has always expected His people to worship Him in a way that is holy and undefiled. When Israel offered worship that was mixed with idolatry or hypocrisy, God rejected it:

“Bring your worthless offerings no longer, Incense is an abomination to Me... I cannot endure iniquity and the solemn assembly.” (Isaiah 1:13, LSB)

Jesus similarly rebuked religious leaders who honored God outwardly while neglecting inward devotion:

“This people honors Me with their lips, But their heart is far away from Me. But in vain do they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the commands of men.” (Matthew 15:8–9, LSB)

God is particular because He is holy. Worship must be offered with reverence and awe:

“Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us have gratitude, by which we may offer to God an acceptable service with reverence and awe; for our God is a consuming fire.” (Hebrews 12:28–29, LSB)

God demands that His children strive for pure worship. Paul exhorted believers:

“Therefore I exhort you, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a sacrifice—living, holy, and pleasing to God—which is your spiritual service of worship.” (Romans 12:1, LSB)

The pursuit of pure worship involves continual examination, repentance, obedience, and reverence. It is not confined to specific times or locations, but it affects every aspect of a believer's life. True worshipers seek to glorify God through their actions, their prayers, their study of Scripture, and their assembly with others in truth and humility.

God is not indifferent to how He is worshiped. From the beginning, He has revealed what pleases Him and what does not. Those who seek Him with a sincere heart and according to His truth will find that He is near and faithful to accept their worship.

### **Referenced Scriptures (LSB):**

- John 4:23-24 — “But an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers. God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”
- Isaiah 1:13 — “Bring your worthless offerings no longer, Incense is an abomination to Me... I cannot endure iniquity and the solemn assembly.”
- Matthew 15:8-9 — “This people honors Me with their lips, But their heart is far away from Me. But in vain do they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the commands of men.”
- Hebrews 12:28-29 — “Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us have gratitude, by which we may offer to God an acceptable service with reverence and awe; for our God is a consuming fire.”
- Romans 12:1 — “Therefore I exhort you, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a sacrifice—living, holy, and pleasing to God—which is your spiritual service of worship.”