

THE REDEEMED CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF GOD

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*"WHAT I UNDERSTAND AS TRUE WORSHIPPERS AND THE EXPECTED EFFECT ON
THE FAMILY"*

Being Text of Paper

Delivered

By

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Just Men Fellowship

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**THEME:
FAMILY AS TRUE WORSHIPPERS**

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WORSHIP

Worship means to treat somebody or something as deity. In addition, it means to love somebody deeply or to take part in religious activity.

We all know that deity means god or celestial being while the above definition equally emphasizes "loving deeply". It is pertinent to mention that for our purpose, the foregoing will be considered in the context of taking part in religious activity.

TRUE WORSHIP

True worship therefore means genuinely conforming to the standard or measure stated above in our definitions of worship. It also follows that personal faithfulness and commitment are called for in determining what constitutes true worship.

Above all, the conduct of those to be involved in true worship must be in alignment with the system and practice recognized by an organized body as representing act of worship.

TRUE WORSHIPPERS

John 4:23 says "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." From this passage, we can see that an additional condition has been incorporated into our understanding of true worship. And this is the fact that it has to be done in spirit.

Spirit in the literal sense means so many things. A school of thought defines it as "life force of an individual." Another put it as "will, important influence or supernatural entity." While these definitions hold true in terms of understanding, I will like to point out that, in our own context, what we are talking about is the "Holy Spirit."

In exodus 34:14 which reads "For thou shalt worship no other god: for the Lord, whose name is Jealous, is a Jealous God," we can see from the injunction that God gave to the children of Israel and us too that, in our worship of God, we should stay away from other gods.

Deuteronomy 26:10 says "And now, behold, I have brought the firstfruits of the land, which thou, O LORD, hast given me. And thou shalt set it before the LORD thy God, and worship before the LORD thy God:" The lesson

here is that, from the beginning, something important precedes and accompanies the attitude of worship and that is, tithing. True worshippers don't worship God with an empty hand.

In 1 Samuel 1:19, we are told and I quote "And they rose up in the morning early, and worshipped before the Lord, and returned, and came to their house to Ramah: and Elkanah knew Hannah his wife; and the Lord remembered her." We all know the rest of the story but the point of interest here is their attitude of rising up early in the morning to worship God which I believe should be a good example for true worshippers.

Also in 1 Chronicles 16:29, it was stated "Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name: bring an offering, and come before him: worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness." Do we need any more, to stress the importance of worshipping our God with our substance and with purity of heart?

Psalms 5:7 says "But as for me, I will come into thy house in the multitude of thy mercy: and in thy fear will I worship toward thy holy temple." This is an illustration of how a true worshipper should conduct himself before God. We all know that David was a good example of a true worshipper and no wonder it was declared in Psalm 111:10 that "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom..." A true worshipper must honour God in his heart and revere Him greatly.

Other biblical examples that should guide true worshippers can be found in the following passages: 1 Kings 9:9, 2 Chronicles 29:28, Nehemiah 9:3, Job 1:20 Psalm 29:2, Psalm 81:9, Psalm 95:6, Psalm 99:2, Rev. 9:20, Rev. 11:16, Rev. 22:8-9.

We must however remember that those that have found favour before our God were great worshippers and prominent in this list are, first our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. So also, Abraham worshipped God, including David, Solomon, Nehemiah, Job and Daniel, just to mention a few.

EXPECTED EFFECT ON THE FAMILY

There is often a saying that the family that prays together stays together. I reckon that in the same vein, the family that worships God together in truth and in spirit is bound to attract the effect of the true worship of God.

Hebrews 11:6 says that God is a rewarder of those that diligently seek Him. We also note the after effect of the act of true worship in 1 Chronicles 29:20-23 which says:

“And David said to all the congregation, Now bless the LORD your God. And all the congregation blessed the LORD God of their fathers, and bowed down their heads, and worshipped the LORD, and the king. And they sacrificed sacrifices unto the LORD, and offered burnt offerings unto the LORD, on the morrow after that day, even a thousand bullocks, a thousand rams, and a thousand lambs, with their drink offerings, and sacrifices in abundance for all Israel: And did eat and drink before the LORD on that day with great gladness. And they made Solomon the son of David king the second time, and anointed him unto the LORD to be the chief governor, and Zadok to be priest. Then Solomon sat on the throne of the LORD as king instead of David his father, and prospered; and all Israel obeyed him”

I want us to note the process contained in these passages. The end result was prosperity during the reign of Solomon but then, David had actually laid the foundation for that by calling the people to worship God and not just worship God but with their substances.

It is my view that the following will be the experience of the family that worships God truly:

1. The husband as the head of the family will obtain favour from God and be able to function effectively as a husband, father and bread-winner of the family.
2. The wife as the mother of the home will enjoy the favour of God and will receive spirit of enablement from God to be able to keep her marriage, oversee the growth and development of the children and also enjoy love from God and from the husband.
3. The children, through the example of the parents, will grow to know and fear God while developing the qualities of true worship. The lives of such children will give glory to God and bring honour to the family.

In conclusion, Psalm 128:1-3 shall be evident in the family of true worshippers as verse 3 says “Thy wife shall be as a fruitful vine by the sides of thine house: thy children like olive plants round about thy table.

Thank you.