

“Why Do Ye These Things?”— No. 2
Why Worship God As We Do?
Acts 14:15

Introduction:

- A. A valid question for apostles to ask.
 - 1. People tried to worship them as gods: Why? By what authority?
 - 2. People needed to think on this question?
- B. A good question for anyone to ask. (cf. 1 Pet. 3:15).
 - 1. Have asked: *Why do **Anything** in religion?*
 - 2. Will ask: *Why work in religion as we do?*
 - 3. Will ask: *Why organize in religion as we do?*
 - 4. Are asking: *Why worship God as we do?*
- C. This question is especially important because:
 - 1. Worship, even to God, can be done in a way to make it vain. (Mt. 15:9).
 - 2. Worship is not a matter of individual tastes.
- D. Worship to God must pass to basic tests:

Discussion:

- I. Is It “In Spirit” — From the heart, sincere, in proper spirit?**
 - A. Must be reverent. (Heb. 12:28; 1 Cor. 11:27-29).
 - B. Must be orderly. (1 Cor. 14:40; cf. 31).
 - C. Must be edifying. (1 Cor. 14:15-17); w/o distraction or confusion.
- II. Is It “In Truth” — According to truth. (cf. Jn. 17:17).**
 - A. God told O.T. Worshipers *what* He wanted.
 - 1. Not just *any* sacrifice pleased Him.
 - 2. Not what anything the Lord had not commanded. (Lev. 10:1-2; cf. Abel).
 - B. God tells N.T. Worshipers *what* he wants. (Jn. 4:24; Mt. 15:9).
 - 1. Singing (Acts 16:25; Rom. 15:9; 1 Cor. 14:15; Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16).
 - a. Not just any music — singing.
 - b. Not just any singing — Spiritual.
 - c. Not just any purpose — Teach, praise rather than entertain.
 - 2. Prayer. (Acts 2:42; 1 Cor. 14:15; 1 Tim. 2:8).
 - 3. Lord's Supper. (Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 11; Mt. 26:28). When? How often? What?
 - 4. Teaching/preaching (Acts 20:7; 2 Tim. 4:1-4).
 - 5. Giving (1 Cor. 16:2; 2 Cor. 9:7) When? (Note: Only means of revenue).
 - C. Men have sought out many inventions. (cf. Ecc. 7:29).

Conclusion:

- A. To merely go through Scriptural acts of worship is formalism.
- B. To merely follow one's desires in worship is humanism.
- C. To incorporate both heart and truth is real worship.