Grace to You :: *Unleashing God's Truth, One Verse at a Time*

What Constitutes True Worship?
Scripture: John 4
Code: BQ062112

God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth." (4:24)

The phrase **God is spirit** is the classic biblical definition of the nature of God. Despite the heretical teaching of false cults, God is not an exalted man (Num. 23:19), "for a spirit does not have flesh and bones" (Luke 24:39). He is "the invisible God" (Col. 1:15; cf. 1 Tim. 1:17; Heb. 11:27), who "dwells in unapproachable light [cf. Ps. 104:2], whom no man has seen or can see" (1 Tim. 6:16; cf. Ex. 33:20; John 1:18; 6:46). Had He not revealed Himself in Scripture and in Jesus Christ, God would be utterly incomprehensible.

Because God is spirit, those who would truly worship Him **must worship in spirit and truth.** True worship does not consist of mere outward conformity to religious standards and duties (Isa. 29:13; 48:1; Jer. 12:1–2; Matt. 15:7–9), but emanates from the inner **spirit.** It must also be consistent with the **truth** God has revealed about Himself in His Word. The extremes of dead orthodoxy (truth and no spirit) and zealous heterodoxy (spirit and no truth) must be avoided.

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