

# Our Worship

John 4:16-26

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## A Reminder About Authority

- ▀ What it is
  - ▀ What God has commanded or permitted
    - ▀ I John 3:19-24 – "... he has commanded us."
    - ▀ I Corinthians 6:12 – "but not all things are expedient." (ASV)
  - ▀ The standard that guides our beliefs and practices
    - ▀ Hebrews 11:6 – "... believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him"

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## What Has God Commanded Regarding Our Worship?

- ▀ He has revealed **how**
  - ▀ In spirit and truth
    - ▀ John 4:23 – "... seeking such people to worship him."
    - ▀ cf. Matthew 15:8-9 – "... their heart is far from me" (Isaiah 29:13)
    - ▀ cf. Matthew 22:34-40 – "... love the Lord your God with all your heart ..."

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## What Has God Commanded Regarding Our Worship?

- ▀ He has revealed **how**
  - ▀ With reverent respect
    - ▀ Psalms 5:7 – "I will bow down ..."
    - ▀ Psalms 111:9 – "Holy and reverend is his name"
  - ▀ With a contrite heart
    - ▀ Isaiah 66:1-4 – "he who is humble and contrite in spirit ..."
    - ▀ Romans 3:23 – "all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God"

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## What Has God Commanded Regarding Our Worship?

- ▀ He has revealed **why**
  - ▀ Because He is our God
    - ▀ Psalms 95:6-7 – "... he is our God"
  - ▀ Because He is holy
    - ▀ Psalms 99:3, 5, 9 – "Holy is he!"
  - ▀ Because He is our Lord
    - ▀ Acts 2:36, 39 – "...both Lord and Christ ... the Lord our God ..."
  - ▀ Because He is our redeemer
    - ▀ I Peter 1:17-19 – "... ye were redeemed"

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## What Has God Commanded Regarding Our Worship?

- ▀ He has revealed the **elements**
  - ▀ Singing
    - ▀ Ephesians 5:19 – "singing and making melody with your heart ..." [Colossians 3:16]
  - ▀ Praying
    - ▀ I Timothy 2:8 – "... men should pray"
    - ▀ I Thessalonians 5:16-18 – "pray without ceasing"

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## What Has God Commanded Regarding Our Worship?

- ▶ He has revealed the **elements**
  - ▶ The Lord's Supper
    - ▶ Acts 20:7 – "... gathered together to break bread"
    - ▶ I Corinthians 11:23-28 – "Do this in remembrance of me"
      - ▶ See also Verses 17-18 – "... when you come together ..."

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## What Has God Commanded Regarding Our Worship?

- ▶ He has revealed the **elements**
  - ▶ Preaching and teaching
    - ▶ Acts 10:42 – "... he commanded us to preach ..."
    - ▶ Matthew 28:20 – "teaching them to observe all ..."
    - ▶ Acts 15:35 – "teaching and preaching"
  - ▶ Giving
    - ▶ I Corinthians 16:1-2 – "... put something aside and store it up"
    - ▶ II Corinthians 9:7 – "Each one must give"

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## God Has Also Revealed How Not To Worship

- ▶ As the world does
  - ▶ Deuteronomy 12:2-4, 29-32 – "You shall not worship the Lord your God in that way."
- ▶ Outwardly only
  - ▶ Matthew 15:8-9 – "... their heart is far from me"
- ▶ Hypocritically
  - ▶ Isaiah 1:12-18 – "your hands are full of blood"
  - ▶ Proverbs 28:9 – "... turns away his ear from hearing the law"
- ▶ With less than our best
  - ▶ Malachi 1:8-14 – "where is my honor?"

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## Summary

- ▶ God has commanded **how** we should obey Him in worship – public and private
  - ▶ "In spirit and truth"
  - ▶ With reverent respect
  - ▶ With a contrite heart
- ▶ God has commanded **why** we should obey Him in worship – public and private
  - ▶ Because He is our God, He is holy, He is our Lord, He is our redeemer
- ▶ God has commanded the **elements** of worship
  - ▶ Singing, praying, the Lord's Supper, preaching/teaching, giving.
- ▶ He's also shown us what **not** to do/act.

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## THE WAY TO OBEY GOD

- ▶ Hear the Word of God
  - ▶ James 1:21 – "Wherefore putting away all filthiness and overflowing of wickedness, receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls."
- ▶ Believe that Jesus is the Savior
  - ▶ Hebrews 11:6 – "And without faith it is impossible to be well-pleasing (unto him); for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and (that) he is a rewarder of them that seek after him."
- ▶ Repent of your sins
  - ▶ Acts 3:19 – "Repent ye therefore, and turn again, that your sins may be blotted out"

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## THE WAY TO OBEY GOD

- ▶ Confess that Jesus is the Son of God
  - ▶ Matthew 10:32 – "Every one therefore who shall confess me before men, him will I also confess before my Father who is in heaven."
- ▶ Be immersed in water
  - ▶ Acts 2:38 – "And Peter (said) unto them, Repent ye, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ unto the remission of your sins; and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."
- ▶ Remain faithful
  - ▶ Hebrews 3:14 – "... if we hold fast the beginning of our confidence firm unto the end"

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