

Hindrances to Acceptable Worship

1 Pet. 2:5

Introduction:

- A. Christians must “offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God”
 - 1. Our bodies as a once for all living sacrifice (Rom. 12:1).
 - 2. Our worship and service continually (Heb. 13:15, 16).
 - 3. Acceptability unto God is strongly emphasized.
- B. Let us notice some things that the Bible says will hinder acceptable worship.

Discussion:

- I. Domestic Abuse (1 Pet. 3:7).**
 - A. Text written to prevent abusive husbands.
 - B. Would not principle also apply to abusive wives, parents, and children?
- II. Unclean Heart (Psa. 66:18).**
 - A. A heart with a love for sin.
 - B. An impenitent heart (cf. Acts 8:22).
 - C. A heart with hatred, envy, grudges, etc.
- III. Unreconciled Differences (Matt. 5:24).**
 - A. This is a situation of which one is aware – “rememberest”
 - B. We must not wait on the other party to come to us.
 - C. Strictly speaking, its takes both parties bring about reconciliation.
 - D. But, I must do all that I can to bring it about. (Rom. 12:18).
- IV. Unholy Motive (Matt. 6:1-6).**
 - A. Trying to impress people with your generosity.
 - B. Trying to impress people with piety or oratory.
- V. Unforgiving Spirit (Matt. 6:15).**
 - A. Unwilling to forgive a penitent brother (cf. Lk. 17:3,4).
 - B. Unforgiving spirit will seek repentance of offender nor forgive when he repents.
- VI. Uninvolved Heart (Matt. 15:8).**
 - A. Acts of worship just acts with heart elsewhere.
 - B. Can’t wait for worship to end so can be elsewhere (Cf Amos 8:5)
 - C. Let too many things distract our hearts as we worship.
- VII. Unauthorized Worship (Matt. 15:9).**
 - A. Nadab and Abihu learned the hard way. (Lev. 10:1-5).
 - B. Not only must heart be right, act also must be right (cf. John 4:24).
- VIII. Unbridled Tongue (Jas. 1:26).**
 - A. No end to mischief an uncontrolled tongue can cause (Jas. 3:6-8).
 - B. Beside damage to others, makes our religion vain.

Conclusion:

- A. We must worship and serve God acceptably to go to heaven.
- B. We must have forgiveness in answer to our prayers.
- C. Therefore, we must remove any hindrances to acceptable worship.