

ISN'T JESUS ENOUGH?

Dear Friends:

I was chatting with a Catholic friend a couple of weeks ago. She and her family got up on Sunday morning to go to Mass, but they overslept so she told her family that she would like to try a nearby Protestant church where their children go to preschool. Reluctantly, her husband agreed to go so, they rounded up their four kids under the age of seven and all headed off to church. The church is a non-denominational church in Dublin with around 700 people and a contemporary worship service with a very talented praise team. Their lighting, technology and video equipment is equal to some of the better music venues around Columbus.

I asked my friend how the family enjoyed the service. She said, "My husband didn't like it, he just stood in the back with his arms crossed; he definitely wanted something more traditional." She also told me her seven year old daughter asked, "Mommy, are we at a concert?" The daughter's comment caught my attention more than the husband's comment. I am not putting contemporary music down, I like it maybe a little more than traditional, but I wonder: are we creating Christians who cannot get into the spirit of worship unless the music is concert-like (instead of participatory), the lights rival Hollywood, and pastors entertain the masses and forget that they are tools to help people worship the Master.

In other words,... is Jesus enough? Music and preaching/teaching have been around since before the advent of the church. Since the advent of television, the pressure to perform and "fill the seats" has grown ever stronger. No longer is Jesus enough in many cases. With the advent of internet broadcast, pressure to perform has become even greater. What if the church announced that for the next month worship service would consist of acapella singing, scripture reading, and prayer? Jesus would show up, but how many people would show up? Maybe 90% the first week; I am guessing 20% or less by the fourth week. Church worship should be corporate praise, thanksgiving, and listening to what God has to say to us – nothing more, nothing less. Jesus should be enough. Like the traditional song says, "All I need, all I need, all I need is Jesus..."

In Christ's Love,

Pastor Mike

Prayer Requests: Clarabell Harlan (recovery), Ukrainian War, Diana Foreman (cancer)

Events: Special Mother's Day Service