

Right-Hearted Worship 1 Chronicles 13 & 15

Right – Hearted Worship Introduction

- Contemporary culture is quick to point out that we are free to worship any God we choose in any way we choose.
- The Bible affirms this freedom, but also points out that this may mean we are free to be wrong.

- There is in reality only one God, and worshiping him with a right heart means aligning our heart with his.
- Right-hearted worship is not so much an exercise of our freedom as an act of submission.
- As we'll see in today's passage, even an overwhelmingly right-hearted king may not get it right.

- Right-hearted worship is that which aligns with God's heart.
- Right-hearted worship conforms to God's revealed will.
- Right-hearted worship is ultimately an act of submission.

Right – Hearted Worship 1 Chron. 13

- Enthusiasm is no substitute for obedience.
- See also Exodus 4:21-26.

- Moses was about to lead Israel out of Egypt, but had not yet circumcised his own son.
- He was not conforming to the primary sign of Israel's covenant with the Lord.

Right – Hearted Worship 1 Chron. 15

- David recognized the need to worship the Lord as he dictated from the beginning.
- Worship is ultimately an act of submission.

- Worship which put the Levites in their rightful place was no less enthusiastic or joyful.
- It was now, however, in line with God's revealed will.
- The Levites were leading as God commanded.

- God wants us to come near to him.
- He wants us to approach him.
- He wants us to worship him.
- But all of that has to be on his terms.

Right – Hearted Worship Conclusions

- Sometimes disobedience takes the form of wrong beliefs:
 - Acts 4:5-12 – outright rejection of Jesus
 - 1 John 5:20-21 – warning against false concepts of God

- Sometimes disobedience takes the form of wrong behavior.
- The church in Corinth was characterized by:
 - Divisions or factions within the church.
 - Competitive jockeying for position.
 - Sexual sin.
 - Personal quarrels, to the extent of taking one another to civil court to settle their disputes.
 - A general lack of love.

- Are we free to worship whatever God (or god) we choose in whatever way we choose?
- Yes, but that doesn't mean any kind of worship is necessarily pleasing to the God who truly exists.
- It only means we do not worship under compulsion.

- It is important to emphasize this freedom – lack of compulsion – in our day.
- For example, the word “Islam,” for Muslims, means submission to the will of God and obedience to his law.
- With radical Islam in the news daily, people may suppose that anyone with a serious faith is ready to force that faith upon others.

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Right – Hearted Worship Epilogue

- See 1 Chronicles 16.