

the Venues

Go Deep

The Win #1

January 11, 2015

In what game or sport have you been a consistent winner?

Do you have a favorite team in this year's NFL playoff?

Over the next three weeks we'll talk about what constitutes a "win" for The Venues.

It's a win when:

When a regular attendee brings an unchurched/dechurched friend who decides to return.

Why does this "win" focus on the "unchurched or dechurched" returning?

The teaching quoted a study by George Barna and David Kinnamon that 60% of young adults (16-29) drop out of church.

What is your response to that statistic?

*What is your experience of dropping out of church?
What were the reasons?*

Here are two reasons:

1. It's boring.

What makes a worship service boring or engaging to you?

What suggestions would you make to make it more engaging?

One contributing factor to boredom is the variety of tastes and preferences we have in music and learning styles.

What style of music do you prefer?

Does a style that doesn't fit your preference affect your ability to worship?

How can we avoid turning into "The Voice" judges when we worship? Volume is too loud! Volume is too soft! Lighting is too bright! Lighting is not bright enough! The music is too showy! The music is too bland!

Here are two suggestions:

*Remember that worship is not about us. It's about God.

Read Zechariah 3:17

What does this verse tell us about God?

Read Psalm 100:1-4

What does this passage tell us about how to worship?

About why to worship?

2. It's judgmental.

The Barna/Kinnamon study discovered the following: Non-Christians aged 16-29 were asked, "What is your perception of Christianity?"

91% said anti-homosexual

87% said judgmental

85% said hypocritical

78% said old-fashioned

75% said too involved in politics

72% said out of touch with reality

70% said insensitive to others.

Present-day Christianity is no longer like Jesus intended.

The top priority of Christians is not to sin.

3% of 16-29 year olds have a favorable view of evangelicals.

25% of Baby Boomers have a favorable view of evangelicals.

27% of elders have a favorable view of evangelicals.

How do the non-Christians in your circle view Christianity (the church)?

What one word would you use to describe Jesus?

Read Mark 12:30-31; Luke 10:25-29; Matthew 5:43-48; Romans 13:8-10; James 2:8

Read John 12:32; Luke 15:1

How does the response of people to Jesus contrast with people's response to the church? Why the difference?

Evangelize is a Bible word that means "good news." To "evangelize" is to "good news" someone.

What has been your experience with sermons? Have they been more "good news" or "bad news?" Have you left feeling hopeful or hurt?

What is the answer?

Read James 2:12-13

What is the law that gives freedom? What is the law that gives bondage?

What is the main point here?

How can we practice what James is telling us?

What does obedience to this really look like?