



Preacher's Pen *by Gene McCoy*

In every church in every community every Sunday there are people who think that the responsibility to make the worship service inspiring, effective, and enjoyable rests with someone else. Despite the fundamental fallacy that the primary purpose of the Sunday morning gathering is to somehow entertain us and attract others, there are simple things every Christian can and should do to fulfill the Biblical instructions relating to encouraging and exhorting one another.

ATTEND

This is so obvious, yet it seems to elude some people. Just showing up and taking up space is worth something. We all know how crowd size and excitement correspond.

ARRIVE EARLY

May we be honest and acknowledge that tardiness is rude, indicates carelessness, and communicates a lack of consideration for others? Arriving early indicates the importance and significance of the activity or event. It communicates eager anticipation of something good that you don't want to miss. It expresses consideration for others, whose fellowship you value and attention you don't want to distract by entering late.

ASSIST NEWCOMERS

Arriving early also makes you available to meet and assist newcomers, which is surely more important to the sincere Christian than a few more minutes of sleep or an extra cup of coffee.

as well as emotion and enthusiasm. If you think proper consideration for those around you requires you to remain silent, at least mouth the lyrics with appropriate expression with your face and body, as if you are the great Caruso. Non-participation

in the singing does not contribute favorably in any way.

Ten Tips *How EVERY person can make ANY worship service better*

GREET PEOPLE

A friendly and warm greeting helps to establish a familiar environment that prepares people for participation and the reception of the message. We know the impact this has upon newcomers, whom we claim to value and hope will return.

SIT UP FRONT

Sitting toward the front can indicate our level of interest and enthusiasm for what is taking place. At the stadium or arena the choice seats are close to the action. Leaving the back rows available for latecomers, mothers of young children, and those with health issues is a courtesy we encourage.

SING

Singing is a distinctive hallmark of Christianity. It is one way we minister to each other (Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16). It is a way to express love and devotion,

LISTEN & RESPOND

Be engaged in every aspect. Focus your eyes and tune in your ears on that which is appropriate, not being distracted by others or a distraction to others. Discipline yourself to ignore potential distractions and to become a better listener. It helps those around you to develop these skills.

BE A PARTICIPANT

Worship is not a spectator event. No one can do it for you.

ATTEND A CLASS

Those who participate in a class will testify that it enhances the corporate assembly. You have to experience it to understand it.

STAY LATE

Don't rush out the door as the last "Amen" is spoken. Hang around and visit. Develop new relationships and build on established ones. Treasure your time together. ■