

iWorship





Isn't it time to embrace
contemporary worship?



Isn't it time to embrace contemporary worship?

1. Today's **culture** is different and since music is cultural, we need to update our music so that it appeals to today's culture. There's nothing wrong with that kind of music, drama, etc.





Isn't it time to embrace contemporary worship?

1. Today's **culture** is different and since music is cultural, we need to update our music so that it appeals to today's culture. There's nothing wrong with that kind of music, drama, etc.






Our current worship services are boring and dead. I don't feel like I **encounter** God.

Isn't it time to embrace contemporary worship?

1. Today's **culture** is different and since music is cultural, we need to update our music so that it appeals to today's culture. There's nothing wrong with that kind of music, drama, etc.
-  Our current worship services are boring and dead. I don't feel like I **encounter** God.
 -  We need to get more people **involved**. If we have praise teams, skits and puppetry, more people will be part of the worship service.

Isn't it time to embrace contemporary worship?

1. Today's **culture** is different and since music is cultural, we need to update our music so that it appeals to today's culture. There's nothing wrong with that kind of music, drama, etc.
 -  Our current worship services are boring and dead. I don't feel like I **encounter** God.
 -  We need to get more people **involved**. If we have praise teams, skits and puppetry, more people will be part of the worship service.
 -  This is the only way to keep our **young people**.

Notice the terminology?

- We need to embrace contemporary worship versus traditional worship
 - The argument from **culture**
- When I'm doing contemporary worship I really encounter God through praise and worship.
 - The argument from **experience**

What about culture?

- 1 Corinthians 9:19-22 – “All things to all people”
- But notice:
 - The **context** is not worship, but the right of the apostle to be supported by the church
 - The **focus** is not culture, but the gospel:
 - “Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel!” – vs. 16
 - “I do it all for the sake of the gospel” – vs. 23
 - “I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.”

Embrace today's culture?

When I attend services that feature "contemporary" worship today, it seems that 80 percent to 90 percent of all the songs sung by the congregation prominently feature that familiar trinity of I, Me, My. Rarely do we sing songs that remind us of our identity as the body of Christ, the people of God.... **In cultures that are already dominated by narcissism**, this is unwise and dangerous.- *Gary A. Parrett, professor of Christian education at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary*

What's at the heart of iWorship?

- **God is no longer at the center of worship. Worship is now about what *I* get out of it, about how *I* feel and what *I* need.**
- **How did iWorship come about?**



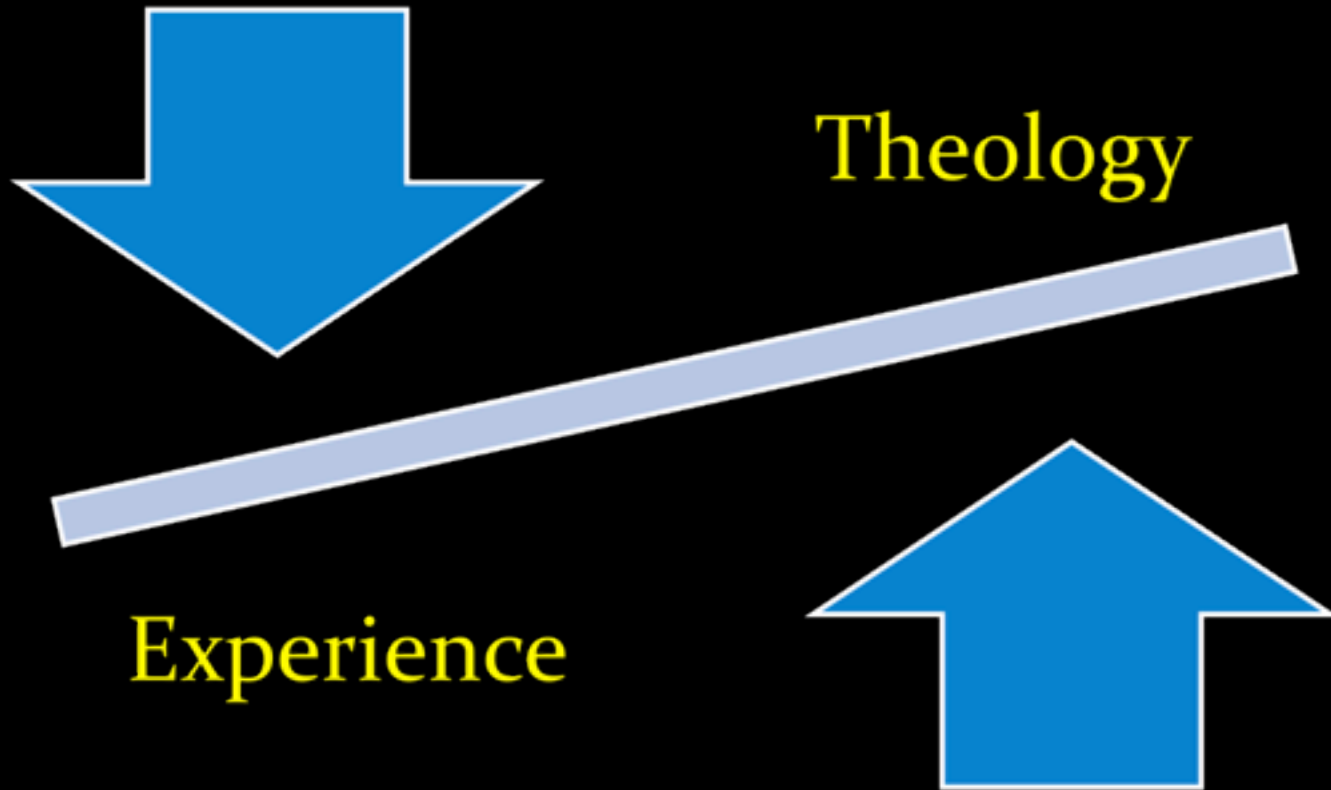
Come let us worship and bow down!

Before iWorship

- **The worship service tended to be more doctrinal, more biblical, more about God than about my experience.**
- **iWorship is a reaction to this *objective* and *factual* approach to Worship. In the 1800s, there was a swing to the personal experience of the believer. Worship became *subjective* and *emotional*.**

Come let us worship and bow down!

A Paradigm Shift

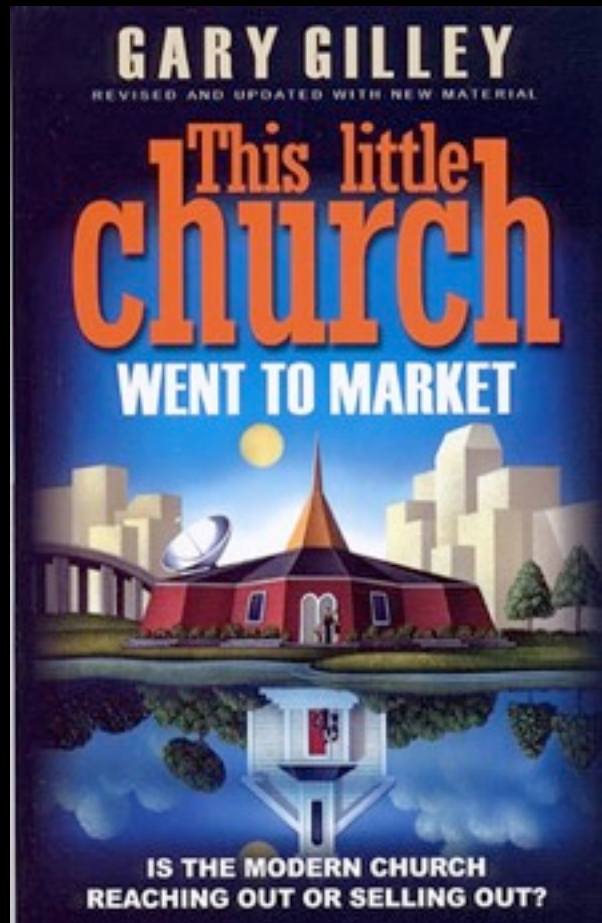


What is worship?

- **Worship comes from the English word, “worship” – meaning celebrating one who is “worthy.”**
- **Worship is responding to what God has done for you by praising Him with your life, words and song.**
- **Worship is also the experience of a relationship with the triune God.**

Come let us worship and bow down!

THE MARKET-DRIVEN CHURCH

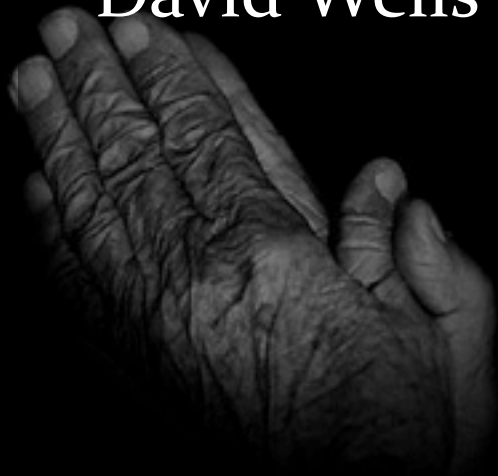


- Basic Premise:
 - Find out what people want
 - Provide it for them
 - Seek to give the gospel along the way
 - Minimize distinctive differences

DANGER OF APPROACH

“The gospel becomes trivialized, life loses it’s depth, God becomes transformed into a product to be sold, faith into a recreational activity to be done, and Church into a club for the like-minded.”

David Wells



Come let us worship and bow down!

INSIDE THE MIND OF UNCHURCHED HARRY AND MARY

- If more than 90% of the population express some form of belief in God and a desire for a relationship with Him, but less than half of the population ever attends church what conclusion should you draw?
- Lee Strobel concludes, “Harry has rejected church, but that doesn’t necessarily mean he has rejected God.”

Come let us worship and bow down!

GARY GILLEY'S REBUTTAL

Yet the Bible clearly says that humanity does reject God... What surveys really show is that people do not reject gods of their own creation and imagination; but they do reject the true God. What we supposedly learn from marketing study is that the reason why Harry doesn't come to church has little to do with his rebellious, God-rejecting nature. Rather it is because the church is boring, predictable, irrelevant, money hungry and does not meet his needs.

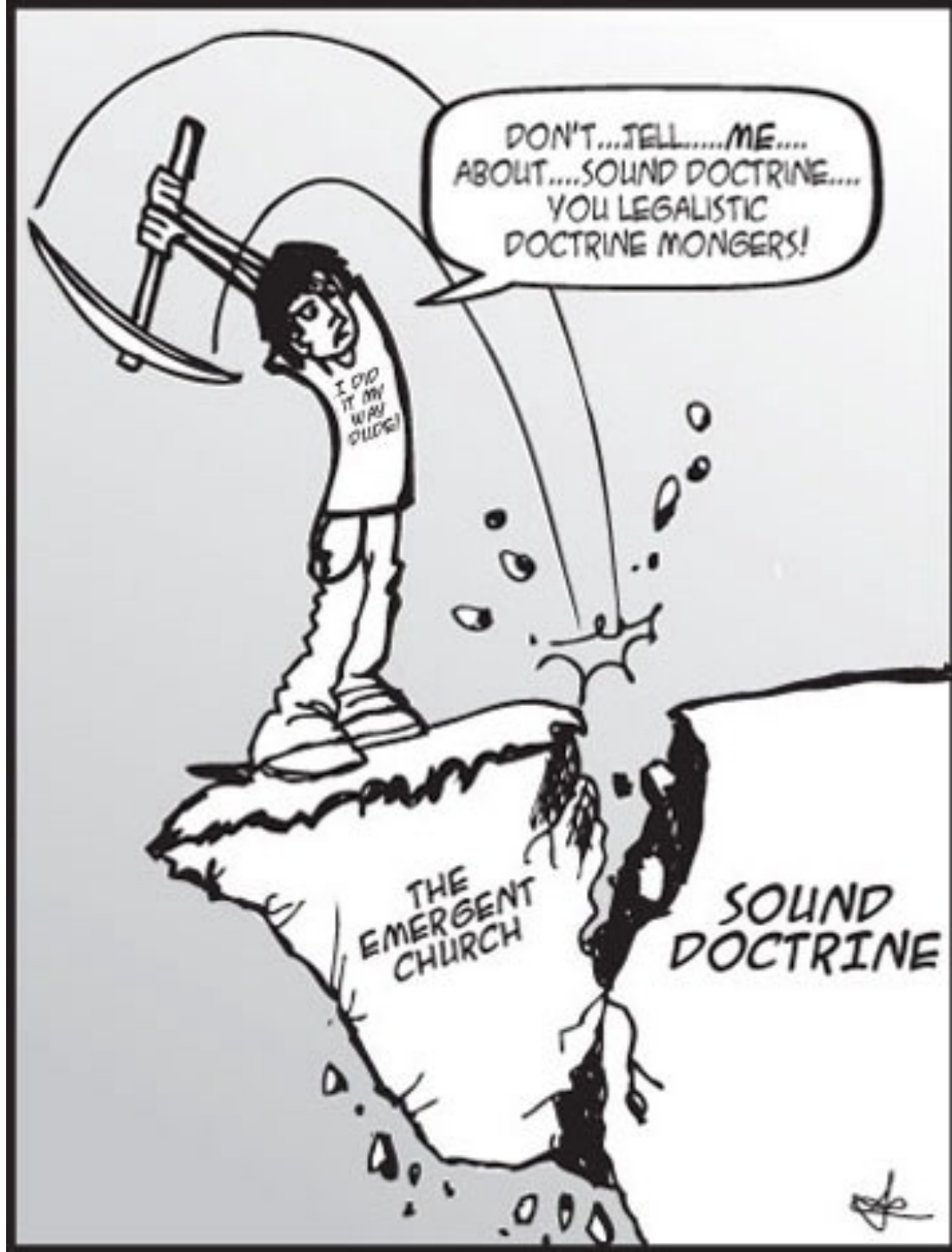
Come let us worship and bow down!

CHANGING THE MESSAGE?

The expressed design of the user-friendly philosophy is to make unconverted sinners feel comfortable with the Christian message. The only way this is possible, I fear, is to change the message. *Pages 68 - 69*



Come let us worship and bow down!



DON'T...TELL.....ME....
ABOUT....SOUND DOCTRINE....
YOU LEGALISTIC
DOCTRINE MONGERS!

I DID
IT MY
WAY
(LIES!)

THE
EMERGENT
CHURCH

SOUND
DOCTRINE

Bill Hybels



Willow Creek Repents!

“We made a **mistake. What we should have done when people crossed the line of faith and become Christians, we should have started telling people and teaching people that they have to take responsibility to become ‘**self feeders**.’ We should have gotten people, taught people, how to read their bible between service, how to do the spiritual practices much more aggressively on their own.” Bill Hybels as quoted *in Christianity Today* October 18, 2007.**

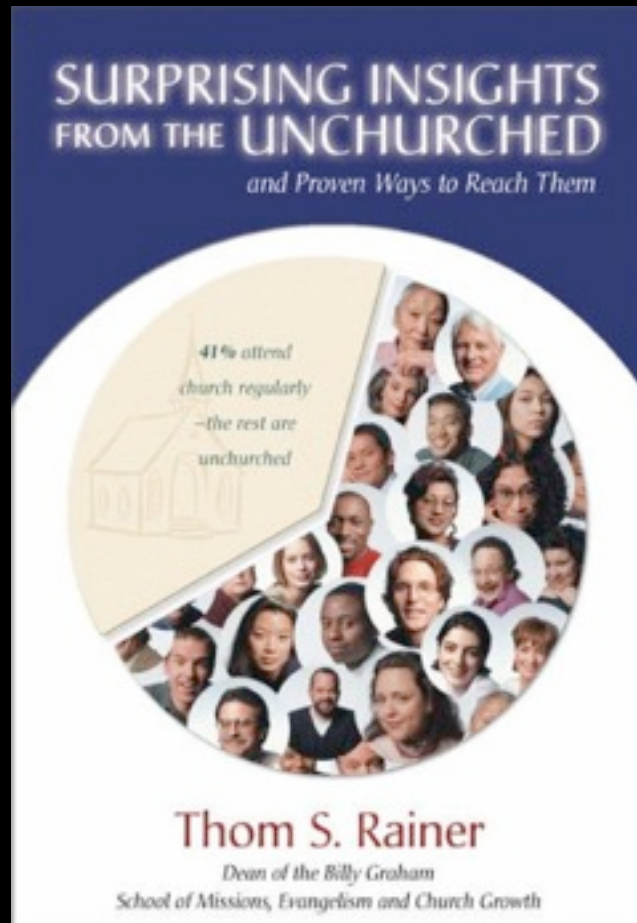
Come let us worship and bow down!

Do ADVENTIST CHURCHES GROW BY USING ENTERTAINMENT?

- **Most research shows the following:**
 - Adventist Churches grow through evangelism and through committed churches that effectively reach out to their community
 - There is no conclusive evidence that changing the worship style has any significant impact on whether an Adventist Church will grow.

Come let us worship and bow down!

Do we still need doctrine?



Come let us worship and bow down!

High Expectations?

- **“Sometimes the conventional wisdom to reach the unchurched has been to lower expectations, to tell guests we really do not expect anything from them.... [but] the unchurched are more likely to return if they understand the church expects much of their members... People have no desire to be part of something that makes no difference.”**

Come let us worship and bow down!

SURPRISING INSIGHTS FROM THE UNCHURCHED

- When asked what factors led them to choose this church?
 - 90% said it was the **pastor/preaching**
 - 88% said it was the **doctrines**
 - 49% said it was the **friendliness of the members**
 - Then it was being witnessed to (41%), family (38%), sensing God's presence (37%), a friendship (25%), Adult, youth, children classes (25%)
 - Only 11% said that worship style influenced them

Come let us worship and bow down!

SUMMARY

- What the unchurched want is... **“meaty preaching”**
- “The formerly unchurched told us that they were attracted to **strong biblical teaching** and to understanding **Christian doctrine**. Pastors who understand this and who communicate doctrine clearly are among the leaders whose churches are reaching the unchurched.”

Come let us worship and bow down!

How did the pastor influence the unchurched?



Come let us worship and bow down!

How did the pastor influence the unchurched?

- **His preaching**

- No 1 response was that he/she had preaching that **teaches**
- No 2 response that he/she had preaching that applied to **life**



**TRUTH + LIFE = POWERFUL
PREACHING**

Come let us worship and bow down!



Leviticus 10:1 KJV

“And Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, took either of them his censer, and put fire therein, and put incense thereon,






Leviticus 10:1 KJV

*and offered strange fire before the
LORD, which he commanded them
not."*



***They substituted a counterfeit
religious experience for the
genuine.***





Leviticus 10:2 KJV

*“And there went out fire from the
LORD, and devoured them ...”*





3

EB 70783557 B



THREE

EB70783557B

John R. Bolton

THIS NOTE IS
ILLEGAL TENDER

3

3



FEDERAL

20

EB 70783557 B

B2



THIS NOTE IS LEGAL TENDER
FOR ALL DEBTS, PUBLIC AND PRIVATE

Richard A. Fuld

Treasurer of the United States

B.

20

JACKSON




Matthew 24:24

“For false christs and false prophets will arise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect.”



Desire for Instant Intimacy

We use music and effects to create a “feeling” of intimacy with God. But God calls us to develop a constant relationship with Him, not based on feelings but a growing faith.

A large crowd of people is shown from a low angle, with their hands raised in the air. The hands are in sharp focus in the foreground, while the rest of the crowd and the background are blurred. The lighting is bright, suggesting an outdoor setting during the day. The overall atmosphere is one of collective excitement or worship.

***Satan's counterfeit spirit
exalts self and leads to a
false religious excitement***

Great Controversy, p. 464

“Before the final visitation of God’s judgment upon earth there will be among the people of the Lord such a revival of primitive godliness as has not been witnessed since apostolic times. The spirit and power of God will be poured out upon His children.”

Great Controversy, p. 464

The enemy of souls desires to hinder this work, and before the time for such a movement will come, he will endeavor to prevent it by introducing a counterfeit. In those churches which he can bring under his deceptive power he will make it appear God's special blessing is poured out;

Great Controversy, p. 464

there will be manifest what is thought to be great religious interest. Multitudes will exult that God is working marvelously for them, when the work is that of another spirit. Under a religious guise, Satan will seek to extend his influence over the Christian world."

- 1) God is planning to send a mighty revival to His church at end-time.***
- 2) His Holy Spirit will be poured out powerfully.***
- 3) The enemy desires to hinder this work and will introduce a counterfeit.***

- 4) He will introduce a false religious revival into Christian churches.**
- 5) Under a religious guise Satan will take the world captive.**

What is worship?

- **Worship is an encounter with God and a response to everything that He has done.**



Come let us worship and bow down!

Isaiah 29:13

“These people come near to me with their mouth and honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. Their worship of me is made up only of **rules taught by men.” NIV**



Come let us worship and bow down!

I. Worship as Response



Come let us worship and bow down!

I. Worship as Response

Man's response in God's presence:



Come let us worship and bow down!

I. Worship as Response

Man's response in God's presence:

- Isaiah 6:5: “Woe is me”



Come let us worship and bow down!

I. Worship as Response

Man's response in God's presence:

- Isaiah 6:5: “Woe is me”
- Ezek. 1:28 “I fell on my face”



Come let us worship and bow down!

I. Worship as Response

Man's response in God's presence:

- Isaiah 6:5: “Woe is me”
- Ezek. 1:28 “I fell on my face”
- Matt 17:6 “the disciples . . . fell on their faces and were greatly afraid.”



Come let us worship and bow down!

I. Worship as Response

Man's response in God's presence:

- Isaiah 6:5: “Woe is me”
- Ezek. 1:28 “I fell on my face”
- Matt 17:6 “the disciples . . . fell on their faces and were greatly afraid.”
- Rev. 1:17 “I fell at His feet as dead”



Come let us worship and bow down!

Worship

- **Involves a rhythm of revelation and response**



Come let us worship and bow down!

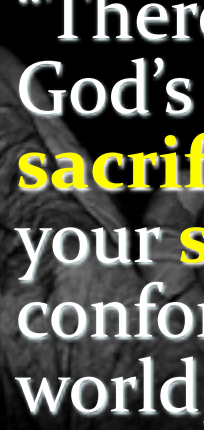
Worship and Reverence

- A response to who God is, rather than just doing rituals.
- Jesus must be more than my friend, He must be my Lord.
- If worship is a response to God, then **God is the audience!**

Come let us worship and bow down!

What worship really means...

Worship involves everything about us. It is a total life response, how we live seven days a week.



“Therefore I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to **offer your bodies as living sacrifices**, holy and pleasing to God—this is your **spiritual act of worship**. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of

Come let us worship and bow down!



Come let us worship and bow down!

New Testament Worship



Come let us worship and bow down!

New Testament Worship

- **Prayer**

- “Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit.”
Ephesians 6:18

- **Thanksgiving**

- “I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, *and* giving of thanks be made for all men.” I Timothy 2:1

- **Singing**

- Speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.” Ephesians 5:19, 20

Come let us worship and bow down!



Come let us worship and bow down!

New Testament Worship cont.



Come let us worship and bow down!

New Testament Worship cont.

- **Preaching and Teaching**

- “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.” Colossians 3:16, 17

- Above text combines teaching, singing, and giving thanks.

Come let us worship and bow down!

Is there any specific location for worship?

- **Acts 7:48 ,49** - God does not dwell in temples made by man.
- **John 4:23** – God prefers that we worship him in Spirit and in truth
- **God does not specifically say where we should worship, but it does say that we should worship him.**

Come let us worship and bow down!

**“For it is written, Thou shalt
worship the Lord thy God,
and him only shalt thou
serve.”**



Come let us worship and bow down!

What about dancing in worship?



Come let us worship and bow down!

What impact does music have on

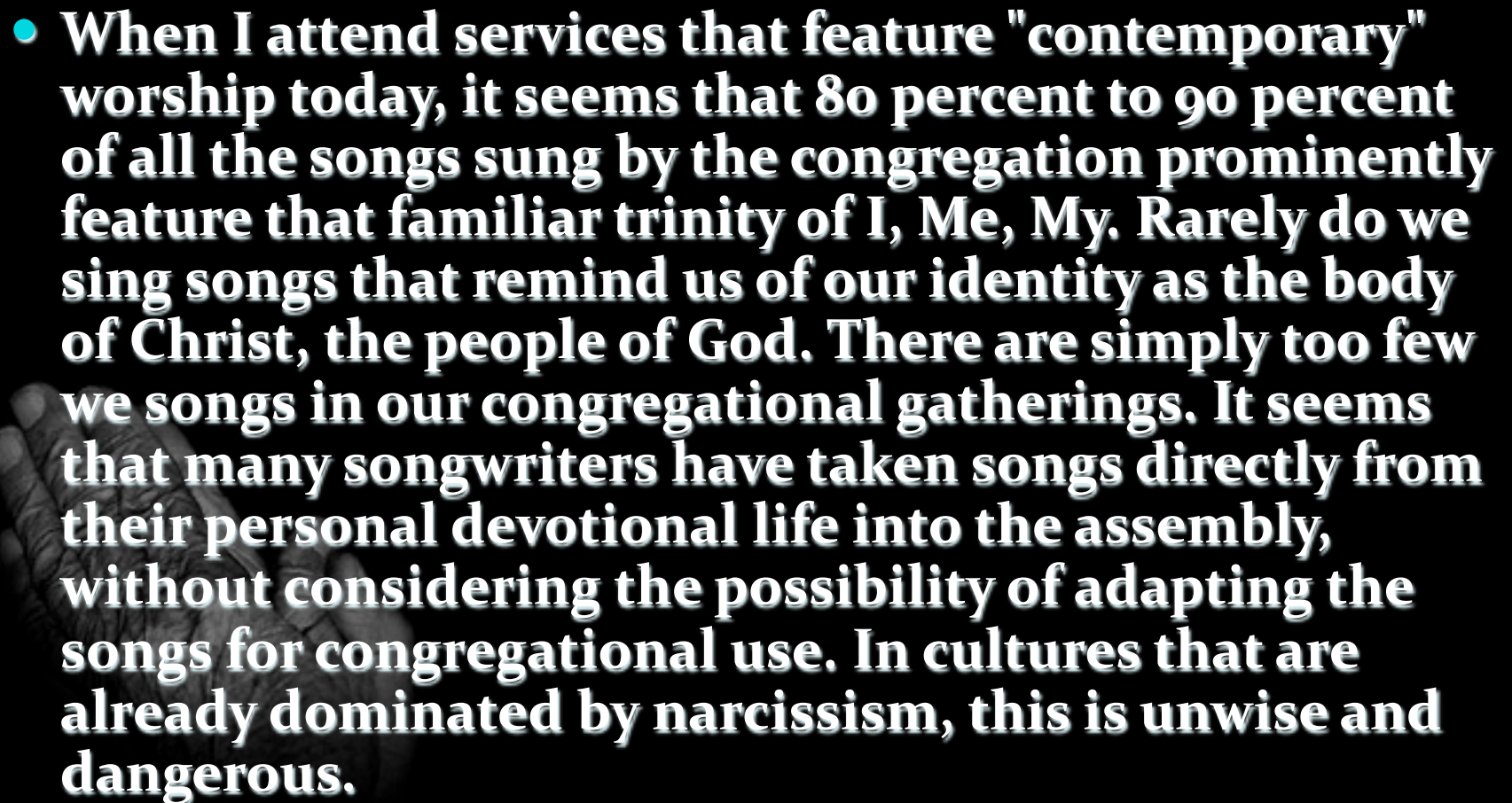


Come let us worship and bow down!

Worship is like food...



Come let us worship and bow down!

- 
- **When I attend services that feature "contemporary" worship today, it seems that 80 percent to 90 percent of all the songs sung by the congregation prominently feature that familiar trinity of I, Me, My. Rarely do we sing songs that remind us of our identity as the body of Christ, the people of God. There are simply too few we songs in our congregational gatherings. It seems that many songwriters have taken songs directly from their personal devotional life into the assembly, without considering the possibility of adapting the songs for congregational use. In cultures that are already dominated by narcissism, this is unwise and dangerous.**

Come let us worship and bow down!

- **it seems that it does not matter if I sing during worship, for I cannot hear myself even if I do. Nor can I hear the brothers and sisters sitting near me. In fact, we can only hear those few people standing up front with their microphones. Sometimes, we barely hear even them, because their voices are also drowned out by the amplified instruments that are supposedly accompanying all of us as we sing.**

Come let us worship and bow down!

- **For one thing, while attempting to reach the unchurched, churches may actually be "unchurching the churched" (as Michael Horton argues) or otherwise "dumbing down" for the sake of evangelism (as Marva Dawn puts it). I know of a church, for example, that has printed the Scripture text in the bulletin or projected it on screen each week for the seekers who might be attending without a Bible in hand. An unintended consequence, however, has been that the believers have stopped bringing their Bibles and the sound of pages rustling as the saints move from passage to passage during the sermon is seldom heard.**

Come let us worship and bow down!

- **In its services of public worship, the church must obey such Scriptures as Philippians 2:3-4: "Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others more important than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others."**

Come let us worship and bow down!