

Relevance and Truth

June 10, 2018

Thank you so much for choosing to worship with us today. We are thrilled that you are here!

This is an interesting article. I would love to hear your thoughts about it. Do you agree or disagree?

I'm beginning to see churches come full circle. Bibles open, they are finding congregants hungry and thirsty. I go to one of those churches that is both relevant and truth-seeking.

There is a trend that is interesting. Like most revolutions, it's starting with young people. Suddenly, they are finding certain elements of the traditional church that aren't so bad. Hip, modern churches are integrating hymns, liturgy, and responsive readings into their services.

I think it's because people long for **authenticity**. Since the day they were born, they have been marketed to. They understand the sales pitch and they don't like it in church.

They long for **roots**. With relationships blowing up around them, to find a Rock of Ages that never changes is strangely new and exciting. It's comforting to have something that never changes.

They long to **participate**. Receiving communion. Walking to the altar. These are rituals that bring people to the fellowship, rather than allowing them to passively participate.

They want to **connect**. That means rolling up their sleeves and reaching out in tangible ways that transcend traditional outreach methods.

The church doesn't necessarily need to be relevant to society. It needs to be different, set apart. And we need to embrace that uniqueness, even to the point of being exclusive.

Those who are seeking don't want us to be just one more sector of a normal society.

And they don't want the church to be trendy. They want it to be true.

They rejected him. They'll reject us.

In Mark 11, the crowd was cheering Jesus. They laid down palms and shouted Hosanna. In chapter 15, the crowd was screaming for Barabbas to be released and Jesus to be hung on a cross. If the crowd turned on Jesus, who knew no sin, what do you think they'll do you to you? Forget the crowd.

Sure, we'll be criticized. That's the way of the world these days.

Aristotle said, "There is only one way to avoid criticism: Do nothing, say nothing, and be nothing." Funny how the oldest of sayings bring him the deepest truths.

Jesus wasn't afraid to call us foreigners, exiles, aliens, so we shouldn't reject those labels. He said this. "If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, the world hates you."

Commentator Matt Walsh pointedly observed, "Churches increasingly cater to people who hate Christianity but still want to be 'spiritual.'" That's not the call of the Gospel.

If you want to follow Christ, you have this much promised to you - You'll be chastised, ostracized, removed. You'll be an outsider, a nobody, a misfit, a lackey. You'll be the last one picked, the first one thrown out. You'll be mocked. Your words will fall on deaf ears.

This is the way of the cross. There is no other way.

And this is the key to our survival and true relevancy to a dying and hurting world.

Article from David Rupert

All Things for Christ,
Michael