

Religious Entertainment

Pastor Kelly Sensenig

Much of what is labeled as “praise and worship” music in our market-driven churches of today, along with worship teams, Christian Rock music, Christian Rock stars, Christian films, Christian comedians, Christian dance, and such like, is nothing more than carnal amusement and religious entertainment. The church has entered a new pragmatic era. However, the church is not to become a place of entertainment where saints are elevated to a position of celebrity status and favoritism.

The church is not to become a place where worldly music is played and where cheering, whistling, clapping or applause becomes a response to the entertaining actions of man. This is what carnality thrives upon as people are glamorized and made out to be celebrities (1 Cor. 3:3-4).

The Corinthian church in some measure and form introduced the entertainment element in their assemblies. To their shame the worldly spirit and actions of entertainment were thriving in Corinth. First, every person wanted to do his own thing and use his gift at the same time (1 Cor. 14:27-33). This became a very selfish display of carnality in their lives and brought disarray in the assembly life. In one sense, these saints wanted to *perform* at the same time in order to show others how God had gifted them. This resulted in noise and pandemonium breaking out which distracted God’s people from rational understanding in their time of worship (1 Cor. 14:23; Rom. 12:1) and distorted the true nature of Biblical worship (1 Cor. 14:33). The orderliness of Christian worship was to stand in contrast to first century paganism (1 Cor. 14:33, 40).

Second, the saints began to express tongue speaking that could not be understood without interpretation (1 Cor. 14:9, 11), but speaking that would appear outwardly showy and entertaining to others, and selfishly fulfilling to the tongue speaker (1 Cor. 14:2, 6, 12-16). Apparently, the speaker felt that others would be impressed by the operation of certain gifts even if they could not understand what was being said. These saints possessed an obsession with personal attraction and notoriety.

Because of this showy attitude and theatrical type of atmosphere in the assembly, Paul had to express in no uncertain terms that not everybody had the same gifts and should not be expected to use the same gifts (1 Cor. 12:29-31). This statement was designed to put an end to using gifts for personal gratification and showmanship. What was important was not showmanship or self-fulfillment but the true expression of Biblical love (1 Cor. 13:1-3).

The Corinthians wanted to maintain an emotional and self-gratifying element, which they practiced in the pagan mystery religions, prior to their conversion. These pagan practices were filled with emotional frenzies (divine frenzies) and uncontrollable outbursts of actions that ran contrary to the control of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22-23). The believers wanted to carry over or mix these same pagan practices and outward performances into their use of spiritual gifts. These self-gratifying actions and expressions of outward carnal entertainment became so bad, that some were carried back to their former days, and under demonic influence they began to curse Jesus to hell in another tongue or language (1 Cor. 12:1-3).

All this came about because of their mad attempt for self-gratification and self-praise. They wanted their gifts and outward actions to be seen of men. This showy type of atmosphere creates what Paul terms as childish immaturity (1 Cor. 14:20), madness (vs. 23), confusion (vs. 33) and disorder (vs. 40). The same would be true for the Hollywood entertaining tricks and showmanship going on in our present-day churches. Hand waving, the sound of a rebellious rock music, dancing, wiggling around on the stage, comedian type preaching, organs playing in the background while a man tells tear-jerking stories, weightlifting power teams, worship teams, and karate teams have turned the church service into the atmosphere of a hockey arena or football game, where certain people are playing on the field, and the rest are like spectators sitting in the grandstands, clapping and waving their hands.

Someone has remarked:

“When ministry becomes performance, then the sanctuary becomes a theater, the congregation becomes an audience, worship becomes

entertainment, and man's applause and approval become the measure of success."

The church has moved into the theatrical world. Entertainment and a type of showbiz style of worship has become a normal part of many church services today. Worship is now being confused with entertaining actions such as dramatized preaching, interpretive dancing, singing that sounds like howling, the fleshly rock sound of a perverted culture, along with theatrical cheers and applause.

There are at least 15 reasons why entertainment and applause should not be allowed in a fundamentalist church.

#1

Because entertainment/applause gives praise to man. John 12:43 states, "For they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God." Matthew 6:5 reminds us how human nature wants "to be seen of men." God's Word teaches that we should not serve "with eyeservice, as menpleasers" (Eph. 6:6) nor seek glory from men ("nor of men sought we glory" – 1 Thess. 2:7). Applause plays into the entertainment realm since it reflects a society that is bent on expressing praise to man in some way instead of directing all praise toward God. We must remember that God deserves all praise (Ps. 49:18; 107:8; 109:30; 1 Pet. 4:11).

#2

Because entertainment/applause seeks to glorify man instead of God. 1 Corinthians 1:31, "That, according as it is written, He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord"). God is very clear about refusing to share His glory with anybody else. Isaiah 42:8 declares: "I am the Lord: that is my name: and my glory will I not give to another ..."). What a fearful reminder to church entertainers and those who want praise today for their actions and service!

The modern names of Contemporary Christian artists have become religious idols and icons and have stolen the glory that only God's name deserves (Deut. 28:58). Today the religious entertainers claim to do

whatever they do “for the glory of God” and many seem to use this expression as a fuzzy cliché which has become a religious shield that will protect them in whatever so-called spiritual endeavors they want to do. In other words, many performers say they want to glorify God, but their entertaining actions speak volumes against God’s glory (Matt. 6:5). God’s glory is not the underlying motive of the true entertainer - it is man’s glory. It can be said that the performance-oriented Christian stars of today “seek their own, not the things which are Jesus Christ’s” (Phil. 2:21).

James Denney said:

“No man can bear witness to Christ and to himself at the same time.”

#3

Because entertainment/applause becomes a fleshly display of carnality in the Christian life. We know that the Corinthians were “carnal” in that they created celebrities out of preachers (1 Cor. 3:1-3). Their carnality was also evidenced by the outward and fleshly display of showy gifts, which created an atmosphere of theatrical entertainment (1 Cor. 14:2, 6, 12-16, 27-33). This is why Paul had to reprimand them. Any form of carnality in the Christian life is always wrong (Rom. 7:14). Carnal actions are of the flesh and run contrary to the Spirit’s ministry in our lives (Gal. 5:17). The desire to entertain others and experience cheers and applause in a spiritual setting of worship, where worship is to be directed toward God, becomes a fleshly action that must be forsaken (1 Pet. 2:11).

#4

Because entertainment/applause can easily develop into a form of pride within the hearts of Christians since it feeds the prideful element in man (Prov. 6:17 - “a proud look”). 1 John 2:16 warns us about “the pride of life.” Timothy was reminded about “being lifted up with pride” and falling into “the condemnation of the devil” (1 Tim. 3:6). James 4:6 concludes, “... Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.” God is looking for a humble mind and life of service directed toward others (Phil. 2:5-8). If we want to live in a humble fashion like Jesus, we will not desire nor seek applause. We will simply want to serve others

behind the scenes as much as possible and live inconspicuously. A desire for entertainment and applause in the church smacks humility in the face (Prov. 16:19).

#5

Because entertainment/applause runs contrary to the manner of all true worship which is to be directed toward God - not man. Worship does not involve personal gratification, self-seeking, and the applause of man. Instead, true worship takes place when we give back to God the worth that is due His name. Psalm 29:2, "Give unto the Lord the glory due unto his name; worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness." The emphasis on giving back to God is repeated in Scripture (Psalm 96:8; 1 Chronicles 16:29). Psalm 45:11 says, "worship thou him" and in Exodus 28:1, 3 & 41 God says, "minister unto me."

When man is applauded or praised, he steals the praise that God only deserves! Let us remember that God is a jealous God (Ex. 34:14; Isa. 42:8; 48:11). Instead of the showbiz manner of entertainment that evokes cheering and applause for choreography and performance, we must return to the "holy hush" and reverent worship that comes when God's people truly see the Lord in His holy character (Isa. 6:5; Rev. 4:11; 5:8, 14; 19:4).

Entertainment and any outward praise to man is a disgrace to true worship. All true worship is to be directed in reverent fear toward a holy God (Ps. 5:7; 96:9). Entertaining type of worship becomes carnal or fleshly in its purpose and manward in its focus. Jesus said in Matthew 23:5, "But all their works they do for to be seen of men..." (Matt. 6:1, 5). Matthew 6:1, "Take heed that ye do not your alms before men, to be seen of them: otherwise ye have no reward of your Father which is in heaven." Matthew 6:5, "And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites *are*: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward."

Entertainment lacks reverence for God in our time of worship (Ps. 89:7). Entertainment and applause does not create an atmosphere that is conducive for true worship to take place. Instead, it becomes a carnal diversion, at least in some measure, to all true worship. In the world of

entertainment and applause human-centered worship overrides God-centered worship. Man-centered worship shifts away from the character of God and becomes based upon the experience, the thrills of man, and religious hedonism (self-gratification and pleasure).

We must remember that God does not accept just any kind of worship. Malachi 1:7-8 reads: "Ye offer polluted bread upon mine altar; and ye say, Wherein have we polluted thee? In that ye say, The table of the LORD is contemptible (disgraceful or disrespectful). And if ye offer the blind for sacrifice, is it not evil? and if ye offer the lame and sick, is it not evil? offer it now unto thy governor; will he be pleased with thee, or accept thy person? saith the LORD of hosts." Malachi 1:10 concludes: "I have no pleasure in you, saith the LORD of hosts, neither will I accept an offering at your hand."

A message may be *directed* to God in worship but at the same time the worship must be *acceptable* to God (Rom. 12:1-2). It is not enough to do a right thing. We must do it in the right way (2 Tim. 2:5 - "lawfully"). In short, we must worship by God's rules! God despises unholy and unclean worship (Lev. 10:1; Numb. 3:4). The meetings of God's people must be "holy convocations" or assemblies (Lev. 23:3, 7, 8, 21, 27, 35, 36). When entertainment enters the picture, the true worship of a holy and reverent God begins to take a back seat.

#6

Because entertainment/applause runs contrary to the principle of order, decency, and reverence. 1 Corinthians 14:33 says, "For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints." 1 Corinthians 14:40, "Let all things be done decently and in order." Psalm 89:7 also says, "God is greatly to be feared in the assembly of the saints, and to be had in reverence of all them that are about him." Hebrews 12:28 concludes by saying, "... let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear."

Paul was not happy with the entertaining tricks taking place in Corinth and labeled this kind of activity as madness (1 Cor. 14:23), confusion (vs. 33), disorder (vs. 40), unknown sounds (1 Cor. 13:7-8), and child's play (1 Cor.

14:20). This is a good description of what is occurring in so many churches today.

All activity that seeks to draw attention to oneself through outward show and ostentatious display (1 Pet. 3:3) must be forbidden on the basis of the principles of order and decency (1 Cor. 14:33, 40), and reverence (Lev. 19:30; 26:2). The idea being promoted today that there are different expressions of worship will never override the principles of order and reverence for God's house. Somehow a party spirit, pagan music, cheering, hand waiving, clapping or the applause of man, jumping up and down in an uncontrollable manner, verbal outbursts from hundreds of people at the same time, and people falling down while claiming to have a spiritual experience, hardly passes as decency, order, and reverence for God and His house.

#7

Because entertainment/applause was never to be part of the early church assembly life and worship. Acts 2:42, "And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers" (not entertaining rock concerts, shows, movies, etc.). The early church was not to be concerned about producing relevant or up-to-date entertaining services that would mimic the culture and interest the public. The church was never to be concerned how the outside world (heathen) viewed their worship services.

Truth was never to be communicated through the medium or agency of worldly, pragmatic entertainment (1 Cor. 2:1-5; 15:11; 2 Tim. 4:2; Neh. 8:8-9), since this dulls truth and leads to skewed spiritual results. We don't need canned music or religious entertainment to enable us to learn truth or stir our hearts (Luke 24:32). We need the simple preaching of absolute truth (2 Tim. 3:16-17) and the ministry of the Holy Spirit (1 Pet. 1:22; Gal. 5:25) working in our hearts and lives to change us. God's methodology still works and is all that is necessary for the salvation of souls (Rom. 1:16; John 16:7-8; Acts 2:37) and spiritual growth of God's saints (2 Pet. 2:2; John 17:17; 2 Cor. 3:18). The power is in the message and ministry of the Spirit - not the method being used (Zech. 4:6). We must remember that when Jesus

commissioned the disciples, He did not promise to give them Contemporary Christian Music and Christian rock bands. He gave them His Word and the Holy Spirit to change the lives of people.

Let us never forget that people will get saved when we do things in God's holy and reverential way (Psalm 145:17). This is because it's God who gives the increase (1 Cor. 3:6-7). God is the "Lord of the harvest" (Luke 10:2) - not man. We can be sure that people will come to Christ without using worldly methods of entertainment. Entertainment will never replace the ministry of the Word of God and the Holy Spirit. The Gospel and God's truth are not meant to be entertaining. The same is true about the Lord's service. The truth is this; God has not called us to evangelize or do His work through entertainment.

A. W. Tozer said:

"The temptation to introduce *new things* into the work of God has always been too strong for some people to resist. Misguided people have tried to glamorize church life who think that they know more about running God's work than Christ and His apostles did."

In respect to applause, which is directly linked to entertainment, 1 Corinthians 14:16 mentions how saying "Amen" was the appropriate and respectful response of praise rendered toward God during the services of the early church. There is no mention of applause nor was it ever alluded to in any fashion whatsoever. Entertainment with applause is historically unknown to the work of God and must be avoided today, if we are going to keep the church on target spiritually. A hearty "Amen" ("so let it be true") rendered up to God is far better than a round of applause directed toward a religious performer.

We must ask ourselves what is *normative* for today and ordained for New Testament Christianity and assembly life. Some have suggested that the silence of teaching in the New Testament, about applause in the church, leaves us with the responsibility to prove that applause, dance, and other forms of so-called worship are not permissible for church life. Of course, this is a strawman argument. The Bible actually states that we are to "prove all things" (1 Thess. 5:21) to determine the worth or value of something by

using the commands and principles stated in God's Word. In the end, we are only to "approve things that are excellent" (Phil. 1:10) and not give our approval of carnal distractions from true and genuine worship.

If God had intended entertainment to be part of church ministry and worship, there would be some mention of it in the New Testament document. What we read about in connection with first century church life and worship is singing, praying, breaking of bread together, fellowship, doctrinal teaching, and preaching (Acts 2:42; 1 Cor. 14:14-15; Eph. 4:11-12). We never read about applause, interpretive dance, rock music, and other forms of entertainment having any part in church worship and ministry. Today we must continue to uphold reverence and respect for the "hallowed" name of the Lord (Matt. 6:9) and not adopt irreverent diversions from true worship. If "so-called" religious dancing, applauding people, and other forms of modern entertainment were essential to worship in God's House, one would expect the Bible to give us clear guidelines for it, command us to use it, and then give us some illustrations where it is used in the Christian church.

Tozer also states:

"People have been over stimulated to the place where their nerves are jaded and their tastes corrupted. Natural things have been rejected to make room for things artificial. The sacred has been secularized, the holy vulgarized and worship converted into a form of entertainment."

#8

Because entertainment/applause sets a bad example for our young people. Psalm 34:11, "Come, ye children, hearken unto me: I will teach you the fear of the Lord." If our churches continue to promote entertainment and applause our young people will grow up always expecting praise from others (John 12:43) for their acts of service, instead of learning that all praise must be directed toward God in reverence and godly fear (Ps. 112:1; 145:3-4; 146:1-2; 1 Pet. 4:11). The bad example of using entertainment and applause in worship can result in our children losing focus on such subjects as reverence, God's glory, and serving others, as Christ did, without expecting anything in return (Phil. 2:7-8). Both parents (Eph. 6:4) and the

official gathering of God's saints for worship (Ex. 12:24-27) should set the example of proper worship for our children, teach children the right way to worship, and demonstrate the kind of worship that honors God's holiness and which offers praise toward the Lord – not man.

Many are playing around with entertaining worship in their services today. But what kind of example (1 Tim. 4:12) are we setting for our children? What are the children learning about worship? Are they not learning to expect man's praise? We forget something; it's always the children who come up on the short end of the stick. We are responsible for the next generation of worshippers! Psalm 78:2-4 speaks to this matter when it states how we are to be "showing to the generation to come the praises of the LORD." This would include showing and demonstrating to them the right way to worship God.

What will happen to the future of corporate worship in our fundamental churches if this entertaining epidemic continues to filter into our local church services? Exodus 19:5 speaks about "visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation..." Our children will have no Scriptural bearing on the subject of reverent worship, if we do not oppose it with Biblical principles, and then communicate these principles to our younger generation.

Pragmatists are saying that they are using a form of entertainment to keep the attention of the younger people and to bring the millennial generation into their churches. But undiscerning young people are not to dictate what should be accepted in the church, nor are they to lead the church. 1 Peter 5:5 says, "Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder." Furthermore, leadership that adopts a pragmatic and worldly philosophy for the millennials will someday be held accountable to God for their lack of teaching concerning God's holiness, and their irreverent approach toward worship (James 3:1). It's not the job of Christians to entertain sinners in their sins within the hallowed halls of the church. It's our ministry to go out into the world and take sinners the message of salvation which comes through repentance and faith in Jesus Christ (Luke 24:47; Mark 16:15).

#9

Because entertainment/applause takes on the form of evil. 1 Thessalonians 5:22 says, “Abstain from all appearance of evil.” This verse can speak of a direct violation of what is right by committing an errant practice, or it might mean that what we are adopting certain practices which reflects that we are headed in the wrong direction. First, every “form” of evil means that entertainment and applause mimics that which is wrong in relation to true expressions of worship (John 4:24). Therefore, we should not introduce this practice into our local churches. Second, when we begin to slowly introduce subtle forms of entertainment into our churches, such as applause, we are also taking on the outward appearance (form) that we are attempting to embrace the “religious cancer” of worldly evangelicalism that has with rapid acceleration invaded and overtaken the church.

Remember that when cancer is left untreated, it will spread at alarming levels (“a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump” - Gal. 5:9). Let us not deceive ourselves into thinking that it cannot happen to our church. If the appearance of a man-centered form of Christianity is in the church, it may very well be in our church! Pastors much guard against it and teach their people about entertainment and applause.

#10

Because entertainment/applause is adopting worldly culture into church life and ministry. Romans 12:2 states, “And be not conformed to this world ...” God does not want fundamental churches to mold themselves to a cultural system which runs contrary to truth and principles for proper worship. Entertainment and the applause of man is nothing more than conformity to worldly culture for the sake of feeding the human ego or element of pride within man (1 John 2:15-16). Introducing entertainment into the church is another giant step in the wrong direction for a 21st century church that is selling out to a pragmatic age, which blurs all distinctions between right and wrong. We must remember to never allow the world to squeeze us into its mold. Instead of adopting a worldly culture in the church which glorifies man we must remember to “have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness but rather reprove them” (Eph. 5:11). Anything that detracts from

God's glory is unfruitful and becomes a dark shadow that hovers over the church.

#11

Because entertainment/applause can create distorted results which are actually the results of man instead of God. The Bible repeatedly talks about man's doings and ways (Isa. 3:8; 55:8; Prov. 14:12; 16:25). Man can achieve certain results but they are not the results of God (Acts 2:37; Nehemiah. 8:9; Matt. 13:23) working in the hearts of people. We know that pragmatism and pragmatic evangelism are the ways of man, but they are not God's ways.

God says in Isaiah 55:8:

"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord."

For instance, pragmatic evangelism, with its various new methods to evangelism, can lead to skewed results. For instance, the rock sounds of a perverted culture, dancing as an alleged expression of worship, and other forms of entertainment, which are intertwined with evangelism, can produce the results that man wants (happy feelings, amazement, non-threatening environment, bigger crowds) but not necessarily God's results (true conviction over sin, repentance, holiness, and salvation).

There is something else that should be cause for alarm. Religious entertainment does not produce conviction; the Holy Spirit does (John 16:7-11). Pictures, puppets, and pragmatic programs do not produce conviction. The Holy Spirit uses the Word of God to produce conviction (Isa. 66:5). Theatrics, tear-jerking stories, religious comedians, and the world of entertainment may stimulate certain human responses and produce man-made results such as emotional highs, intellectual pleasures, artificial behavior, human potential, dulled spiritual senses, corrupted tastes, non-confrontational comfort zones, secular commitments and distorted decisions, which are generated from the power of visual affects instead of from the Holy Spirit.

At worst, theatrics can also produce the manmade results of pseudo-revival without repentance and reformation without regeneration (Matt. 13:20-21). However, God's method of sharing non-entertaining truth, which is coupled with the Spirit's dynamic power, is designed to produce genuine and lasting results.

We must learn to do God's work in God's way so that we can get God's results and not man's results. God's work done in God's way produces only good results. God's work done in man's way produces good and bad results. Whenever entertainment enters into the picture of church life and evangelism, a strange brew or mixture of man's pragmatic philosophies (Col. 2:8) is poured into the same pot with God's Word. When this happens, the message can very easily become blurred, distorted, diluted, misleading, and hidden behind theatrical pictures and man-produced emotional appeals and feelings. The mixture of entertainment with God's Word can produce manmade results instead of God's results. We must remember that God hates a mixture (Lev. 10:10).

#12

Because entertainment/applause can easily lead to further areas of compromise. "Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump?" (1 Cor. 5:6). The leaven of any unwholesome or shoddy practice has a way of spreading and affecting other areas of church service and ministry. If entertainment is left unchecked and allowed to exist in the church ministry, it can eventually lead to other areas of compromise with the culture of the world.

Many churches slowly begin to introduce a rock beat in their church services and embrace a softened attitude toward a contemporary sound and worship that does not embrace reverence. This begins to weaken the church stance on holiness and what is honoring to God. Only one hole in a boat can produce a slow leak, which can eventually sink the boat. God wants us to separate from anything and everything that is fleshly and not honoring to God (Eph. 5:7, 11). Failure to separate from it can eventually lead to compromise with it.

Someone remarked:

“Almost any behavior or practice begins to look and sound normal if you are exposed to enough of it.”

Entertainment and applause can become a starting point for the devil to work in an assembly. Ephesians 4:27 says, “Neither give place to the devil.” If you give an inch to the devil he will take a yard! Every believer in his personal life can attest to this. Remember that entertaining compromise will take us farther than we want to go and keep us longer than we want to stay! The road of entertainment is a slippery slope that keeps a church sliding further away from reverent and holy worship.

#13

Because entertainment/applause will result in loss of reward at the Judgment Seat of Christ. Someday the church will stand before Jesus Christ to be examined by Him (2 Cor. 5:10). In this coming day, the Bible says that “the fire shall try every man’s work of what sort it is” (1 Cor. 3:13). The fire refers to the omniscience of God who knows all things (Rev. 1:14). The Bible says that “If any man’s work shall be burned he shall suffer loss” (1 Cor. 3:15).

This will be a solemn time for God’s saints. Those entertaining works done for the applause of man, fame, fortune, and human recognition are not the kind Jesus will reward. Jesus said in Matthew 6:1, “Take heed that ye do not your alms before men, to be seen of them: otherwise ye have no reward of your Father which is in heaven.” Entertainment, man’s applause, and man’s glory are actions of service which are fleshly, and they will go up in smoke at the final Christian examination. Living for entertainment and personal gratification or applause means that we are not living with eternities values in view.

Roy Laurin said:

“Measure life by the broad sweep of eternity.”

#14

Because entertainment/applause is contrary to what is right. The believer must therefore hate what is evil and only cleave to that which is good. Romans 12:9 says that we are to “Abhor (utterly detest) that which is evil; cleave to that which is good.” Entertainment in God’s house is a fleshly diversion from true worship. Therefore, we must develop a holy hatred for such actions and not allow them to overtake our personal lives and local churches. There comes a time when remaining silent is a sin. We must become people of conviction today that are ready to oppose wrongdoing and discern between good and evil (Heb. 5:14).

#15

Because entertainment/applause does not line up with Biblical traditions. 2 Thessalonians 2:15 states: “Therefore, brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle.” Biblical traditions are the teaching traditions passed down by the apostles - not the “tradition of men” (Col. 2:8).

The apostolic traditions (the inspired sacred truths handed to us by the apostles) would include specific Biblical commands, precepts, and regulations that help us in our areas of conduct and holiness, as it pertains to the doctrine of Bible separation and consecration to God (2 Thess. 3:6-7).

It’s no secret that entertainment is not one of these traditions! In fact, all of the scriptural commands for Bible separation (Rom. 12:1-2; 2 Cor. 6:17) and regulatory principles found in the New Testament, such as God’s glory (1 Cor. 10:31), church order (1 Cor. 14:33, 40), reverence (Heb. 12:28), and verses dealing with the teachings of the appearance of evil (1 Thess. 5:22), pride (1 Tim. 3:6; 1 John 2:16), humility (James 4:6; Phil. 2:5-8), holiness (1 Thess. 4:7; 1 Pet. 1:15-16) and God’s praise (Heb. 13:15; Rev. 19:5), argue against using any kind of manmade entertainment in church worship. The evidence is overwhelming.

Tozer concludes by saying:

“The church that can’t worship must be entertained. And men who can’t lead a church to worship must provide the entertainment. That is why we

have the great evangelical heresy here today - the heresy of religious entertainment.”