

# An Example of the Apostle Paul's Teaching About Worship

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## Titus 2

**1 But speak thou the things which become sound doctrine:**

**2 That the aged men be sober, grave, temperate, sound in faith, in charity, in patience.**

**3 The aged women likewise, that they be in behaviour as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things;**

**4 That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children,**

**5 To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed.**

**6 Young men likewise exhort to be sober minded.**

**7 In all things shewing thyself a pattern of good works: in doctrine shewing uncorruptness, gravity, sincerity,**

**8 Sound speech, that cannot be condemned; that he that is of the contrary part may be ashamed, having no evil thing to say of you.**

**9 Exhort servants to be obedient unto their own masters, and to please them well in all things; not answering again;**

**10 Not purloining, but shewing all good fidelity; that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things.**

**11 For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,**

**12 Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;**

**13 Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;**

**14 Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.**

**15 These things speak, and exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no man despise thee.**

In this Chapter- the Apostle Paul is teaching his son in the faith- Titus- how believers can do two things:

1. Worship God
2. Evangelize the Lost

And he teaches believers how to do these two things by instructing five groups of people who are in the Church:

- A. Old Men (**Titus 2:2**)

- B. Old Women (**Titus 2:3&4a**)
- C. Young Women (**Titus 2:4b&5a**)
- D. Young Men (**Titus 2:6**)
- E. Slaves/Employees/Servants (**Titus 2:9&10**)

To the Old men- Paul instructs Titus to teach that they be:

- ✓ Grave
- ✓ Temperate
- ✓ Sound in Faith and Charity and Patience

To the Old Women- Paul instructs that they:

- ✓ Be in Behavior as Becomes Holiness
- ✓ Not False Accusers
- ✓ Not Given to Much Wine
- ✓ Teachers of Good Things
- ✓ Teaching Young Women

To the Young Women Paul said that they must be:

- ✓ Discreet
- ✓ Chaste
- ✓ Keepers at Home
- ✓ Good
- ✓ Obedient to Their Own Husbands

And to the Young Men- Paul instructs that they be:

- ✓ Sober Minded

And to Slaves (employees/servants)- Paul commands that they be:

- ✓ Obedient to their Own Masters (Employers/Overseers)
- ✓ To Please Them Well in All Things
- ✓ Not Talking Back
- ✓ Not Purloining- But Showing Good Fidelity

And Paul gives three reasons why each of these four groups in the Church is to struggle against the lusts of their flesh that would cause them to rebel and that, by the Power of the Holy Spirit, they are to humbly and joyfully submit (bow down) to the Authority of Scripture and a Pattern of Behavior that brings Glory to God:

- ✓ **...that the word of God be not blasphemed. (Titus 2:5b)**

- ✓ ...that he that is of the contrary part may be ashamed, having no evil thing to say of you. (Titus 2:8b)
- ✓ ... that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things. (Titus 2:10b)

Let's look at these one at a time:

### **that the word of God be not blasphemed. (Titus 2:5b)**

Here the Apostle Paul is teaching the saints at Crete that unless the four groups worship God by submitting to the Authority of Scripture in their daily behavior- they are actually *causing* the Word of God to be blasphemed by the unbelievers.

Now keep in mind that unbelievers blaspheme God all day long anyway- but in this case Paul is teaching that when God's people live in rebellion to the Morality that God has imposed on them as recorded in Scripture- the result is that unbelievers blaspheme the Word of God.

In other words- if those who are saved do not respect and honor God's Word enough to humbly submit to the Morality that God's Word teaches in their daily lives- by that refusal and rebellion- they are saying loud and clear that God's Word is not *worthy* to be obeyed- and the unbeliever will pick up on that disrespect and they will blaspheme God's Word.

If the people who are saved do not believe that adherence to God's Word affects their worship in any way- why should God's Word be obeyed and respected by anybody? And if we who are saved encourage blasphemy toward God's Word by unbelievers through our own rebellion- how could we possibly be effective in their Salvation?

### **Why Pagans Blaspheme the Word of God**

**Titus 2** is not the first time that the Bible teaches that the lack of Worship toward God in the rebellion against God's Word by God's people causes pagans to blaspheme God's Word.

#### **2Samuel 12:1-15**

**1** And the LORD sent Nathan unto David. And he came unto him, and said unto him, There were two men in one city; the one rich, and the other poor.

**2** The rich man had exceeding many flocks and herds:

**3** But the poor man had nothing, save one little ewe lamb, which he had bought and nourished up: and it grew up together with him, and with his children; it did eat of his own meat, and drank of his own cup, and lay in his bosom, and was unto him as a daughter.

**4** And there came a traveller unto the rich man, and he spared to take of his own flock and of his own herd, to dress for the wayfaring man that was come unto him; but took the poor man's lamb, and dressed it for the man that was come to him.

**5** And David's anger was greatly kindled against the man; and he said to Nathan, As the

**LORD liveth, the man that hath done this thing shall surely die:**

**6 And he shall restore the lamb fourfold, because he did this thing, and because he had no pity.**

**7 And Nathan said to David, Thou art the man. Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, I anointed thee king over Israel, and I delivered thee out of the hand of Saul;**

**8 And I gave thee thy master's house, and thy master's wives into thy bosom, and gave thee the house of Israel and of Judah; and if that had been too little, I would moreover have given unto thee such and such things.**

**9 Wherefore hast thou despised the commandment of the LORD, to do evil in his sight? thou hast killed Uriah the Hittite with the sword, and hast taken his wife to be thy wife, and hast slain him with the sword of the children of Ammon.**

**10 Now therefore the sword shall never depart from thine house; because thou hast despised me, and hast taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be thy wife.**

**11 Thus saith the LORD, Behold, I will raise up evil against thee out of thine own house, and I will take thy wives before thine eyes, and give them unto thy neighbour, and he shall lie with thy wives in the sight of this sun.**

**12 For thou didst it secretly: but I will do this thing before all Israel, and before the sun.**

**13 And David said unto Nathan, I have sinned against the LORD. And Nathan said unto David, The LORD also hath put away thy sin; thou shalt not die.**

**14 Howbeit, because by this deed thou hast given great occasion to the enemies of the LORD to blaspheme, the child also that is born unto thee shall surely die.**

**15 And Nathan departed unto his house. And the LORD struck the child that Uriah's wife bare unto David, and it was very sick.**

### **Psalms 74:10**

**O God, how long shall the adversary reproach? shall the enemy blaspheme thy name for ever?**

### **A Practical Example**

If older men in the Church behave in embarrassing ways- with no godly dignity or wisdom; if older saved women are teaching younger women to disrespect their own husbands and engage in gossip; if younger born again women are neglecting their Divine Ordination to be wives and mothers by pursuing professional careers or by rebellion against the authority of their husbands at home; if younger men who are saved are wild and running the roads at night; if slaves (or employees) are lazy and will not cooperate with their masters (employers) by performing their given tasks- these groups are saying by their actions that their own wisdom is greater than God's; that their own human morality is higher than God's; and they see no reason to submit to what God's Word teaches in their daily lives. In short- they are worshipping themselves and not God.

The result is that regardless of what these four groups do on Sunday Morning in the Song Service or what words come out of their mouths- they are not

worshipping God in Spirit or in Truth because they have not submitted themselves to God's imposed Morality as recorded in Scripture.

And the secondary result of their rebellion is that the unbeliever sees this as disrespect toward God and His Morality and they will blaspheme God's Word.

The lost person who blasphemes God's Word is guilty of this sin- but this sin was encouraged by those who are saved and yet who do worship God by refusing to submit themselves to God's Authority in Scripture.

## **Are We Really Free to Worship God Any Way We Choose?**

Some common statements about Worship in the modern Church are "*Worship as you are*" or "*Worship God in your own way*" or "*Come to God just like you are*". But is that approach, Biblical? Are we really "free" to come to God any way that we choose to worship Him after our own conscience? Jesus seemed to place a requirement on how we are to worship God:

### **John 4:24**

**God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.**

The word that was translated here into English as "must" comes from the Greek word that means: *that which is necessary or required in order to obtain a particular end*. So to worship God in any other way other than Spirit and Truth is to really not worship God at all.

So as Jesus illustrates for us in this passage- true Worship is what He called, "Spirit and Truth Worship" and necessarily involves the confrontation and exposure and confession of sin and a recognition that worship is not a location but a condition of the heart and mind and directed to God alone.

## **The Curious Case of Cain**

To further illustrate how that we do not have the right or the authority to come to God any way that we choose for worship- we need to consider the example of Cain.

### **Genesis 4:1-8**

**1 And Adam knew Eve his wife; and she conceived, and bare Cain, and said, I have gotten a man from the LORD.**

**2 And she again bare his brother Abel. And Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground.**

**3 And in process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the LORD.**

**4 And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the LORD had respect unto Abel and to his offering:**

**5 But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect. And Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell.**

**6 And the LORD said unto Cain, Why art thou wroth? and why is thy countenance fallen?**

**7 If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door. And unto thee shall be his desire, and thou shalt rule over him.**

**8 And Cain talked with Abel his brother: and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother, and slew him**

Both Cain and Abel brought offerings to God. Abel's offering was received by God and Abel was blessed while God rejected Cain's offering out of hand and Cain himself was rejected. Why is this? There are two possible answers:

1. Cain's Offering was Bloodless
2. Cain's Heart was Wrong

## **A Bloodless Offering**

There is a Biblical principle that pertains to Worship that we must comprehend. No human being may approach unto God on the basis of his own personal merits. Man is sinful and thus Man needs a bloody sacrifice in order to come to God- even for worship.

### **Hebrews 9:22**

**And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.**

No one under the Old Covenant could simply approach unto God without first shedding the blood of an animal. Under the New Covenant- it is the shed Blood of Jesus Christ that enables us to come into God's Presence for worship.

### **Hebrews 9:6-14**

**6 Now when these things were thus ordained, the priests went always into the first tabernacle, accomplishing the service of God.**

**7 But into the second went the high priest alone once every year, not without blood, which he offered for himself, and for the errors of the people:**

**8 The Holy Ghost thus signifying, that the way into the holiest of all was not yet made manifest, while as the first tabernacle was yet standing:**

**9 Which was a figure for the time then present, in which were offered both gifts and sacrifices, that could not make him that did the service perfect, as pertaining to the conscience;**

**10 Which stood only in meats and drinks, and divers washings, and carnal ordinances, imposed on them until the time of reformation.**

**11 But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building;**

**12 Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us.**

**13 For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh:**

**14 How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?**

So genuine Spirit and Truth Worship must acknowledge Jesus and His shed Blood as being the only basis by which we sinful humans can ever approach God and His Throne for Worship.

### **A Right Heart**

Those who approach God for Worship must do so with the right condition of the heart. That right condition is best achieved through Confession of Sin and an acknowledgement of Who God is and just what it is that they are doing in God's Presence. Those who tried to come to God by other means met with sudden and severe consequences.

#### **Leviticus 10:1&2**

**1 And Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, took either of them his censer, and put fire therein, and put incense thereon, and offered strange fire before the LORD, which he commanded them not.**

**2 And there went out fire from the LORD, and devoured them, and they died before the LORD.**

### **The Noise of War**

And we also must know that simply conducting a joyous celebration (complete with dancing and shouting and rejoicing) does not necessarily mean that the one true living God is actually being worshipped and glorified. It is wonderful to worship God with exuberance and joy- but without Truth- error and sin always exists.

The propensity of the human heart to be sinful and deceived and yet confident is so great that without constant attention to Divine Truth- it is possible that God's people can actually worship idols in their celebration and do so with joy and not be convicted about it:

#### **Exodus 32:15-29**

**15 And Moses turned, and went down from the mount, and the two tables of the testimony were in his hand: the tables were written on both their sides; on the one side and on the other were they written.**

**16 And the tables were the work of God, and the writing was the writing of God, graven upon the tables.**

- 17** And when Joshua heard the noise of the people as they shouted, he said unto Moses, There is a noise of war in the camp.
- 18** And he said, It is not the voice of them that shout for mastery, neither is it the voice of them that cry for being overcome: but the noise of them that sing do I hear.
- 19** And it came to pass, as soon as he came nigh unto the camp, that he saw the calf, and the dancing: and Moses' anger waxed hot, and he cast the tables out of his hands, and brake them beneath the mount.
- 20** And he took the calf which they had made, and burnt it in the fire, and ground it to powder, and strawed it upon the water, and made the children of Israel drink of it.
- 21** And Moses said unto Aaron, What did this people unto thee, that thou hast brought so great a sin upon them?
- 22** And Aaron said, Let not the anger of my lord wax hot: thou knowest the people, that they are set on mischief.
- 23** For they said unto me, Make us gods, which shall go before us: for as for this Moses, the man that brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we wot not what is become of him.
- 24** And I said unto them, Whosoever hath any gold, let them break it off. So they gave it me: then I cast it into the fire, and there came out this calf.
- 25** And when Moses saw that the people were naked; (for Aaron had made them naked unto their shame among their enemies:)
- 26** Then Moses stood in the gate of the camp, and said, Who is on the LORD's side? let him come unto me. And all the sons of Levi gathered themselves together unto him.
- 27** And he said unto them, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, Put every man his sword by his side, and go in and out from gate to gate throughout the camp, and slay every man his brother, and every man his companion, and every man his neighbour.
- 28** And the children of Levi did according to the word of Moses: and there fell of the people that day about three thousand men.
- 29** For Moses had said, Consecrate yourselves to day to the LORD, even every man upon his son, and upon his brother; that he may bestow upon you a blessing this day.

Because God originated Worship- we must submit ourselves to the Authority of Scripture and come to God in the way that He has prescribed so that God and not Man is the One Who is actually worshipped.

**Isaiah 66:2b**

... but to this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at my word.

## **The Role of Faith in Worship**

**Hebrews 11:6**

But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.



In our day much is said and written about Faith and how it works and what it is. We must know that Faith is vital in Worship because those who come to God must believe two things:

1. That God is
2. That God is a Rewarder of them who diligently seek Him

### **1. God is...**

We must know that Faith is not an end to itself. We are not told to simply have faith- but to have faith in God. We are not to put our faith in Faith- but we are to put our faith in God. So real Faith always has an object to its affections- namely Jesus Christ. Jesus is the object of our Faith and not Faith itself- therefore Faith is not a tool that we use to get things from God- but the Bible says that true Faith believes that God is; that God exists; that God is Who he said that He is and that God does what He says that He does.

So to try to worship God without believing in God and without believing that God is- is not true Worship.

### **2. ....That He is a Rewarder of them who diligently seek Him**

When we come to God for Worship- we must also believe that God is not a liar- that God will do all that He has said that He will do and that there is great reward in us diligently seeking Him. Notice that the focus of our seeking is not in seeking God for what God will do for us or what God will give to us- but in seeking Him. To treasure Him; to value Him; to delight in Him and to seek after Him.

And notice that the Promise of God is that He rewards those who do so. And the greatest reward is that God give us more of Himself- rather than something to benefit us.

### **Is God Arbitrary in His Acceptance of Our Worship?**

Some would say that all of this makes it impossible for us to ever know whether God will accept our Worship or not. Some would even suggest that God is just too hard to please and therefore no Man can ever know if he is in right standing with a God Who periodically "*shoves His Weight around*". But is that true?

We must try to see these issues from God's Perspective and not our own human perspective- and the only way we can do that is through God's Own Revelation about Himself in Scripture.