

Worship that Pleases God

(From The Purpose Driven Life by Rick Warren)

Jesus replied, "The most important commandment is this: Hear, O Israel! The Lord our God is the one and only Lord. And you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength."

Mark 12:29-30 NLT

I. Worship that pleases God:

A. is accurate ~ John 4:23

B. is authentic ~ 1 Sam. 16:7b

C. is thoughtful ~ 1 Cor. 14:40

D. is practical ~ Romans 12:1

II. 9 Worship Styles

Gary Thomas indicates in his book, Sacred Pathways, that many Christians seem stuck in a worship rut --an unsatisfying routine--instead of having a vibrant friendship with God, because they force themselves to use devotional methods or worship styles that don't fit the way God uniquely shaped them. He wondered, *If God intentionally made us all different, why should everyone be expected to love God in the same way?* As he read Christian classics and interviewed mature believers, Gary discovered that Christians have used many different paths for 2,000 years to enjoy intimacy with God: being outdoors, studying, singing, reading, dancing, creating art, serving others, having solitude, enjoying fellowship, and participating in dozens of other activities. Here are 9 ways people draw near to God:

A. **Naturalists** are most inspired to love God out-of-doors

B. **Sensates** love God with their senses and appreciate beautiful worship services that involve their senses

C. **Traditionalists** draw closer to God through rituals, liturgies, symbols, and unchanging structures

D. **Ascetics** prefer to love God in solitude and simplicity

E. **Activists** love God through confronting evil, battling injustice, and working to make the world a better place

F. **Caregivers** love God by loving others and meeting their needs

G. **Enthusiasts** love God through celebration

H. **Contemplatives** love God through adoration

I. **Intellectuals** love God by studying with their minds

Who are you to judge the servant of another? To his own master he stands or falls; and stand he will, for the Lord is able to make him stand. Romans 14: 4 NAS