

# STRAIGHT TALK ON WORSHIP

8-24-2008 Pastor Dale James

“Worship” is a current buzz-word in churches. What are key biblical principles to guide and establish our worship as people of God? Where are some of the places where we easily mix things up?

1. We view worship as **OPTIONAL** rather than essential.

⊖ The question is not “Do we worship?” but “Who or what do we worship?”

2. We make worship about **US** rather than about God.

⊖ The critical issue: **LOVING** God, not **LIKING** the event (Ps. 100; Mt. 22:37)

⊖ **STYLE** vs. **SUBSTANCE**

3. We make worship about **FORMS** rather than **HEART**. (Isa. 1:11-15; Ps. 51:16-17; 1 Sam. 15:22; Hos. 6:6)

⊖ The peril of self-styled worship

\*\* Nadab and Abihu

⊖ Performance rather than **RESPONSE**

Quality vs. integrity tension

⊖ The **BALANCE** of *spirit* and *truth* (Jn 4:23-24)

4. We reduce worship to an **EVENT** rather than a **LIFE-STYLE**. (Rom 12:1-2)

5. We give ourselves to the worship of **FALSE GODS**. (2 Chron. 30:14)

6. Worship ceases to **INSPIRE** us to faith and obedience. (2 Chron. 32:7-8)

## For reflection and discussion:

1. What stand out most to you in this message?
2. What is the strongest part of your worship life?
3. Where can you grow as a worshipper?
4. What is one step you can take this week to strengthen your worship?

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