



Today's Message

Date: September 3, 2023

Speaker: Pastor Steven Thomas

Title: ***Does God Really Care How You Worship?***

Text: Exodus 20:1–6 (ESV)

¹ And God spoke all these words, saying,

² “I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

³ “You shall have no other gods before me.

⁴ “You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. ⁵ You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me, ⁶ but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.

Introduction: The Baptist Confession of Faith says that

“. . . the acceptable way of worshipping the true God is instituted by himself; and so limited by his own revealed will that he may not be worshipped according to the imaginations and devices of men, or the suggestions of Satan, or under any visible representations, or any other way not prescribed in the Holy Scriptures.”

Can this be true? Isn't it enough that we worship God “from the heart?” The Scriptures teach that it really does matter how you worship.

Today's take-home truth: God requires his people to worship the right God *and* worship him the right way.

I. Direct Commandment: The Ten Commandments

- A. The first commandment: Worship the right God
Exodus 20:3
- B. The second commandment: Worship Him the right way. Exodus 20:4-6

II. Biblical Examples: God takes worship matters seriously.

- A. Exhibit 1: The “strange fire” of Nadab and Abihu
Leviticus 10:1-3
- B. Exhibit 2: The sad case of Uzzah 2 Samuel 6:1-7
- C. Exhibit 3: The idolatry of Jehu 2 Kings 10:28-29

III. Historic Articulations:

- A. Rome and Constantinople: The Church sits over Scripture.
- B. Reformers:
 - 1. Normative Principle: Lutheran and Anglican
 - 2. Regulative Principle: All others (essentially)

IV. Current Application:

When our church gathers to worship the holy God, we must:

Sing the Word of God
Pray the Word of God
Read the Word of God
Preach the Word of God
“See” the Word of God
Support the Word of God (giving)