

## ***Our Attitude about Church***

*By Rev. Greg Creasy*

Have you ever stopped to think about all the things that are associated with church? I'm not just talking about people and the building, but everything that goes into church and our attitude about church. Things such as the style of music used in worship, the atmosphere found in the physical surroundings, the color of the décor, the place you like to sit, the time the worship service begins, the length of a Bible study or worship service, even the clothing that people wear to church. While I must say that I have many preferences in all of the areas I have mentioned (and I know many of you do as well) we must keep in mind that they are *only* preferences.

When I think about church, one thing comes to my mind. Jesus Christ! We believe that Jesus Christ is the head of the church. The Apostle Paul wrote, "*And he (Christ) is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy*" (Colossians 1:18, NIV). We must never forget that Christ is the head of the church and what really matters in the church is related to our attitude about Jesus Christ and our allegiance to Him daily.

So how can we make this a practical part of our church experience? Consider the follow ideas.

*Come to church ready to worship and praise Jesus Christ only!*

The Psalmist wrote, "*My mouth will speak in praise of the LORD. Let every creature praise his holy name forever and ever*" (Psalms 145:21, NIV) and "*Praise the LORD. Praise the LORD, O my soul. I will praise the LORD all my life; I will sing praise to my God as long as I live*" (Psalms 146:1 – 2, NIV). Our life's purpose is to give praise to God. And if this is our life's purpose...should it not be the purpose of the church? Praise is one of our primary reasons to exist as a church. It sets our minds and hearts on the Lord and keeps us pointed in the right direction. It creates a spiritual hunger to know Christ more and more. He gives us strength as we minister in the name of Jesus Christ throughout the week. He renews our spirit and gives us a focus in our lives. Praise will be a priority in heaven as well. Revelation 4: 8b tells us, "*Day and night they never stop saying: Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was, and is, and is to come.*" Why not let our time here on earth, gathered as the church of Jesus Christ, be a time to praise and worship him? Come with a heart ready to worship!

*Come to church with an open heart and mind to learn from God!*

We will never come to a point of honestly saying, "I have learned all there is about being a Christian". If you do, I would be the first to tell you that you have more to learn. I learn something every time I open up the Word of God. I learn when I sit with a friend and talk about Jesus and the church. I learn by being present with an open heart and mind to receive from the

Lord. The scripture remind us of our responsibility to “... *grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever!*” (2 Peter 3:18, NIV). We must be open to learning something new when we come to church. God is not done with us yet!

*Come to church ready and willing to serve God and others!*

If you come to church to get something out of the service... you are coming with the wrong attitude. We must come to serve and give our lives to others. Jesus is our supreme example in displaying this attitude. Jesus said, “*whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave— just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many*” (Matthew 20:26 – 28, NIV). Can you imagine what it would have been like if Jesus only thought of himself? He did not come with this attitude, but with the attitude of a servant. He was (and is) not self seeking. Who will you serve the next time you come to church? How will you use your life in service to Jesus Christ through the church? What will you do for your Lord?

As a believer in Jesus Christ and as a member of His church known as Pea Ridge Baptist, it is my responsibility to come ready to worship, study and serve in His name. Seek ways to let this be your attitude about church. Don't get caught up in what you think church should be. Instead, do more to seek God's face - becoming the person He wants you to be...the person he has created you to be. Let's come with one heart and mind before God. What a joy to be part of His Church!

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