

Celebrating God at Church, Part 2 | the motivation

I. Why is Motivation So Important?

- Motivation is everything.
- I Samuel 15:22
- Hosea 6:6
- Isaiah 1:14
- Amos 5:21
- Isaiah 61:8
- True love would sacrifice the right things in the right way. Selfish idolatry would could sacrifice the right things in the right way . . . but it would never be for the right reasons. This is why we must come face to grimy face with our underlying motives. It may not be pretty, but it's necessary.

II. What's the Wrong Motivation for Church?

- The wrong reason for church is a desire for what we'll get out of it.
- **Any motivation an unsaved person can have is not the motivation a born again follower of God should have.**
- Any selfish motivation will immediately poison the most righteous actions.
- Destruction always arises from people doing "holy" things for selfish reasons. Every travesty ever committed in the name of religion stands as a witness to my words.
 - Can God use the misguided religiosity of sinful men? Definitely.
 - Paul says that those who spread the Gospel for selfish gain are at least spreading the Gospel. And God used man's sin to purchase our salvation.
 - He will ultimately be glorified despite us, but that won't end well for us.
- When we live selfishly, we're worshipping at the altar of self. We're idolaters. We're spiritual adulterers. We've created another god in our own image.

III. What's the Right Motivation for Church?

- It's Simple: The only Christ-honoring motivation for assembling as a body of believers is to glorify God. He commands it; we do it.
- It's not Easy:
 - Right living brings blessing.
 - Because we're selfish, it's so easy to be distracted by the icing and obey simply for the blessing.

IV. How do we help our disciples have the right motivation?

- We must be developing the right motivation in ourselves.
- We must teach them the biblical Truths.
- We should remind them every time we head to church.
- We should constantly be praying that God strengthen us to obey for the right reasons.
- We need to assemble with a body of believers who will encourage us to attend and serve for the right reasons.