

RIGHT WORSHIP.

John 4:24.

August 13, 2006 Sunday a.m.

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Movie Clip: "The Fighting Temptations".
- B. Now that's a worship service, but probably not one we should try to model.
- C. Is there a right way to worship God? Jesus told the Samaritan woman there was-John 4:24.

I. WHAT'S THE WRONG WAY TO WORSHIP?

- A. First, its wrong to think that worship only takes place at church.
 - 1. One definition of worship is to come into God's presence in order to praise him.
 - 2. This doesn't just take place in church-Psalms 119:164.
 - 3. The truth is, unless we learn to worship God everyday we are probably not worshipping him right on Sunday.
- B. Second, its wrong to think worship is about the people on the stage.
 - 1. I like the story about the little boy who sat in the back seat of the car as his parents drove home from church. They complained about the selection of songs, the off key soloist and the boring sermon from the pastor. Remembering his offering, the boy said, "All in all, you have to admit it was a pretty good show for a nickel."
 - 2. Worship is not a show put on by others.
 - 3. We often judge whether we worshipped or not by how well the "up-fronters" did.
 - 4. Although the "up-fronters" should certainly do their best, worship doesn't depend on them.
- C. Third, its wrong to thing the people in the pews are the audience.
 - 1. Actually there is only an audience of one, God.
 - 2. We are the real "up-fronters" on stage.
 - 3. he question is how well the song leader or preacher did, but how well did we do.

II. WHAT'S THE RIGHT WAY TO WORSHIP?

- A. First, worship is active not passive.
 - 1. Worship isn't something we watch. Its something we do.
 - 2. Even though, it happens on Sunday, worship isn't a spectator sport.
 - 3. It isn't something done for us but by us.
- B. Second, Worship is the central activity of the church.
 - 1. It was of the early church in Jerusalem-Acts 2:46-47.
 - 2. It was in the Ephesian church too-Ephesians 5:19.
 - 3. Rick Warren in his first book, "Purpose Driven Church" says the church has five purposes based on The Great Commandment and The Great Commission.
 - a. Worship.
 - b. Service.
 - c. Evangelism.
 - d. Fellowship.
 - e. Discipleship.
 - 4. If our worship isn't right, everything else we do as a church will be wrong.
- C. Third, Worship renews us spiritually.
 - 1. Worship charges our spiritual batteries.
 - 2. Worship is like making a pit stop in a NASCAR race. Drivers can't possibly finish a race without making pit stops. Neither can we.
- D. Fourth, Public worship is impacted by our private worship.
 - 1. Consistent private worship enhances our public worship.
 - 2. Inconsistent private worship negatively influences our public worship.

CONCLUSION.

- A. There's a right way and a wrong way to worship God.

- B. In Silver Spring, MD, there was an example of liberated worship. It seems that Northern High School senior Nick Becker, the ACLU, and the state attorney general's office has forced the school to drop the traditional prayer from their graduation ceremony. Instead, there was to be thirty seconds of silence. When the time of silence began, a man began to recite the Lord's Prayer. Around him, others joined in. By the time he got to, "For thine is the power and the glory for ever," the whole crowd of some 4,000 people had joined in! Even the ACLU can't stifle true worship!
- C. Lord, teach us how to worship you right.