

Playing the Odds:

- Texting while driving ...
 - 400% higher crash risk
- Social Media Use
 - 58% of adults = bad for mental health
 - 50 % 14-24 = Instagram > anxiety
- Shark attacks
 - 1 in 4.3 million
 - Flu: 1 in 63

Are we playing the odds with worship ...?

- Worship preferences ... → Playlist
- Worship my own way ... → Self-determined
- Worship is optional ... → Warm-up
- Worship is a task ... → Religious “to do”
- Worship isn’t relevant ... → Pragmatism

Leviticus 9:22-24

Then Aaron lifted up his hands toward the people and blessed them, and he came down from **offering** the sin offering and the burnt offering and the peace offerings.²³ And Moses and Aaron went into the tent of meeting, and when they came out they **blessed** the people, and the **glory of the Lord appeared** to all the people.²⁴ And **fire** came out from before the Lord and consumed the burnt offering and the pieces of fat on the altar, and when all the people **saw** it, they **shouted** and **fell** on their faces.

The pattern of true worship is **prescribed** by God and **pleases** Him.

The nature of God **produces** worship.

The people—the worshippers—are **affected**.

- Response TO and a Reflection OF

We are all **worshippers**.

- God-given desire and also sin-corrupted

WORSHIP: to give **worth to something in accordance with its **value and/or nature****

- We have the capacity to know/learn the nature of something
- We have the ability to assign value

Leviticus 10:1

Now **Nadab and Abihu**, the sons of Aaron, each took his censer and put fire in it and laid incense on it and offered **unauthorized fire** before the Lord, which he had **not** commanded them (*Exodus 30:9*).

God's nature is holy (= *other, different in nature, quality*)

God's value is His everlasting excellence.

→ Worship is a RESPONSE to Him

Acceptable (true) worship must **match Who God is.**

Acceptable (true) worship must **start with God, not us.**

Leviticus 10:2

And **fire** came out from before the Lord and **consumed** them, and they died before the Lord.

Leviticus 10:3

Then Moses said to Aaron, "This is what **the Lord has said**: 'Among those who are **near me** I will be **sanctified**, and before all the people I will be **glorified**.'" And Aaron **held his peace**.

Sin is sin first and foremost because of Who it **dishonors**.

God values **His Name** (~nature & value) more than **human life**.

1 Peter 1:18-19 (NLT)

For you know that **God paid** a ransom to save you from the empty life ... And it was not paid with mere gold or silver, which lose their value.¹⁹ It was the **precious blood of Christ**, the sinless, spotless **Lamb of God**.

Two Responsibilities in True Worship:

- Sanctified → *set apart IN ourselves Who God is IN eternity*
- Glorified → *weight of God recognized and reflected*

Our emotions while real must **not rule** → the awesome reality of God rules in worship.

Leviticus 10:6

And Moses said to Aaron and to Eleazar and Ithamar his sons, "Do not let the hair of your heads hang loose, and do not tear your clothes, lest you die, and wrath come upon all the congregation; but let your brothers, the whole house of Israel, **bewail the burning** that the Lord has kindled. And do not go outside the entrance of the tent of meeting, lest you die, for the **anointing oil of the Lord** is upon you." And they did **according to the word** of Moses.

Applications:

1) We are **always in the presence** of the Lord – holy fire ... Coram Deo.

2) When it comes to worship, unbelievably **significant things are at stake**.

3) Be more intentional with our **preparation** ... → **consecration**

4) Resolve to the get **the focus off ourselves** as quickly as possible and **onto God**.

5) Ask the **right questions** ...

6) We need a **better priest than me, you, Nadab & Abihu**

Hebrews 7:23-27 (NLT)

There were **many priests** under the old system, for death prevented them from remaining in office. ²⁴ But because **Jesus lives forever**, his priesthood lasts forever. ²⁵ Therefore he is able, once and forever, **to save** those who come to God **through him** ... ²⁶ He is the kind of high priest we need because he is holy and blameless, unstained by sin. He has been **set apart** from sinners and has been given the **highest place of honor in heaven**. ²⁷ Unlike those other high priests, he does not need to offer sacrifices every day. They did this for their own sins first and then for the sins of the people. But Jesus did this **once for all** when he offered himself as the **sacrifice** for the people's sins.

7) Today → true worship through the **blood of Jesus & fire of the Holy Spirit**.

Proverbs 20:27

The spirit of man is the lamp of the LORD,
searching all his innermost parts.