

Isaiah 66:3

He who kills a bull is as if he slays a man; He who sacrifices a lamb, as if he breaks a dog's neck; He who offers a grain offering, as if he offers swine's blood; He who burns incense, as if he blesses an idol. Just as they have chosen their own ways, And their soul delights in their abominations

I think out of all things in this world, there is nothing I enjoy and love more than worshipping the Lord in song. I love writing songs to the Lord and being a part of the worship team at church. I love seeing people truly worshipping the Lord, some raise their hands and some raise their hearts. Some sit, some stand. Some bow their heads, and some look up into the heavens with hands lifted high as they sing to the Lord.

But then there are those who will come to church in the middle of worship, or will come in after it's over. Some spend more time talking to those sitting next to them, then singing to the Lord. Some treat the closing worship like it's the closing credits rolling at the end of a movie, trying to rush out to be first in line to pick up their kids, or beat the traffic out of the parking lot. Some sing out loud because they think they are a great singer and they want everyone to hear and notice them.

When I read today's verse, these are some of the things that I imagined, or what the Holy Spirit was showing me of how some people treat worship.

✠ ***He who kills a bull is as if he slays a man; He who sacrifices a lamb, as if he breaks a dog's neck***

This is referring to the sacrifices the priests would offer. It came to the point of being a job, and not true worship. They no longer cared about the innocent animal that was being killed as an offering. It would be like getting a live chicken and breaking its neck and throwing it to your wife to cook for dinner. Sure it may be fine for killing a chicken to eat, but to do this to a lamb that is to be presented to the Lord, and treat it with such a lack of respect should be unheard of.

Notice it also says "***And their soul delights in their abominations.***" It's like the person offering worship without even truly worshipping the Lord. They think it's no big deal and they only sing because they like the song, but in their hearts it has nothing to do with the Lord. I believe that this is a huge deal to God, and I believe He is calling it an abomination in this verse.

It would be like going out and prostituting your body, and then giving the money that you earned being a prostitute to the Lord as an offering. God is not pleased with money obtained through sin. Or maybe you go to Sin City (Vegas) and win a bunch of money and tithe off of it. Or what about cheating on your taxes, or on your timecard at work and stealing from your employer or

the government, and then offering a tithe on these things. Do you really want to offer God such a dirty offering?

But that's what some do during worship. God goes on to say in the next verse:

† **Isaiah 66:4** *So will I choose their delusions, And bring their fears on them; Because, when I called, no one answered, When I spoke they did not hear; But they did evil before My eyes, And chose that in which I do not delight.*

Simply, some people do not care and they do not treat God with the respect and honor He so deserves. God and church have almost become a club to some people, which is served with fast food teaching and pretty wrappings they call worship. ***“He who burns incense, as if he blesses an idol.”***

I know it's something that I have to check my own heart on as a worship leader, and repent where I need to, because my Lord and Savior means way too much for me to sing to Him like I am singing into a hairbrush thinking I am somebody great instead of Him being everything.

† **John 4:24** *God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.*