

Formal Worship

Isaiah 58

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- “Behold, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to hit with a wicked fist. Fasting like yours this day will not make your voice to be heard on high. Is such the fast that I choose, a day for a person to humble himself? Is it to bow down his head like a reed, and to spread sackcloth and ashes under him? Will you call this a fast, and a day acceptable to the LORD?” (vv. 4-5)

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- “***Is not this the fast that I choose:*** to loose the bonds of wickedness, to undo the straps of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke?...” (v. 6ff)

4 Views of Formal Worship

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1. Formal worship is an end to itself.

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1. Formal worship is an end to itself.
2. Formal worship is a means to an end.

“With what shall I come before the LORD,
and bow myself before God on high?
Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,
with calves a year old?
Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams,
with ten thousands of rivers of oil?
Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?”
He has told you, O man, what is good;
and what does the LORD require of you
but to do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God?”

- Micah 6:6-8

“And Samuel said,

‘Has the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices,

as in obeying the voice of the LORD?

Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice,

and to listen than the fat of rams.”

- 1 Samuel 15:22

“For I desire steadfast love and not sacrifice,
the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings.”

- Hosea 6:6

“Oh that there were one among you who would shut the doors, that you might not kindle fire on my altar in vain! I have no pleasure in you, says the LORD of hosts, and I will not accept an offering from your hand. For from the rising of the sun to its setting my name will be great among the nations, and in every place incense will be offered to my name, and a pure offering. For my name will be great among the nations, says the LORD of hosts. But you profane it when you say that the Lord’s table is polluted, and its fruit, that is, its food may be despised. But you say, ‘What a weariness this is,’ and you snort at it, says the LORD of hosts. You bring what has been taken by violence or is lame or sick, and this you bring as your offering! Shall I accept that from your hand? says the LORD.”

4 Views of Formal Worship

1. Formal worship is an end to itself.
2. Formal worship is a means to an end.
3. Formal worship is unimportant.

4 Views of Formal Worship

1. Formal worship is an end to itself.
2. Formal worship is a means to an end.
3. Formal worship is unimportant.
4. Formal worship is a sincere expression of the heart.

“If you turn back your foot from the Sabbath,
from doing your pleasure on my holy day,
and call the Sabbath a delight
and the holy day of the LORD honorable;
if you honor it, not going your own ways,
or seeking your own pleasure, or talking idly;
then you shall take delight in the LORD,
and I will make you ride on the heights of the earth;
I will feed you with the heritage of Jacob your father,
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.”

- Isaiah 58:13-14

“But if... an unbeliever or outsider enters, he is convicted by all, he is called to account by all, the secrets of his heart are disclosed, and so, falling on his face, he will worship God and declare that God is really among you.”

- 1 Corinthians 14:24-25

Formal worship is an opportunity to express outwardly and collectively what is true inwardly and individually.

