

THE BELLEVILLE MESSENGER

December 10

2023

OUR WORSHIP

Are WE doing all WE can to make our worship to God as sincere and reverent as possible, making sure that what we do is according to God's will?

1. Do we have to be reminded before every service that we are here to worship God?
2. Am I doing all I can to make sure the service runs smoothly?
3. Do we see people laughing, joking, talking even while the preacher is speaking?
4. Do I see the same thing when announcements are given? No respect is given.
5. Do I see "body language" that says, "I'd rather be anywhere but here"?
6. Do you hate it when Brad says, "Finally..."? – Or "NO, you can't be done already," or when the bell rings that ends the class?
7. Should we play episodes of Andy Griffith during worship instead of preaching?
8. Should we have a drive-thru "Lord's Supper"? Some offer this.

9. Shall we offer taped sermons so you can listen on Sundays as you go golfing, or on vacation, or on your way to breakfast?
10. Shall we have worship as a come as you are party. Some already do.
11. Shall we spruce up worship services with modern songs where we clap our hands, waving our hands, foot stomping or hum along or foot stomping.
 - a. Are the Old songs, Rock of Ages, Amazing Grace, Blessed Assurance etc. out of date?
 - b. How about singing, "Me and Jesus Got A Good Thing Going"?
12. Shall we put catchy phrases or sermon titles on the sign?

There was a time in most churches when the services were focused upon worship that glorified God, and the preaching consisted of reverent instruction from the Scriptures. In some places, it's still that way. Is it still true here?

On the other hand, drastic changes are underway in hundreds of churches across the land. An article appearing in World magazine addressed this phenomenon. Note this quote:

"Nothing is more characteristic of evangelical church meetings at the end of the 20th century than their orientation to the consumer, especially the unchurched one. Churches decide what their "market niche" is; they study their "target audience"; they design the services to appeal to the consumer."

In a word, "worship" services have become "us-centered," rather than "God-centered."

Would you rather have your Sundays free to camp, play golf, or visit with family? Fine, we'll implement a "quickie," convenient-service for you at some other time so your conscience will be salvaged, and you can enjoy your weekends.

A news program featured one group that offers a Sunday drive-through communion to accommodate those who prefer not to get out of the car on their way to the beach, etc.! I think I know why.

Do you find the Lord's supper too musty with tradition? Hey, that can be fixed. How about some Coke? One minister has written that he has no problem with Coca-Cola on the Lord's table. Why not make it a bit more sophisticated and have Dr. Pepper? Many feel we need not be manacled to a beverage that was vogueish in Palestine twenty centuries ago!

Are the old songs boring? Are you sick of "Rock of Ages" and "Amazing Grace"? We understand. We'll jazz it up for you.

Let's get rhythm—with some hand-clapping, foot-stomping, swaying, get-with-it gospel boogie. Fan those emotions!

Tired of being "preached to"? How would you like some "sharing" sessions where everyone can relate their personal experiences, air their frustrations, and share their "opinions" on a variety of topics? We could talk about unsafe conditions on the job, how to control your weight, dysfunctional sexual problems, how to take advantage of tax laws, etc. After all, this is the practical side of life. Great therapy!

Do references to "sin" and "repentance" turn you off? Okay, we can restrict ourselves to sessions on self-esteem, how to have healing in your life for emotional distress, skills in effective conversation, and so on.

The Christian Chronicle (1999) tells of an Alabama church that uses videos of the "Andy Griffith Show" as a part of their Sunday school curriculum. They spend the first portion of the class watching Andy and Barney, and then talk about moral lessons learned from the episodes.

Have we totally forgotten there is a book called the Bible that is the most exciting volume in the world? It is from Heaven—not Hollywood.

The "new church" for the coming millennium* in many cases may well be a "Disney Church," (i.e., entertainment-oriented). Snap, crackle, and pop. Feel good, laid back, play it cool. A church in Amarillo, Texas has what they call a "casual" dress, "high energy" Sunday morning service, with lots of "testimonies." Do you dig it, dude? They claim eight hundred members—three hundred of whom have been baptized! (Can you do the math?)

Is this what God intended? Such "worship" ideology is as far from the New Testament pattern as it could be. It is what an inspired apostle called "will-worship" (Col. 2:23), and it's carnal to the core.

Spiritual people will make God and his Word the center of their worship life.

✍️ Mo Hafley

"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" (John 4:23-24).

Belleville church of Christ

5635 S County Rd 200E - Belleville, IN - (317) 539-5258

www.bellevillechurch.net

Schedule of Services

| | |
|------------------------------|------------|
| Sunday Bible Study | 9:30 a.m. |
| Sunday Morning Worship | 10:30 a.m. |
| Sunday Evening Worship | 4:00 p.m. |
| Wednesday Bible Study | 7:00 p.m. |

Evangelist

Brad Phillips (765) 720-2816