

I. God Cares How I Worship Because He Has Regulated Worship

1. To regulate is “to govern or direct according to rule” as well as “to bring order, method, or uniformity to” (Merriam-Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary).
 - a. God is the God of order ([1 Cor. 14:40](#)).
2. God is the proper object of my worship and no one or nothing else must take His place ([Mt. 4:8-10](#); cf. [Dt. 6:13](#)).
 - a. God has never and never will accept being anywhere but first in our lives ([Ex. 20:3-6](#)).
 - b. Idolatry is to be fled from ([1 Cor. 10:14](#)).
 - c. Idolatry is in the list of the works of the flesh ([Gal. 5:20](#)).
 - d. Idolatry must be put to death ([Col. 3:5](#)).
 - e. Worship can become about me instead of God which is a form of idolatry.
3. God is a Spirit and mandates that I worship Him in spirit and in truth ([Jn. 4:24](#)).
 - a. The word *must* indicates an obligation and so it is not optional how I worship God.
 - b. Spirit has to do with my heart, attitude, or disposition.
 - c. Truth has to do with being in accordance with God’s Word ([Jn. 17:17](#)).

II. God Cares How I Worship Because He Does Not Accept Improper Worship

1. Cain ([Gen. 4:3-7](#)).
 - a. From [Hebrews 11:4](#) I can infer that Cain did not offer according to faith.
 - b. I am to honor God with the best of my best (the firstfruits) which I do not read Cain doing unlike his brother Abel ([Pr. 3:9](#); [Gen. 4:3-4](#)).
2. Nadab and Abihu ([Lev. 10:1-11](#)).
 - a. God had already instructed the priests not to offer strange incense on the altar of incense ([Ex. 30:9](#)).
 - b. Strange fire indicates that which God had not authorized ([Lev. 10:1](#)).
 - c. The penalty for their improper worship was both physical and spiritual death ([Lev. 10:2](#)).
 - d. Nadab and Abihu also did not sanctify God ([Lev. 10:3](#)).
 - e. A difference between the holy and unholy must be visible in my worship ([Lev. 10:10](#)).

3. The Jews of Malachi's day ([Mal. 1:6-14](#)).
 - a. Their worship had gotten so bad they were giving God the leftovers.
 - b. Worse than this they were also robbing God ([Mal. 3:8](#)).
4. The Jews of Christ's day ([Mt. 15:7-9](#)).
 - a. Worship which teaches man's doctrine instead of God's doctrine is rendered vain ([Mt. 15:9](#)).
 - b. God is seeking *true* worshippers not *false* worshippers ([Jn. 4:23](#)).
5. The Corinthians and their abuse of the Lord's Supper ([1 Cor. 11:17-33](#)).
 - a. Instead of worshipping God acceptably with the Lord's Supper, the Corinthians had turned it into a common meal ([1 Cor. 11:21](#)).
 - b. The result of not partaking of the Lord's Supper properly is condemnation ([1 Cor. 11:27-29](#)).
 - c. Spiritually, many of them were weak, sickly, and dead ([1 Cor. 11:30](#)).
 - d. God cared enough how the Corinthians worshipped to have Paul record this instruction so their worship would be proper (cf. [1 Cor. 4:17](#), [7:40](#)).

III. God Cares How I Worship Because He Accepts Proper Worship

1. Abel ([Gen. 4:4](#)).
 - a. Abel gave God his very best and offered according to faith (truth) and God accepted his offering ([Heb. 11:4](#)).
 - b. God will do the same for me today when I worship Him acceptably!
2. Job.
 - a. Job had impeccable character ([Job 1:1](#)).
 - b. His practice was one of proper worship ([Job 1:5](#)).
 - c. By the end of the book, we learn that God was upset with his three miserable comforters and would only accept an offering if Job offered it ([Job 42:7-9](#)).
3. David.
 - a. Some of the finest chapters on acceptable worship are [1 Chronicles 16](#) and [1 Chronicles 29](#).
 - b. Their offering was in abundance (truth) and willingly (spirit) ([1 Ch. 29:5-9](#)).
4. The poor widow ([Mk. 12:41-44](#)).
 - a. Her giving was sacrificial and Jesus took notice.
 - b. David too understood that he was not going to give to God that which cost him nothing ([2 Sam. 24:24](#)).