

WORSHIP
HINDRANCES TO WORSHIP–PART 2
VARIOUS

Introduction

We continue this morning to look into what the Bible says about our **worship**.

We said that “**worship**” of the LORD is a matter of our showing of our *adoration for the LORD; paying divine honors to Him; it is a reverence with supreme respect and veneration. It is to honor the LORD with extravagant love and extreme submission.*”

We also said that:

- 1. The LORD Is Worthy Of Our Worship.**
- 2. The LORD Alone Is Worthy Of Our Worship.**
- 3. The LORD Tells Us How We Are To Worship Him.**
*John 4:23–“God is a Spirit: and they that worship him **must worship him in spirit and in truth.**”*

We began to consider some things that can hinder our **worship** of the LORD!

We took a look at three of these last week. I’ll remind you that we said:

- I. WE SAID SELF-WILL CAN HINDER WORSHIP!**
i.e. When it is about us more than it is about the LORD!

Where WE choose the WHO, WHAT, WHEN, WHERE or HOW we want to WORSHIP!

Jesus said that our worship is to be in spirit and in truth.
(John 4:24)

We must worship the LORD in SPIRIT–i.e. Worship that doesn’t come from our heart that has been made alive by the LORD is improper worship. (God doesn’t accept worship from the lost!)

Only when we have God’s Holy Spirit both living in our hearts and filling our lives can we properly worship the LORD!

We must worship the LORD in TRUTH–i.e. Worship that does not line up with God’s Word (His Truth) is improper **worship!**

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II. WE SAID WORLDLINESS CAN HINDER WORSHIP!

We used Demas as an example for this! In *2 Timothy 4:10*, Paul said, “*Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world.*”

- A. Believers are IN the world, but we are not to be OF the world because we are not OF the world any longer!**
- B. Christians are like a boat that is in the water of worldliness.**
A boat in the water is no problem. But when a boat begins to take on water then you have a real problem. If that problem is not corrected it will eventually sink the boat.

Regarding this matter, I want to share with you a quote that I found from the great preacher, Charles Spurgeon:
“The devil has seldom done a more clever thing than hinting to the Church that part of their mission is to provide entertainment for the people, with a view to winning them... providing amusement for the people is nowhere spoken of in the Scriptures as a function of the Church. . . The need is Biblical doctrine, so understood and felt that it sets men on fire.”

- C. This has to do with our inward attitudes and focus!**
Where is our focus? On things above or on things on the earth? (Colossians 3:1-3)
- D. The world and worldliness can and will pull us away from God and a right Worship of God if we are not careful!**

SELF-WILL... WORLDLINESS...

III. WE SAID DOUBLE-MINDEDNESS CAN HINDER WORSHIP!

We used the Children of Israel in *Joshua 24* as an example. The LORD was looking for whole-hearted worship and service! But the children of Israel were NOT interested in giving themselves wholly to God!

They weren’t true to the LORD! They weren’t true in either their worship or their living!

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James 1:8–“A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.”

*James 4:8–“Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and **purify your hearts, ye double minded.**”*

SELF-WILL...WORLDLINESS...DOUBLE MINDEDNESS.

Now, let’s look at four more things that can hinder our WORSHIP:

IV. UNDERSTAND THAT A HAVING A WRONG SPIRIT CAN HINDER WORSHIP! (*Hebrews 12:14-15*)

By a wrong spirit—I mean things like harboring ANGER, RESENTMENT, MALICE, BITTERNESS, or an UNFORGIVING SPIRIT in our heart!

Is there anything on your heart today against someone else that the Holy Spirit just told you— “*You know that shouldn’t be there?*”

A. The danger of having BITTERNESS or a WRONG SPIRIT is that it not only affects us, but it will most always affect others, and almost always that affect is a negative affect!

B. ANGER, BITTERNESS, and RESENTMENT are much like a cancer that grows and grows, and is often undetected until major damage has been done!

C. Paul warned Believers about harboring a bad spirit against others in our flesh!

Ephesians 4:31-32–“31 Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: 32 And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ’s sake hath forgiven you.”

Look at *Colossians 3:12-16*

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D. Peter warned of some of the same things.

1 Peter 2:1–“Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings, 2As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:”

A WRONG SPIRIT CAN HINDER WORSHIP...

V. UNDERSTAND THAT OUR IMPATIENCE CAN HINDER WORSHIP!

First of all, let’s acknowledge the fact that we live in a face paced and impatient world!

e.g. Have you ever gotten impatient because your “fast food” order didn’t get to you fast enough? (And now we can even order it ahead of time on our cell phone to minimize our wait in line!)

e.g. Have you ever stood impatiently in front of a microwave waiting for it to beep because you were in such a hurry? (Those are the times we live in!)

Sometimes we are running too and fro from one thing to another at such a pace that we hardly have time to catch our breath!

But sadly, that busyness can flow over into areas of our spiritual life!

Some make no time for prayer or devotions or a daily walk with God!
Some make no time for Church to meet with the rest of God’s family!

When we do come to Church we can have a “let’s get this over with” mentality that can disrupt our WORSHIP of the LORD and disrupt the WORSHIP of others! We want the services to get over quickly so that we can get out of here and get on with the rest of our life!

Listen, when we are **impatient**, we become **restless** and **fidgety** and have a **bad attitude** that can affect our **WORSHIP!**

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The bad part is that it can not only affect our WORSHIP, but also the WORSHIP of others around us! And it can affect the Holy Spirit’s working in OUR heart AND the hearts and lives of others in the service!

Instead of being focused on the LORD and worshiping Him, we can get focused on any number of things:

1. We can get focused on what’s going on around us that draws our attention away from why we are here!
2. We can be focused on what we’ve got going on later today!

We need to concentrate on our **worship** of the LORD!
We need to focus our heart and mind on the things of God!

Psalm 46:10–“Be still, and know that I am God:

A WRONG SPIRIT...IMPATIENCE...

VI. UNDERSTAND THAT FORMALISM OR RITUAL CAN HINDER WORSHIP!

In ***Isaiah 1:11-18***, Israel was accused by the LORD of just going through the motions of ***WORSHIP***...it didn’t mean anything to them anymore...it wasn’t real ***WORSHIP!***)

- A. Do you remember in ***Matthew 23:13-28***, how Jesus pronounced woes against the hypocritical worship and service of the Scribes and the Pharisees who appeared to have it all together on the outside, but they had an inward heart issues!
- B. In ***2 Timothy 3:5***, Paul warned Timothy that one of the characteristics of the last days would be that there would be and increase number of people who would **have a form of godliness, but deny the power thereof**. He then told him to **turn away** from any that were like that!
- C. Now God is certainly a God of order, and I believe that our ***WORSHIP*** services should be orderly.

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- D. But there is a danger of us becoming so formal that we hinder the working of the Holy Spirit in our ***WORSHIP*** services.
- E. When our semblance of ***WORSHIP*** becomes just a production of man rather than a means whereby we come before God to honor Him and ***WORSHIP*** Him, then it ceases to please Him!

A WRONG SPIRIT...IMPATIENCE...FORMALISM OR RITUAL...

VII. ANY KIND OF UNCONFESSED SIN CAN HINDER OUR WORSHIP! (*1 John 1:6-10*)

Psalm 66:18–“If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me:”

Isaiah 59:1-2–“Behold, the LORD’S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear: 2But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.”

John 3:20–“For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved. 21But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God.”

Conclusion

I’m not saying these seven things we’ve looked at the last two weeks are an exclusive list. **There are possibly other attitudes and practices that can hinder our true WORSHIP of the LORD**, but these are some that I’ve observed in my 30+ years in the ministry.

As the **LORD** looks at our **WORSHIP** today, what does He see? *Self-Will? Worldliness? Double-Mindedness? A Wrong Spirit? Impatience? Formalism or Ritual? Any Kind Of Unconfessed Sin?* We must break through these and other barriers that prevent us from approaching God with honesty and humility. The question is, if the LORD has prompted you in any of these areas that we have talked about, what are you going to do about it?