

**True Worship
John 4: 19-24**

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1. God commands us to worship Him. God not only commands us to worship Him, He designed us to worship Him. Our purpose for existence, the reason God created us is that we might worship Him.
2. If God created us to worship Him and He commands us to worship Him, then to worship Him is to fulfill our purpose in life. To fail to worship God is to live a pointless existence.
3. **John 4** is about the "woman at the well." It is the story of a woman who encountered Jesus and set the stage for Jesus' statement on worship.

I. What Is True Worship? (John 4: 24)

- A There are a number of possible answers to that question.
- B We are to worship **the Holy Other**. God is the focus of worship.
 1. Both the O. T. and N.T. tells us that acceptable worship is rooted in God himself.
 2. **(Isa. 12:6; Psalm 100)**.
 3. **(Heb 12:28-29; Rev. 5: 13-14)**.
- C In worship we are responding to God because of who He is and in ways He has specified.

II. Two Problems that Hinder True Worship. (John 4)

- A Problem #1: Our sins will hinder true worship. **(John 4: 15-17)**
 1. This woman has no running water in her house.
 2. This woman was also a sinful woman. The man she was living with at this time was not her husband.
- B Problem #2: Our traditions can hinder true worship. **(John 4: 20)**
 1. Once confronted with their sin, this woman turned the conversation toward religion.
 2. When it comes to worship, let's make sure we worship God, not our traditions. Let's place God above any and everything.

III. A Few Principles That Result In True Worship. (John 4)

- A Principle #1: True worship is spiritual and not based on location. **(John 4: 21)**
- B Principle #2: Worship must have a sense of balance. **(John 4: 23-24)**
- C Principle #3: Worship is to be in spirit.
- D Principle #4: Worship is to be in truth.

If sin or traditions keep us from true worship, then we must overcome these obstacles to place God at the highest point in our lives. We must also reach that balance of both spirit and truth in our worship to God.