

WE ARE NOT CALLED TO ENTERTAIN THE CHURCH

WE ARE CALLED TO TRAIN THE CHURCH



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I had a dream last night that was long and arduous. Our church was creating a stationary ride that would be used in the world show them what Christianity was like. We had plans going back several years where we had altered the plans, added and removed the parts that didn't work and had lots of notes for future plans. I was with the team who had the plans and projections for usage. It got so confusing and we couldn't tell which prototypes had been used, had failed or were for the future.

This thing was like a ride in a fair or entertainment park. It would move up and down, side to side and at intervals sprinkles of water would be dropped on the rider. The whole team of people, which included others from different churches really thought we had created a great product. A product that would reach the nations for Christ Jesus. We were trying to simulate the excitement and anointing of walking with Jesus in real life.

When I woke up I was so ashamed to realize I had been a part of trying to share who Jesus is by our own efforts, never inviting the giver of Life to show us how to reach others for Him. I began praying for all of the church, the Body of Christ to realize we are not entertainers, but trainers!



- We seem to think that if we don't "entertain" the people coming to our church, we will lose them. Or worse yet, we are failing them by not stimulating their minds and spirits.
- We are supposed to be a spiritual hospital. Bringing in the sick and frail in body and soul, sharing Jesus with them and getting set free from sin and sickness. Their new life is not one of returning to the ways of the world, but to get to know the Creator of the Universe personally.
- If you look at the boy in the photo, he seems to be having a lot of fun. But how long do you think this will last? After ten minutes or so, he will be bored with it and want to go to something else. Christianity is not a few minutes of thrills and chills then go on to something else.
- Mark 8:34 "And when he had called the people unto him with his disciples also, he said unto them, Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me."



Photo by Catherine Peters



FOLLOWING JESUS REQUIRES DEDICATION

- Those who receive Jesus as Savior and Lord, are required to leave the distractions of the world and follow Him to the new way of life. The new way of life in Jesus is filled with excitement and a wonderful relationship will develop. The more we give in our part of the relationship, the more trust He releases into our hands. We are allowed to know more and more about His kingdom and His ways of doing things.
- For the church to make following Jesus a playtime or entertainment is an insult to all Jesus did for us at the Cross and to who He is as our Lord and Savior.
- We need a cause to live and die for. All humans desire to follow hard after something of value. We want to leave a legacy behind us that helps someone else to have a better life.
- John 10:27 "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:"
- John 12:26 "If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serve me, him will my Father honor."



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THERE IS NO TIME TO WASTE

- Many people are dying daily never having heard the true message of Christ. We must obey the commandments of Jesus to go and tell. He is with us. He will fill us with Holy Spirit. He will lead us into the paths of righteousness. He will open doors of opportunity for us to go through.
- All it takes is surrender to His will and commitment to obey His Word. He is not asking for perfection, but willingness. He can and will correct our mistakes. We can trust Him to lead us carefully and safely through all the dangerous places in life.
- There is great excitement available for all. The more of an adventure seeker we are, the deeper we need to seek after Him. He can send us to places others would never dare to go. But we have to be trained in the Word of God. We must hone our skills with the Sword of the Spirit. Learn how to put on the armor of God, how to pull down all imaginations that would exalt themselves against the Word of God. The more we allow Him to train us, the greater our adventures. There are many Spiritual adventures out there too, but we must reach a place of accountability and trust with God to be allowed to venture there.
- The choice is ours to make...how will we respond?



THE LORD'S ARMY IS STILL TAKING RECRUITS

- 2 Timothy 2:15-26 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. But shun profane and vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness. And their word will eat as doth a canker: of whom is Hymenaeus and Philetus; who concerning the truth have erred, saying that the resurrection is past already, and overthrow the faith of some.
- Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are His. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity.
- But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and of silver, but also of wood and of earth; and some to honour, and some to dishonour. If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work. Flee also youthful lusts; but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart.
- But foolish and unlearned questions avoid, knowing that they do gender strife. And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient, In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth. And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will.


