

## Judges 17:6

*In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes.*

Now that Valentines Day is over, let's talk about how others show their love to one another by the gifts that they give during Valentines Day. It seems that flowers, candy, and jewelry are the go-to gifts during Valentines Day. But who says that these are the right gifts to give? Sure, as kids this is what others told us to do, but if you think about it, is that what every woman or man wants?

I was talking to a friend at church, and I was telling him how I like to buy my wife flowers at random, and not during a holiday like Valentines Day that really forces men to buy flowers. But I like to do it at random simply because I love her, so I buy them for her on those days that are not her birthday, anniversary, Valentines Day etc. and as I was telling him this, I made the mistake of telling him that he should do the same for his wife. I say mistake because every woman is different and every marriage is different, so what works for my marriage and wife does not work for all marriages or wives.

When I did tell him this, his response was that his wife would actually get mad at him if he did, because she sees it as a waste of money. Not that she does not like gifts, but she would rather have a gift card for a certain store, and she thinks that it is a waste of money to buy flowers. I have heard that other women are like this as well. Now there is nothing wrong with that because everyone has their own things they like and don't like. Some like flowers and some prefer gift cards.

The same is true with God. For me, there are certain songs and styles of music that I like to listen to, play, and sing to, and there are those styles I really don't care for. Whereas someone else will like the styles of music I don't care for, and not really like my style of music. Neither one is wrong, once again, it's a matter of preference.

With this in mind, read today's verse again,

✠ *“In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes.”*

Now when you read that you may think everyone had their preference on how they worshipped God, therefore, all ways must be ok. Except, since *“everyone did what was right in his own eyes.”* They ended up doing pagan worship, which lead to all sorts of pagan practices which they brought into the worship of God. Want to sleep with a prostitute, go for it in the name of God. Want to take someone's ox, go for it in the name of the Lord. I know that sounds crazy, but when

you add the world into your worship of God, that's what it looks like, and you are not doing it the way God says to do it.

† **John 4:23-24** *But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.*

Just because you like it does not mean God likes or even approves of it; Therefore, we can't tell others to worship or even serve God the way we want them to. But rather how God says to worship Him. Just think of the Old Testament and how they were to worship God with certain offerings done in a certain way, and how we read of Nadab and Abihu who were supposed to know better, yet they offered profane (worldly) fire as part of their worship of God, and they ended up dying because of it.

† **Leviticus 10:1-2** *Then Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, each took his censer and put fire in it, put incense on it, and offered profane fire before the LORD, which He had not commanded them. So fire went out from the LORD and devoured them, and they died before the LORD.*

So, what is the right way to worship God? That you will discover by asking Him and finding the answer in His word, which is a form of worship in itself.

† **Deuteronomy 4:29** *But from there you will seek the LORD your God, and you will find Him if you seek Him with all your heart and with all your soul.*

† **Romans 12:1-2** *I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.*

† **Psalm 27:8 (MSG)** *When my heart whispered, "Seek God," my whole being replied, "I'm seeking him!"*