

Acceptable Worship-Praise and Love

13:1 **Keep on loving each other as brothers.** 2 Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some people have entertained angels without knowing it. 3 Remember those in prison as if you were their fellow prisoners, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering. 4 Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral. 5 Keep your lives **free from the love of money** and **be content with what you have,** because God has said, "**Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.**" (Gen 28:15) 6 So we say with confidence, "The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?" (Ps 56:11)

7 Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith. 8 Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

9 Do not be carried away by all kinds of strange teachings. It is good for our hearts to be strengthened by grace, not by ceremonial foods, which are of no value to those who eat them. 10 **We have an altar from which those who minister at the tabernacle have no right to eat.**

11 The high priest carries the blood of animals into the Most Holy Place as a sin offering, but the bodies are burned outside the camp. 12 And so Jesus also suffered outside the city gate to make the people holy through his own blood. 13 **Let us, then, go to him outside the camp, bearing the disgrace he bore. 14 For here we do not have an enduring city, but we are looking for the city that is to come.**

15 **Through Jesus,** therefore, **let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise-the fruit of lips that confess his name. 16 And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.**

17 Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you.

18 Pray for us. We are sure that we have a clear conscience and desire to live honorably in every way. 19 I particularly urge you to pray so that I may be restored to you soon.

20 May the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, 21 equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

22 Brothers, I urge you to bear with my word of exhortation, for I have written you only a short letter.

23 I want you to know that our brother Timothy has been released. If he arrives soon, I will come with him to see you.

24 Greet all your leaders and all God's people. Those from Italy send you their greetings.

25 Grace be with you all.

Gen 28:15

15 I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go, and I will bring you back to this land. I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you."

Ps 56:11

In God I trust; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?

Acceptable CHRISTian Worship- What does it look like?

Rom 12:1

Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God-this is your spiritual act of worship.

1. Keep on **loving each other as brothers**.
2. Do not forget to **entertain strangers**.
3. **Remember those in prison** as if you were their fellow prisoner, and those **who are mistreated** as if you yourselves were suffering.
4. **Marriage** should be **honored by all**, and the **marriage bed kept pure**.
5. Keep your lives **free from the love of money** and **be content with what you have**.
6. **Remember your leaders**, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and **imitate their faith**.
7. Do not be **carried away** by all kinds of **strange teachings**.
8. Let us go to him outside the camp, **bearing the disgrace he bore**. (**Take up our cross**)
9. Through Jesus, let us continually **offer to God a sacrifice of praise**-the fruit of lips that confess his name.
10. Do not forget **to do good and to share** with others.
11. **Obey your leaders** and **submit to their authority**.
12. **Pray** for us.

An Excerpt From www.outsidethecamp.com

Hebrews 8:13 Amplified Bible

When God speaks of a new [covenant or agreement], He makes the first one obsolete (out of use). And what is obsolete (out of use and annulled because of age) is ripe for disappearance and to be dispensed with altogether.

When we think of all the controversy regarding whether we should use the Old Covenant verses the New Covenant; I don't really think we are looking at it in the right perspective. It really isn't whether we should discard the old and only cling to the new; if we did that we would forfeit all of the wonderful examples of God's great mercy and judgment. We wouldn't understand His holiness and our sinfulness; His patience and our weaknesses; His faithfulness and our treachery.

Our appreciation of the New Covenant would be lacking the depth and insight that the Torah and the Prophets have to teach us. Simply put, we would fall short of the fullness of God's purpose in us if we totally omit the Old Covenant.

Is God saying not to read and understand the Old? No He is not! But, there was a functional or ceremonial part of the Law that He expected His people to live by and now there is a totally different functional part that we must adhere to in order to be CHRISTians.

God is telling us that as long as we are recognizing the former institution and it is still standing in your hearts as a method to achieve blessing, peace or righteousness then you've just missed accessing the true Holy of Holies who is now Christ. God says that Christ came to set things straight, to reform and to create a completely new order and to establish a better covenant.

From <http://www.kvmusic.net/wordpress/?p=293>

*I found this collection of verses about “what pleases God?” today and found it very enlightening:
I read in Ephesians 5:10 where it says in the NIV, “and find out what pleases the Lord.” What pleases the Lord?*

Hebrews 11:6: And **without faith it is impossible to please God**, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

Hebrews 13:16: ...and do not forget to do good and share with others **for with such sacrifices, God is pleased.**

Romans 12:1-2: Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and **pleasing to God**, which is your reasonable service. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Psalms 69:30-31: I will praise God’s name in song and glorify him with thanksgiving. **This will please the Lord** more than an ox, more than a bull with its horns and hoofs.

Micah 6:7-8: **Will the Lord be pleased** with thousands of rams, with ten thousand rivers of oil? Shall I offer my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul? He has showed you, O man, what is good. And **what does the Lord require of you?** To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.

1 Timothy 5:4: But if a widow has children or grandchildren, these should learn first of all to put their religion into practice by caring for their own family and so repaying their parents and grandparents, **for this is pleasing to God.**

1 Timothy 2:1-3: I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone— for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and **pleases God our Savior,**

Colossians 1:10-13: And we pray this in order that you **may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him** in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, and joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light. For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves,

1 Thessalonians. 4:1-12: Finally, brothers, we **instructed you how to live in order to please God**, as in fact you are living. Now we ask you and urge you in the Lord Jesus to do this more and more. For you know what instructions we gave you by the authority of the Lord Jesus. It is God’s will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality; that each of you should learn to control his own body in a way that is holy and honorable, not in passionate lust like the heathen, who do not know God; and that in this matter no one should wrong his brother or take advantage of him. The Lord will punish men for all such sins, as we have already told you and warned you. For God did not call us to be impure, but to live a holy life. Therefore, he who rejects this instruction does not reject man but God, who gives you his Holy Spirit. Now about brotherly love we do not need to write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love each other. And in fact, you do love all the brothers throughout Macedonia. Yet we urge you, brothers, to do so more and more. Make it your ambition to lead a quiet life, to mind your own business and to work with your hands, just as we told you, so that your daily life may win the respect of outsiders and so that you will not be dependent on anybody.

Romans 15:2-4: Each of us should please his neighbor for his good, to build him up. For even Christ did not please himself but, as it is written: “The insults of those who insult you have fallen on me.” For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.

1 John 2:17: The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever.