

GOD'S WAY OR THE HIGHWAY

1 Chronicles 13:5-14

February 4, 2022

In the holy scriptures, God has left us with specific guidelines for how we are to conduct ourselves in the Church and in life. Oftentimes men think they're able to improve on God's ways, or they think they have a way that is just as good. Today we will learn the importance of doing things God's way.

What attracts people to church today?

Entertainment and excitement.

"Worship teams" with worldly musical styles.

"Praise and worship" music. This type of music redefines "Praise" and "Worship" to an unbiblical sense.

New bible versions that omit verses or words that "offend people."

A church that is willing to compromise what the Bible says for the sake of personal preferences.

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN MEN ALTER GOD'S COMMANDMENTS AND METHODS?

1 Chronicles 13:5-14 It kindles the anger of the Lord (vs 10).

1 Chronicles 15:12-15 We do not sanctify ourselves and seek God after the due order.

1 Chronicles 15:25-26 God is not in it.

WE TRY TO GIVE GOD WHAT WE LIKE

- We presume that God should like it because we like it.
- We justify what we do by saying, "*I'm doing it for the Lord,*" but we're really doing it for ourselves.
 - Matthew 7:22 "Lord, Lord, have we not done [many things] in thy name?"
- We don't give God what He clearly told us He wanted.

DAVID HAD A SINCERE HEART

- It's not always an act of rebellion that brings us to compromise God's ways.
- "***The thing was right in the eyes of all the people.***" (1 Chron 13:4)

HE DIDN'T GET HIS FACTS STRAIGHT

- It is important to read the bible daily to be in the will of God and know you are doing right.

THEY HAD AN ADMIRABLE GOAL

- Retrieving the Ark of God was a good thing to do. Only the methods were wrong.

THEY DIDN'T LACK GOOD QUALIFICATIONS

- David was a king who was hand-selected by God.
- God's priests accompanied David to bring the Ark back.

THEY DIDN'T LACK PREPARATION.

- They prepared many things in preparation for this important occasion.
 - A new cart, oxen to pull the cart, priests for the solemn occasion.

THEY DIDN'T LACK CEREMONY OR POMP

- Music, dance, singing, instruments (13:8), great attendance (13:5).

THEY DIDN'T LACK ENERGY

- *“David and all Israel played before God with all their might.”* (13:8).

NO OBEDIENCE TO REVEALED METHOD OF SERVICE

- No sacrifice was offered. No sanctification.
 - This was their own way. God said the ark was to be carried by staves (Exod 25:13-15).
 - Others had ignored God's specific methods in the past and were punished.
 - Miriam and Aaron (Numbers 12:1-10).
 - Moses (Numbers 20:8-12).
 - Korah, 250 princes, and their families (Numbers 16).
 - 50,070 men of Beth-shemesh who looked in the ark (Numbers 6:19, see Exod 19:21).
 - Nadab and Abihu offered strange fire before the Lord (Lev 10:1-3).
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MAN ATTEMPTS TO GET AWAY FROM GOD'S AUTHORITY

- People who think God is too strict and His ways are too narrow will seek a church that favors their own concept of God.
 - They think they're serving God, but really, they're only satisfying themselves by doing what makes them feel good.
 - God gives people every opportunity to do right, even though He knows they will not (Jer 7:27).
 - People love the blessings of God, but they don't enjoy the responsibilities of serving Him.
 - Obedience must come before blessings can be enjoyed.
 - Obed-edom was blessed because he made himself available to serve God when he took the ark into his home.
 - David was blessed when he finally sought the right way to honor God according to His prescribed methods.
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FINAL THOUGHTS

- Serving God according to your preferences instead of according to God's methods is sin (Prov 21:4, Hos 7:14, 1 Cor 11:29, Isa 64:6).
- Modern worship methods make people feel better than they do listening to preaching. God said preaching is His way (1 Cor 1:21).
- People don't receive Jesus Christ as their Savior because they think they have a way to heaven that is just as good. They'll find out they should have done it God's way.
- Christians bring in worldly music and entertainment because it appeals to the flesh. Worshipping the Lord is not about the flesh (John 4:24, Col 3:16, Eph 5:19).
- God's word will confirm whether you are serving and worshipping Him correctly.