ARE WE SATISFIED WITH GOD'S WAY?

The Lord's church in an "Experience Driven Culture"





Jeremiah 6:10–21 (NKJV)

10 To whom shall I speak and give warning, That they may
hear? Indeed their ear *is* uncircumcised, And they cannot
give heed. Behold, the word of the Lord is a reproach to
them; They have no delight in it. 11 Therefore I am full of the
fury of the Lord. I am weary of holding *it* in. “I will pour it out
on the children outside, And on the assembly of young men
together; For even the husband shall be taken with the wife,
The aged with *him who is* full of days. 12 And their houses
shall be turned over to others, Fields and wives together; For
I will stretch out My hand Against the inhabitants of the land,”
says the Lord.

Jeremiah 6:10–21 (NKJV)

13 “Because from the least of them even to the greatest of them,
Everyone *is* given to covetousness; And from the prophet even to
the priest, Everyone deals falsely. 14 They have also healed the
hurt of My people slightly, Saying, ‘Peace, peace!’ When *there is*
no peace. 15 Were they ashamed when they had committed
abomination? No! They were not at all ashamed; Nor did they
know how to blush. Therefore they shall fall among those who fall;
At the time I punish them, They shall be cast down,” says the
Lord. 16 Thus says the Lord: “Stand in the ways and see, And ask
for the old paths, where the good way *is,* And walk in it; Then you
will find rest for your souls. But they said, ‘We will not walk *in it*.’

Jeremiah 6:10–21 (NKJV)

17 Also, I set watchmen over you, *saying,* ‘Listen to the sound of
the trumpet!’ But they said, ‘We will not listen.’ 18 Therefore hear,
you nations, And know, O congregation, what *is* among them. 19
Hear, O earth! Behold, I will certainly bring calamity on this people
— The fruit of their thoughts, Because they have not heeded My
words Nor My law, but rejected it. 20 For what purpose to Me
Comes frankincense from Sheba, And sweet cane from a far
country? Your burnt offerings *are* not acceptable, Nor your
sacrifices sweet to Me.” 21 Therefore thus says the Lord: “Behold,
I will lay stumbling blocks before this people, And the fathers and
the sons together shall fall on them. The neighbor and his friend
shall perish.”

ARE WE SATISFIED WITH GOD'S WAY?

The Lord's Church in an "Experience Driven Culture"



- Can the church fight apathy, materialism, and ungodliness by accommodating people's appetite for carnal emotional stimulation & exciting entertainment?
- Has the word of God lost it's power & effectiveness? (Heb 4:12; Rom 1:16,17; 1 Cor 1:18-21)

Isaiah 55:8–11 (NKJV)

8 “For My thoughts *are* not your thoughts, Nor *are* your ways
My ways,” says the Lord. 9 “For *as* the heavens are higher
than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And
My thoughts than your thoughts. 10 “For as the rain comes
down, and the snow from heaven, And do not return there,
But water the earth, And make it bring forth and bud, That it
may give seed to the sower And bread to the eater, 11 So
shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not
return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And
it shall prosper *in the thing* for which I sent it.

ARE WE SATISFIED WITH GOD'S WAY?

THE LORD'S CHURCH IN AN "EXPERIENCE DRIVEN CULTURE"



Relaxed moral standards.

Greater emphasis on grace & love … (no pressure to repent, i.e., change their thinking and lives …)

An incorrect association between emotionalism and spirituality.

ARE WE SATISFIED WITH GOD'S WAY?

THE LORD'S CHURCH IN AN "EXPERIENCE DRIVEN CULTURE"

Not A New Problem

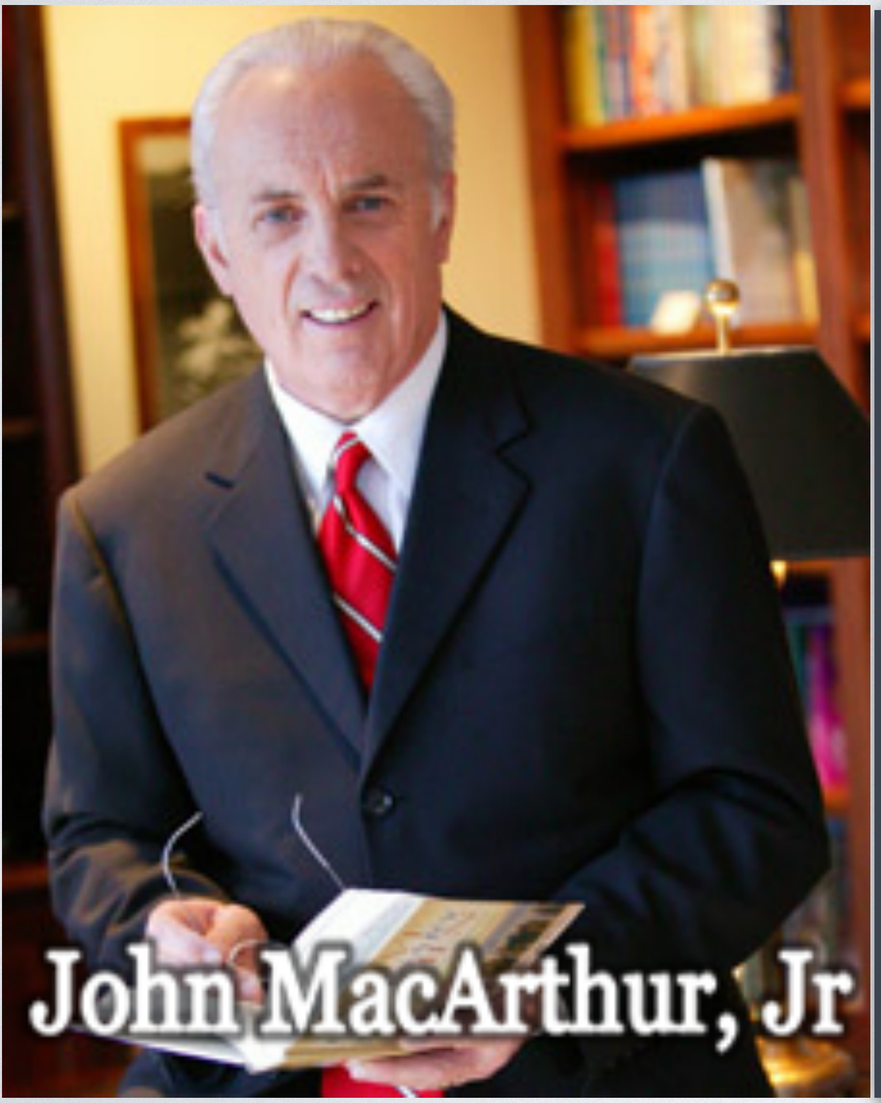


"The fact is, that many would like to unite church and stage, cards and prayer, dancing and sacraments. If we are powerless to stem this torrent, we can at least warn men of its existence, and entreat them to keep out of it. When the old faith is gone, and enthusiasm for the gospel is extinct, it is no wonder that people seek something else in the way of delight. Lacking bread, they feed on ashes; rejecting the way of the Lord, they run greedily in the path of folly."

["Another Word Concerning The Downgrade" – The Sword and The Trowel (Aug. 1887), 398]

ARE WE SATISFIED WITH GOD'S WAY?

THE LORD'S CHURCH IN AN "EXPERIENCE DRIVEN CULTURE"



"We have a society filled with people who want what they want when they want it. They are into their own lifestyle, recreation, and entertainment. They want comfort, happiness, and success. When churches appeal to those selfish desires, they only fuel fires that hinder true godliness."

(Ashamed of The Gospel, When The Church Becomes Like The World, pg 85)

What Is Missing In Our Contemporary Worship?

BY DAVID SANTISTEVAN

http://www.davidsantistevan.com/contemporary-worship/

Louise says



"Many youth today are absolutely flocking to churches that have great music (purely from a musical point of view) But the doctrine being taught in those churches is so off the wall and unbiblical! In fact I honestly believe the devil is using music to draw young naive youth into such churches. … I know some will fiercely disagree with me but see, we've put too much value in STYLE instead of content. We should go where we grow the most, where the Word of God and truth are saturated in all the church does."

ARE WE SATISFIED WITH GOD'S WAY?

THE LORD'S CHURCH IN AN "EXPERIENCE DRIVEN CULTURE"

Aspect	How Satan Draws Men	How God Draws Men
Primary Means	Deception, lies, counterfeit experiences (John 8:44; 2 Cor 11:13–15)	The Word of God / the gospel (John 6:44–45; Romans 10:17; 1 Cor 1:18–21)
Appeal	To the flesh: lust of the flesh, lust of the eyes, and the pride of life (1 John 2:15–16)	To the mind and conscience through truth, conviction, and the message of the cross (John 12:32; Rom. 6:16-18)
Method	Entertainment, emotionalism, pragmatism, no confrontation, and "the customer is always right"	Preaching the whole counsel of God—sin, righteousness, judgment, repentance, and the lordship of Christ (John 16:8; 2 Tim 4:2; Acts 20:27)

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The Lord's Church in an "Experience Driven Culture"

Aspect	How Satan Draws Men	How God Draws Men
Focus	Man-centered: "What do you want? How do you feel? What will attract you?"	God-centered: "What does God want? What has He revealed?" (Isa 55:8–11; John 4:23–24)
Power Source	Worldly wisdom, human technique, sensory stimulation, and temporary pleasure	The Spirit working through the living and active Word (Heb 4:12; Zech 4:6; 1 Cor 2:1–5)
Result	Emotional highs, pseudo religiosity, and people who remain carnal (John 6:60–69; Rom 8:7–8)	Genuine conversion, transformation, holiness, and lasting fruit (Acts 2:36–41; 2 Cor 5:17; Rom 12:1–2)
Attitude Toward Truth	Dilutes, avoids, or redefines truth so people stay comfortable in sin	Holds to truth even if it is unattractive to culture (Phil 2:14–16; Jude 3)



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The Lord's Church in an "Experience Driven Culture"

SLOW GROWTH: The product of cultural change - began w/ my generation - Rebellion; Rock & Roll; Sex & Drugs; Liberty from authority ... (Heb 2:1)

Hebrews 2:1 (NKJV)

1 Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away.



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SUBJECTIVISM: The idea of objective truth has been eradicated from the mainstream and replaced with "follow your heart" … (Judges 21:25)

Judges 21:25 (NKJV)

25 In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes. — cf. Judges 2:7



ARE WE SATISFIED WITH GOD'S WAY?

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RESULT: Pseudo religiosity, a false Jesus, pursuit of increasing carnal goals, resulting in people unable to accept the truth (John 6:66; Rom 8:7-8)

Jeremiah 2:13 (NKJV)

13 "For My people have committed two evils: They have forsaken Me, the fountain of living waters, And hewn themselves cisterns--broken cisterns that can hold no water.



ARE WE SATISFIED WITH GOD'S WAY?

The Lord's Church in an "Experience Driven Culture"

- Apostasy begins with a change in attitude towards God & His word (Ps. 95:8; 101:4; Prov 4:23; Rom 1:21,22)
- Convictions change resulting in a change in practice (Ps. 10:11,13; Heb 3:12; Rom 1:23)
- Results in changing the way we apply scripture (2 Pet 3:16; Rom 1:24,25)

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The Lord's Church in an "Experience Driven Culture"



- Style is emphasized over substance (Rom. 16:17,18; Mat. 7:15; 2 Cor. 11:14,15; 1 Cor. 4:6)
- De-emphasis of Biblical authority ("coC traditionalists; legalists; etc) 2 John 1:9; Col. 3:17; Lev. 10:1,2
- Critical of those who "contend earnestly for the faith" & apostolic "tradition" (Jude 1:3; 2 Thes 2:15)



ARE WE SATISFIED WITH GOD'S WAY?

The Lord's Church in an "Experience Driven Culture"

Start to measure what we will do by what we have done –

We will move further and further away from God –

We set a course for complete apostasy –

ARE WE SATISFIED WITH GOD'S WAY?

THE LORD'S CHURCH IN AN "EXPERIENCE DRIVEN CULTURE"

A deeper spiritual problem is revealed and perpetuated by the "EXPERIENCE DRIVEN" atmosphere.



- Has NO New Testament or Historical Precedent (1 Cor 14; Heb 12:28; John 4:24)
- Diminishes Sense of Awe and Reverence That Should Be Present When Approaching God (Hebrews 12:28)
- Reflects and Promotes A Lack of Confidence in the Power of the Gospel!! (Romans 1:16)

ARE WE SATISFIED WITH GOD'S WAY?

THE LORD'S CHURCH IN AN "EXPERIENCE DRIVEN CULTURE"

A deeper spiritual problem is revealed and perpetuated by the "EXPERIENCE DRIVEN" atmosphere.



- The BIG business of "CONTEMPORARY CHURCH" is a SELF CONSUMING practice, (The more money you pour in, the more money it takes)
- Engenders the desire for brighter, faster, and more exciting experiences - taking them further from God …
- Reinforces a "Man Centered" and a "Self Serving" View of Worship – [Idolatry] - (Rom 1:25)

ARE WE SATISFIED WITH GOD'S WAY?

The Lord's Church in an "Experience Driven Culture"

Focus AND Result Is CARNAL NOT SPIRITUAL



- **Entertained people** – NOT converted people!
- **Unlearned People** – NOT a people growing in the grace and knowledge of Jesus!
- **A Compromising people** – NOT a steadfast unmovable people.
- **Carnally minded people** – NOT spiritually minded people!

ARE WE SATISFIED WITH GOD'S WAY?

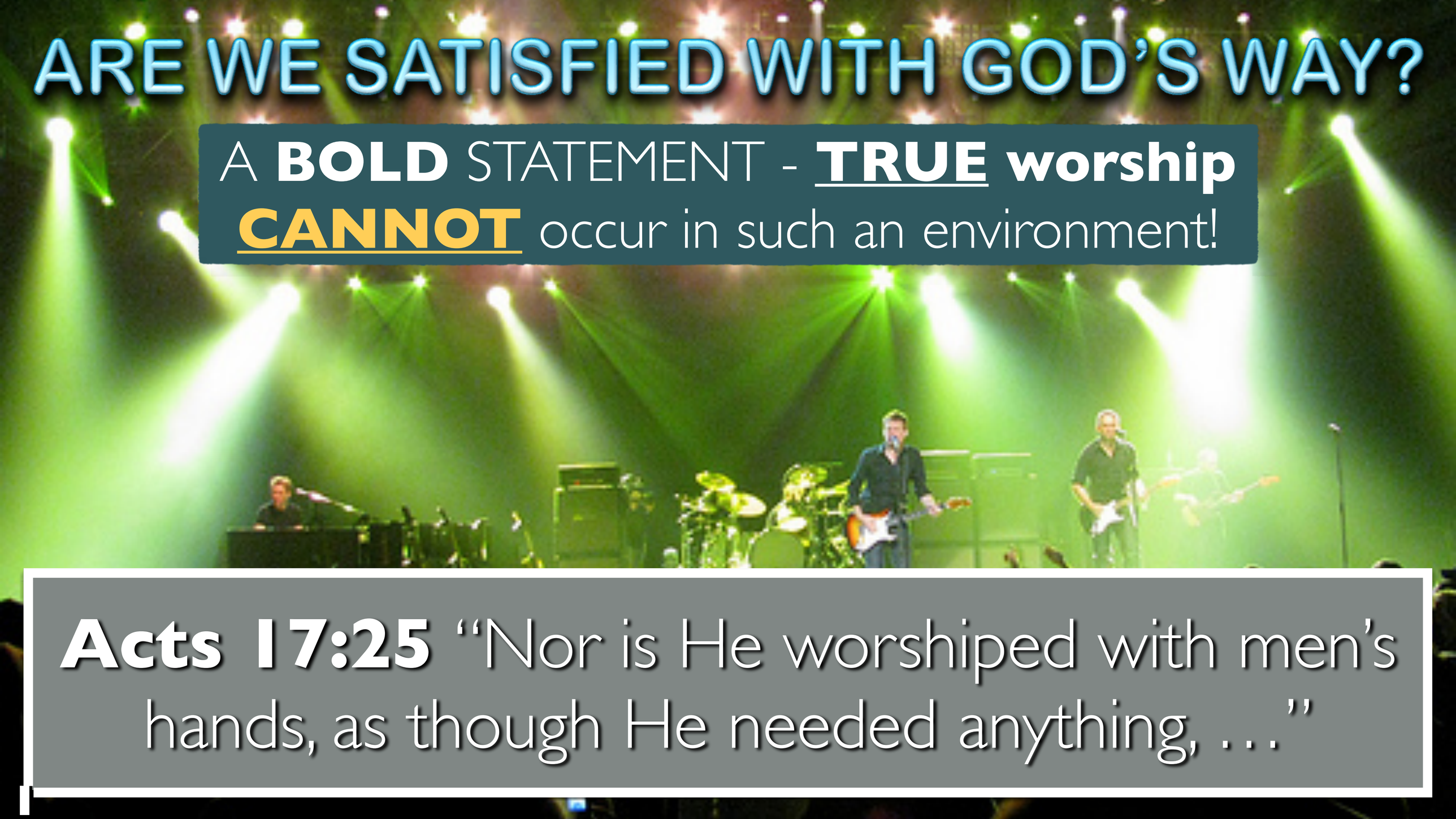
A **BOLD** STATEMENT - **TRUE worship**
CANNOT occur in such an environment!



Exodus 20:25 (NKJV) And if you make Me an altar of stone, you shall not build it of hewn stone; for if you use your tool on it, you have profaned it.

ARE WE SATISFIED WITH GOD'S WAY?

A **BOLD** STATEMENT - **TRUE worship**
CANNOT occur in such an environment!



Acts 17:25 "Nor is He worshiped with men's hands, as though He needed anything, …"

ARE WE SATISFIED WITH GOD'S WAY?

A **BOLD** STATEMENT - **TRUE worship**
CANNOT occur in such an environment!



John 4:23–24 (NKJV) 23 But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. 24 God *is* Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."

ARE WE SATISFIED WITH GOD'S WAY?

The Lord's Church in an "Experience Driven Culture"



- The truth of WHO God is (Acts 17:23-25; Lev. 10:3)
- The truth of what God has said (Eph 5:19; Col. 3:16)
- Man's ways are not God's ways (Isa. 55:8,9; Mat 15:7-9)

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Hebrews 12:28–29 (NKJV)

28 Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear. 29 For our God *is* a consuming fire.

ARE WE SATISFIED WITH GOD'S WAY?

The Lord's Church in an "Experience Driven Culture"

FOCUS MUST BE TO PLEASE GOD BY DOING WHAT HE SAYS

- **Scriptural worship – where the focus is on the Creator – NOT the creature – (John 4:24; Romans 1:25)**
  - ☑ Lord's supper (Act 20:7; 1 Cor 11:23-34)
  - ☑ Prayer (Acts 4:23-31)
  - ☑ Sacrificial giving (1 Cor 16:1,2)
  - ☑ SINGING psalms, hymns & spiritual songs (Eph 5:19; Col. 3:16)
  - ☑ Preaching / teaching (Acts 20:7; 1 Cor 14; Eph 4:12-16)

ARE WE SATISFIED WITH GOD'S WAY?

The Lord's Church in an "Experience Driven Culture"



FOCUS MUST BE TO PLEASE GOD BY DOING WHAT HE SAYS

- **Conversion** (Acts 2:36-38; 2 Cor 5:17; 1 Pet 1:22,23)
- **Submission to God** (Eccl 12:13; Mat 7:21-23; Col 3:17)
- **Transformation** (Ro 12:1,2)
- **Unity in truth** (Eph 4:1-6)
- **Edification** (Eph. 4:11-16)
- **Holiness** (Eph 4:17-5:17)
- **Maturity** (Col. 1:28;2 Pet 1:3-10; Heb 5:12,13; 10:24,25)

ARE WE SATISFIED WITH GOD'S WAY?

The Lord's Church in an "Experience Driven Culture"



Focus MUST BE TO PLEASE GOD BY DOING WHAT HE SAYS

- The way to cure apathy and materialism is NOT through materialism and mere emotional stimulation!
- The answer is found in conversion from carnality to true spirituality! (Rom 8:7,8; 10:17; Ecc 12:13)
- The only way to convert people is by teaching the gospel - holding firmly to the truth (Phili 2:14-16)

ARE WE SATISFIED WITH GOD'S WAY?

The Lord's Church in an "Experience Driven Culture"



Focus MUST BE TO PLEASE GOD BY DOING WHAT HE SAYS

- **The OLD TIME religion IS SUFFICIENT TO FULFILL GOD'S PURPOSE & PLEASE HIM!** (Jer 6:16; Heb 1:1; Mat 7:21; 17:5; 2 Tim 4:1-4; 1 Cor 3:6)
- **We are dedicated to finding the pattern revealed in the New Testament - and following that pattern!** (2 Tim 1:13)

ARE WE SATISFIED WITH GOD'S WAY?

The Lord's church in an "Experience Driven Culture"

It isn't the cleverness of our methods, the techniques of our teaching, or the wit of our sermons that puts saving power in a message and efficacy in our worship.



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The Lord's church in an "Experience Driven Culture"

The POWER is in the Word of God & is effectual through our faithful proclamation and submission to God's word!

Hebrews 4:12; Romans 1:16; 10:17; 1 John 2:3,6; 4:5, 6



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