

# Love and Respect

- A powerful desire:
  - ◆ Cards                      Flowers
  - ◆ Jewelry                     Candy
- Special days and special events
  - ◆ Birthday Parties                      Anniversaries
  - ◆ Mother's/Father's Day Retirement
- Powerful need to admire and be admired.
- Had to learn: "*whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, Mt. 7:12*"
- Don't learn from Scripture – Natural Affection

# *Whatever you wish others...*

- *“whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them,” Mt. 7:12*
- Men don't want perfume
- Women don't want a pick or shovel
- 5 year old doesn't want food and games for adults.
- Gifts and honor specially designed for each.
- *Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others. Ph 2:4*

# Will This Work For God?

- Multitudes today say “yes”
- Worship changes each generation as it is modified to make them feel reverence and awe
- Big bands and loud music
- Dancing, clapping, drama, choirs.
- If they leave with emotions of closeness and enthusiasm it was successful worship
- Did God accept it? We can't ask ... so we rely on His word. Allow **HIM** to tell **US** what pleases Him.

# Why it will Always Fail

- *“For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways,” says the Lord. 9 “For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts.” Isa. 55:8-9*
- A gift that makes me feel good, but with no effort to make certain it pleases God is foolish and evil.
- Jesus knows what will please God in worship.
- How many truly listen and follow His command?

# True (Genuine) Worshipers

- *But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. 24 God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth. Jn 4:23-24*
- **Genuine** Worshipers do it in spirit & truth.
- The Father **seeks** this! it **must** be done like this!
- Doesn't matter if it makes us feel good, reverent, enthusiastic and joyous... must be what God seeks!
- We change for God! We don't expect God for us!

# Worship of Cain & Abel

- Cain wanted to worship in a way that excited him.
- When God rejected – face fell with disappointment
- He was angry that God would not accept what he wanted to give in the way he wanted to give it.
- *He did not respect Cain and his offering. And Cain was very angry, and his countenance fell. Gen 4:5*
- A very selfish form of worship.
- A standard for multitudes - “*way of Cain*” Jude 11

# Abel Still Speaks – Are We Listening?

- *In faith Abel offered to God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts; and through it he being dead still speaks. Heb 11:4*
- In faith – not feelings made Abel's more excellent...
- God's testimony of acceptance is the gold standard.
- God states this testimony is still able to be heard.
- Some are listening and some, as Cain are ignoring
- **Faith – the ingredient that makes excellence!!!**

# Abel's Testimony of Faith

- By *faith* a more excellent Sacrifice
- *So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. Rom. 10:17*
- Abel heard God's Word – trusted and leaned not.
- *Trust in the Lord with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; 6 In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths. 7 Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the Lord and depart from evil. Pr. 3:5-7*
- The ingredient that Abel had and Cain did not.



# Jesus' and Abel's Identical Testimony

- Abel's testimony is faith and *faith comes by hearing **by the word of God***.
- Jesus Testimony: *true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and **truth***
- *God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and **truth***. *Jn 4:23-24*
- Truth also comes by *hearing the word of God*
- *Sanctify them by Your truth. **Your word is truth***. *Jn. 17:17*

# Worship in Truth

- *"If you abide in **My word**, you are My disciples indeed. 32 And **you shall know the truth**, and the truth shall **make you free**." John 8:31-32*
- *When the Spirit of truth, has come, He will **guide you into all truth**; John 16:13*
- *I should bear witness to the truth. **Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice**." John 18:37*
- Without truth – slaves of ignorance / human wisdom
- Abide in His word and know the truth that the Spirit guided us into. If we are of the truth we will hear Him.

# Worship in Truth

- *they did not receive **the love of the truth**, that they might be saved. 2 Th 2:10-11*
- *Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, **rightly dividing the word of truth**. 2 Tim 2:15-16*
- Love of the Truth = rightly dividing the word of truth.
- *they will **turn their ears away from the truth**, and be **turned aside to fables**. 2 Tim 4:4*
- If we turn away from truth... all that is left is fables!

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- Truth also comes by *hearing the word of God*
- *Sanctify them by Your truth. **Your word is truth**.*
- To worship in truth – Faith in the Word of God

# Picture = 1000 words

- *Then Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, each took his censer and put fire in it, put incense on it, and **offered profane fire before the Lord**, which **He had not commanded them**. 2 So fire went out from the Lord and devoured them, and they died before the Lord. 3 And Moses said to Aaron, "This is what the Lord spoke, saying: '**By those who come near Me I must be regarded as holy; And before all the people I must be glorified.**'" So Aaron held his peace. Lev 10:1-3*

# Careless Worship

- Profane fire = fire that is not holy but common.
- Profane because He did not command them to do it.
- Like Cain and people today who worship without faith b/c they don't 1<sup>st</sup> check God's Word.
- What they did wrong is set forth by God:
- *those who come near Me I must be regarded as holy*
- *before all the people I must be glorified.*
- If we don't first have God's word and then worship, we are not treating Him as holy and fail to glorify.

# Even Snared David

- David sought to move the ark 1Chron 13:
- 1-4 Consulted everyone about the plan
  - ◆ Everyone agreed it is a great idea!
- 7-8 Everyone worshipping with “all their might”
- 9-11 God was not pleased and manifested His displeasure with the death of Uzzah
- At that time David was very unhappy.

# David searched for 3 Months

- 1 Chr 15:
- :2 He studied the Scriptures and found answers.
- :12-14 The truth revealed
  - ◆ The Sons of Kohath must bear the ark
  - ◆ Because they did not bear it, God acted.
  - ◆ Did not seek him according to the ordinance(truth).
  - ◆ *For because you did not do it the first time, the Lord our God broke out against us, because we did not consult Him about the proper order."*



# Jesus Quotes Isaiah

- *Hypocrites! Well did Isaiah prophesy about you, saying: 8 "These people draw near to Me with their mouth, And honor Me with their lips, But their heart is far from Me. 9 And in vain they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men."* Matt 15:7-9
- If we seek to worship God without the truth, but with human commands and wisdom... we too are hypocrites. We draw near with mouth and lips, but because there is no truth heart is far away.