

Theme: How to Conduct Yourself in the House of God

Ecclesiastes 5:1

> "Guard your steps when you go to the house of God. Go near to listen rather than to offer the sacrifice of fools, who do not know that they do wrong." (NIV)

Introduction

The house of God is not an ordinary place. It is a place where God's people gather to worship, pray, hear His Word, and encounter His presence. Solomon reminds us that our attitude in God's house matters. We must come with reverence, humility, and a heart that is ready to obey.

1. Guard Your Steps

"Guard your steps when you go to the house of God."

This means to examine your heart before coming into God's presence. We should not enter carelessly or casually.

Application:

Come with prayer.

Come on time.

Come with a clean heart and a desire to worship.

Respect God's presence.

Psalms 100:4

Habakkuk 2:20

2. Come to Listen

"Go near to listen..."

God desires obedient hearts more than religious activity. Many people come to church to speak, perform, or be seen, but God wants us first to hear His voice.

Listening means:

Paying attention to God's Word.

Being teachable.

Obedying what God says.

James 1:22

Romans 10:17

3. Avoid the Sacrifice of Fools

"...rather than to offer the sacrifice of fools..."

The sacrifice of fools is worship without obedience, religion without repentance, and outward actions without a surrendered heart.

Examples include:

Singing without loving God.

Giving offerings while living in sin.

Praying without forgiving others.

God desires sincere worship.

1 Samuel 15:22

Isaiah 1:11–17

Matthew 15:8

4. Worship God with Reverence

The house of God is a holy place. We should worship Him with fear, respect, and humility.

Hebrews 12:28

> "Let us worship God acceptably with reverence and awe."

Conclusion

Ecclesiastes 5:1 teaches us that God is more interested in our hearts than in our outward actions. Every time we come into His house, we should:

Guard our steps.

Listen carefully to God's voice.

Obey His Word.

Worship Him with reverence.