



Churches need to be careful with bells and whistles

Posted: Sunday, September 10, 2016

Been “to church” lately? I have – and I have a few questions for my brothers and sisters.

First, when did worship become entertainment?

Somewhere along the line, “singing praises” has evolved into a “well-rehearsed praise team backed by a rock band and/or orchestra featuring semi-professional vocalists performing with a light show.” Who are we trying to impress – the Creator or the creation?

Second, when did we become so bureaucratic?

In some congregations, you actually have to take a class – or a series of classes – just to become a member of a local church family. When 3,000 souls were added to the church on Pentecost, I don’t remember Peter saying anything about those people having to certify their worthiness.

Third, when did we become so credential-oriented?

These days, some ministers have more initials after their name than many of my colleagues in the Ivory Tower. My grandfather, one of the best gospel preachers I’ve ever heard, had an eighth-grade education. He knew the Bible backward and forward, but he would not have been allowed to stand behind the pulpit at many congregations in this region.

Finally, when did we start spending more on things than people?

A lot of the money raised by many congregations goes to maintain the building they meet in and to pay the salaries of those employed there. Colleges need campuses; congregations don’t.

Ninety percent of the offering collected when the basket is passed should be going directly to the poor, the hungry and the disenfranchised – not toward the upkeep of a lavish cathedral with multimedia capabilities or enhancing the comfort and lifestyle of those in charge.

I realize that most of the folks who are taking us down the path to being “more relevant” probably have the best of intentions. But we need to be careful.

Aaron W. Hughey
Bowling Green

www.bgdailynews.com