

Church of Christ

...Heart to Heart ...

While conversing with a sister in Christ, she began talking about how “unmotivated” the assemblies were where she attended. I asked her to explain. She talked about activities of the church, the singing was lacking and uninspiring and some men prayed “everlasting” prayers. Her final statement was, “Going to church just doesn’t do much for me!”

It wasn’t long after this conversation I was speaking with a couple and they began talking about the assemblies where they attended. The words came out, “They just don’t fire us up!”

Over the years, I’ve heard comments like these above, in many different forms. These comments and thoughts reveal our knowledge of God and His ways. I’ve watched brethren leave the body of Christ, going after “religious experiences” that move them. It makes me ask, “What is true worship?”

Worship isn’t about being moved by externals. That’s a ballgame experience or pep rally! It’s about us moving toward the Lord, offering our hearts out of gratitude and love. It’s a response of reverence and honor paid to God because of what great things He has done for us through His Son (Heb. 12:28-29). Do we have to be moved externally because the death of Jesus means so little internally? Has the world captivated us and influenced us to the point that we need to be entertained and if isn’t not entertaining, it is dead? Isn’t worship to adore our Savior and Lord, remembering His death, burial and resurrection? Isn’t that’s what the Supper is for? That’s uninspiring? Aren’t our songs to praise His name, to be to His glory (Eph. 5:18-20)? They don’t motivate us? The teaching and preaching, aren’t they God speaking to those assembled in His name?

Many have made worship into an entertainment. People love to be entertained, as that’s why we go to a show or production. Worship is about a heart of thanks, drawing near with our hearts, offering ourselves back to God, not God offering Himself to us to “fire us up!” The real reason many get nothing out of worship is they aren’t there to worship! **It’s a heart problem.** The songs aren’t sung from the heart, but the beat and melody, or the song leader, is what grabs their attention to the good or bad. In return, they receive nothing from God because they offered nothing to God. Nothing always results in nothing! It’s difficult to encourage one another when the heart is somewhere else or looking for externals to motivate us.

The assembly is where God’s saved people come together in heart, in His name, seeking His acceptance, honoring His majestic name in a way that’s acceptable to Him! You leave filled or empty, depending on your heart motives of why you are there. Think about it!!!