

The Command to Celebrate God

I. God commands we celebrate Him with our high days.

- Psalm 150
- If we're using the language of the first century — High Holy Days are times when Christians come together for organized, corporate observance or a set of predefined activities
- As we comb through the Bible we see many instances of corporate celebration. Cain and Able brought their sacrifices to God, the first century church created the tradition of celebrating the resurrection every Sunday, and the Lord will one day host the Marriage Supper of the Lamb on the New Earth.
- God expects four things from us during these high days:
 - That His followers would worship Him.
 - That we would worship Him with the correct heart posture.
 - That we would carefully follow His instructions for worship when He provides them. And . . .
 - When He gives us freedom to worship, we need to do so wisely.
- When we celebrate the High Day of Easter, we should be showing through every word and action that we deeply value Jesus Christ and what He did to purchase our salvation. But does God expect us to worship Him when the high day is over? When we're all driving home? When we're watching TV later that evening? When I'm at work the next day? Am I still expected to worship Him then?

II. God commands we celebrate Him with our low moments.

- Romans 12:1; Hebrews 13:15-16
- In the same way God commanded the early Israelites to worship Him through public animal sacrifice, God greatly desires our private personal sacrifice. And we see this expectation in every single biblical command to obey. We're told to love, obey, pray, give joyfully, passionately pursue God's Word, admonish each other, teach, evangelize, and countless other commands that touch every area of the Christians life. And they're all summed up beautifully in Christ's own words from John 14:15, "*If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.*"
- According to Merriam-Webster, worship is: "**to honor by refraining from ordinary business, to mark by deviation from routine.**"
- This concept of stopping what we would normally do in order to do something else is desperately important for our appreciation, understanding, and use of the Celebration of God.
- But consider this — God wants me to worship Him just as deeply when my child throws a temper tantrum in a store as He does when I sing during an Easter service.
- Every moment of every day we face a life-altering, universal choice:
 - Am I going to value God and His commands more, or am I going to put more value in what I feel like doing?
 - Am I going to lean on my own understanding, or am I going to acknowledge Him and trust Him with all my heart (Proverbs 3:6).
 - Is God's plan worthy of my time, or will I sacrifice this moment to self?
- Does God command our worship? He sure does. He commands it in our communal gatherings, but He also commands — and more frequently commands — it in our hearts, in the average seconds that fill our lives just like Jesus did when He was tempted by Satan (Matthew 4; Mart 1; Luke 4; Deuteronomy 6:13, 10:20). Christ was worshipping the Father as He stood against Satan just as much as He was when He died on the cross and just as much as He was when He rose again the third day.