Who Are We Here To Please?

Galatians 1:6-12

- Why have we come here today?
- Two authorities
- Matthew 21:23-27 – “from heaven or from men?”
- Has God specified how He wants to be worshipped?

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Trends In Religion

- In denominations
- The term “denomination” implies a choice
- Many denominations are seeking to cater to men more than to God
- Look at Saddleback Community Church in Lake Forest, CA

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Trends In Religion

- In the Lord’s church
- Look at Oak Hills church in San Antonio, TX
- Formerly “Oak Hills Church of Christ”
- Max Lucado is one of the preachers there.
Trends In Religion

- In the Lord’s church
- Look at the Highland Church of Christ in Abilene, TX
- Creators of the Herald of Truth in 1952
- This was the beginning of the “institutional” movement
Who Are We Here To Please?

- If it takes all this to get them there, what will it take to keep them there?
  - II Timothy 4:3-4 – “teachers after their own lusts”

True Worship

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True Worship

- Worship has never been about pleasing men.
  - we “shall worship the Father”
  - Hebrews 13:15 – “offer up a sacrifice of praise to God”

True Worship

- Reverence and awe
  - Hebrews 12:28-29 – “with reverence and awe”
  - God is our heavenly Father
  - Not some buddy down the street
  - Only one person called God’s friend
  - James 2:23 – “the friend of God”

True Worship

- We assemble for the purpose of worshiping God
  - This assembly is not for us – It is for God
  - We receive edification as a benefit of our acceptable worship of God
**Innovations Of Man**

- God has consistently rejected the innovations of man in worship to Him
  - 1 Corinthians 10:5, 11 – “God was not well pleased … written for our admonition”

- God has consistently rejected the innovations of man in worship to Him
  - Malachi 1:8 – “will he be pleased with thee”

- Were these people sincere in their attempts to worship God?
  - Yes – They were

- God still rejected them and their offerings

**The Casual Attitude**

- We live in an increasingly casual society
  - This is reflected in the types of worship we have just studied

- The Lord’s church is not about how casual we can be.

- We are in the presence of God
  - Psalms 89:7 – “greatly to be feared”
  - The throne scene in Revelation chapters 4 and 5 was not a party
  - Malachi 1:6 – “where is mine honor”
The Casual Attitude

• This is a solemn occasion
  • I Corinthians 11:26 – “ye proclaim the Lord’s death”
  • I Peter 4:11 – “oracles of God”
  • Our prayers are petitions to our Creator and Judge

The Lord’s Supper can be likened to both a funeral and a wedding ceremony
  • “proclaim the Lord’s death”
  • Ephesians 5:31-32 – “I speak in regard of Christ and of the church.”

The clothes we wear
  • “Dress for success”
  • “The clothes make the man”
  • “God looks on the heart”
  • Hebrews 4:12 – “intents of the heart”
  • Exodus 29:29-30 – “the holy garments”

The Casual Attitude

• We are not here to relax and have fun with friends
  • I Corinthians 11:17 – “for the worse”

Casualness and “ME” centered worship is manifested outwardly
  • Outward attitude
    • Bored
    • Disinterested
    • Unprepared
    • Continually late
    • Disruptive

The clothes we wear
  • Matthew 22:11-12 – “had not on a wedding-garment”
  • We cannot look on the heart but we do display the thoughts of our hearts
  • Matthew 15:18-20 – “out of the heart”
  • Why do we dress up for work and dress down for worship?
“What Must I Do To Be Saved?”

- Hear the Word of God
  - Romans 10:8 – “But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach.”

- Believe in that Word
  - Romans 10:11 – “For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be put to shame.”

“Repent of your sins

- Acts 3:19 – “Repent ye therefore, and turn again, that your sins may be blotted out, that so there may come seasons of refreshing from the presence of the Lord.”

“Confess that Jesus is the Son of God

- I John 4:15 – “Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God abideth in him, and he in God.”

“Be immersed in water (baptized)

- Acts 2:38 – “And Peter (said) unto them, Repent ye, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ unto the remission of your sins; and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”