

Biblical Principles of Worship – Part 5 of 5  
“God Is Not Pleased With All Worship”

My prayer is that this five-part series on the Biblical Principles of Worship has shed a little light on what Scripture teaches us about worship. God calls for and expects true, authentic worship. In the previous four parts we have seen that God desires worship, God alone is to be worshiped, the worship of God is a mark of saving faith, and worship is not only a personal activity but also a corporate activity. Is it surprising that God is not pleased with all worship?

True worship must come from the heart and not just the actions of “playing” worship. Jesus made this clear when he addressed the Pharisees. He (Jesus) replied, *“Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you hypocrites, as it is written, ‘These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. They worship me in vain; their teachings are but rules taught by men,’* “Matthew 7:6-7 NIV

As one studies the Biblical principles and history of worship, one comes to the sobering realization that God says more about unacceptable worship than He does about acceptable and pleasing worship. Why is this? Reflect for a moment on Matthew 7:6-7.

(Time of reflection)

Amos speaks God’s words as he addresses the insincere worshiper, *“Away with the noise of your songs! I will not listen to the music of your harps. But let justice roll like a river, righteousness like a never failing stream!”* Amos 5:23-24 NIV  
David says in Psalm 51 that the sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart. God is more pleased with a sacrificing humble heart than He is with the sacrificing heart of those who “play” worship.

As we have seen in previous articles, God desires and even commands worship of Him. Although worship is a mark of saving faith, we as Christians, must always be aware that not all that goes by the name of worship is pleasing to Him.

David C. Adams  
Worship Leader