

TRADITIONAL OR CONTEMPORARY?

BY KEITH GREER

A popular offering in today's religious world is the opportunity to choose the type of worship they desire—**traditional or contemporary**. Really, wouldn't it be better to choose the worship that pleases the God we serve? Let's discuss the type of worship that is acceptable to Him.

In spirit and truth. *“God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.” {John 4:24}* Two elements must be present in worship that is acceptable to God

* **Spirit**—worshippers must have the proper attitude. Even when one gets all the parts right, if our heart isn't right, fervently desiring to please Him, our worship is unacceptable.

* **Truth**—we must worship according to God's pattern—not man's. Unless there is a Bible command, or approved example behind the action, He will not accept it, no matter how popular it may be.

Singing. *“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.” {Colossians 3:16}* The only scriptural music in New Testament worship is singing. There are nine passages concerning music in worship; all use some form of the word SING. God requested vocal singing; it is the only type of music that is acceptable to Him. When someone can produce ONE Bible passage that authorizes instrumental music in the New Testament worship, that debate will end.

Lord's Supper. *“Now on the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul, ready to depart the next day, spoke to them and continued his message until midnight.” {Acts 20:7}* In this approved example, we see the disciples coming together to take the Lord's Supper on the first day of the week. Christ instituted this supper on the night of His betrayal, *Matthew 26:26-29*. Each week has a first day, and we should break bread EVERY week. What if we just did it on selected days first days—monthly, quarterly, twice a year—where do the scriptures list

which days? When God instructed the Jews to keep the Sabbath Day, did they ask which one or did that keep EVERY Sabbath?

The collection. *“Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given orders to the churches of Galatia, so you must do also: On the first day of the week let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper, that there be no collections when I come.” {1 Corinthians 16:1,2}* God’s work is to be supported by His children’s free-will offerings. Scriptures give no other authorized method of raising funds. Giving is to be willingly, cheerfully, and generously, *2 Corinthians 9:6,7.*

Prayer. *“And they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.” {Acts 2:42}* Prayer—offered to the Father, through the Son, according to His divine will—is part of worship. God hears and can answer!

Gospel preaching. *“Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus.” {Colossians 1:28}* Pulpits are to be used in preaching God’s truth—not telling funny stories or giving personal opinions. We reach the alien sinners by the gospel, *Romans 1:16.* If one is seeking God’s approval this is the only worship that is acceptable to Him!
