

## **Emotions In Worship** **Matthew 15:1-9**

Worship sometimes criticized as dry, boring and without emotion  
Many want more "emotion" in both worship and service to God

Sometimes the criticism is just

Sing with no enthusiasm, nod off, easily distracted, etc

Go home not really having worshiped God

No real commitment for living for God day by day

There are three ideas I want to discuss with you:

Accurate actions without emotion

Emotional service without concern for authority

Worship is primarily internal (occurs in heart & expressed in actions) though it may be affected to some degree by external things.

### **Worshipping In Truth Without Emotion:**

Some worship doing all right things, but without inner selves involved

Worship "in spirit" suggests worship Him from our own spirit, or heart

How can we worship "in spirit" without our emotions being involved? - **Colossians 3:15-17; Ephesians 5:18-21**

Can we properly sing "God Is Love," or "How Great Thou Art" without feeling moved by those powerful and majestic words?

Just worshipping according to command & example in NT not enough

Must worship & praise from hearts & serve with this commitment daily

### **Emotional Worship That Is Not Real Worship:**

Emotions are deceiving - **Romans 10:1-3**

Emotions at sight of Joseph's bloody coat allowed Jacob to believe him dead though still alive. His grief & mourning were real though wrong

Emotions can deceive if we do not include our intellect in our actions

Many want to stir emotions by something other than pattern of NT

Some feel moved by mechanical instruments

Some clap & shout, makes feel better & stirs emotions

Others want a message that allows them to feel good about self

If you are not moved by God's words, His promises & His commands, then a great motivational speaker will only move you wrong direction - **Luke 16:31**

### **Worship From The Heart:**

Frequently hear of dim lights, hum, chant, hold hands, other external things to try to give more meaning to worship

Some complain they can't worship because song leader does poor job, or preacher presents dull lesson they've heard hundreds of times before

Yet we reread favorite books, rewatch movies, tv, etc.

Worship affected by external things, but real worship begins in heart

Baby, children, others' actions can disrupt our worship

If such hinder worship maybe you are sitting in wrong place

Move toward front of the building where you can be "closer to action"

Why can't we put aside distractions & set our hearts to worship God?

We can tune out kids or spouse while reading or watching tv - **Psalms 111:1; Psalms 122:1; Matthew 15:7-8**  
Jesus said was past time for thinking must worship in certain place - **John 4:23-24**

External will not matter if we worship from the Heart

### **Who are we desiring to please?**

**1Thessalonians 4:1**

Overemphasize feelings in worship trying to please ourselves, not God

Worship should lift us up as we praise and honor God

Ought to leave strengthened & encouraged because worshiped God

If worship isn't satisfying to you I suggest you do two things

Compare your worship to what God revealed: singing, prayer, study, giving, & partaking Lord's Supper

These God has ordained, must do these to worship Him "in truth."

Look into your heart to see if you are wanting something more or something different from what God wants

If doing God's will isn't enough for you then the problem is not in what you are doing but in your heart

Put the blame where it belongs -- on the one who doesn't properly worship God in spite of distractions and even the failures of others - **John 4:21-24**

Norman Sewell