

What's Our Motive for Ministry?

By Aaron Jeffers

I was at a function in another church fellowship. I looked at the attendance board, and immediately my flesh tried to remember the number that we had attending that same Sunday. Then I was revisited with the thought, “Why do we do ministry?”

I can't tell you how many times I see programs and resources that are all about filling the pews. There's the Assimilation Seminar, the Pack-A-Pew Program, and Bring a Friend Day. All of which are conveniently packaged, and marketed for a profit. I just want to ask these people, “Why are you really doing this? Is it because you love Jesus, and truly value people's souls enough to share the love of Jesus? Or is it because you want to build a power structure that has plenty of people who pack the pews and tithe to an organization to give it more strength?”

I remember when the “Conspiracy of Kindness” came out, which is an excellent book by the way. In that book, an example of loving people is displayed by holding block parties, passing out bottles of water, and etc. But carnal people have gotten a hold of it, and turned it into a conspiracy of building a humanistic organization that we will call church. “Here's a hotdog...now fill out a card, and tell us if you're looking for a church, or unhappy with the church you attend.”

I'm not against those things, as long as they are done with the right motives. I want to challenge you with what I believe Jesus is saying to the Church, which is, what is your motive for ministry?

So here are some multiple choice questions for us to ask ourselves why we do what we do:

- 1) I want to invite people to church because...
 - a. We need to pack the pews and it will make us all feel more warm and fuzzy.
 - b. I will only be a good Christian if I'm inviting people.
 - c. Because I love Jesus, and I love people.

- 2) I personally go to Church because....
 - a. I only want to be around people who look, act, and believe exactly the way I do.
 - b. Fire insurance, everybody knows that if you're not in church on Sunday the preacher will have to lie at your funeral.
 - c. Because I love Jesus, and I love people.
- 3) Church is a place where...
 - a. If I don't get my way I'm going to be mad.
 - b. I better feel good, and hope that nobody ask me to do anything that interferes with my schedule.
 - c. I want to worship and serve, because I love Jesus, and love people.
- 4) Church is supposed to...
 - a. Be perfect. No hypocrites, liars, thieves, druggies, gossips, sexually immoral, greedy, conniving, bankrupt, or addicts. P.S. if you find this "Perfect" Church, don't join or you'll mess it up.
 - b. Have it all together by playing all my favorite songs, preaching positive Bible texts only (none of those that would actually call for my repentance), and better keep me cozy.
 - c. Be a community of people who share their common bond found in a relationship with Jesus, and want to help and serve people because they love one another.
- 5) Church is for...
 - a. Woman and children.
 - b. Those "other" people, I just go because I'm supposed to.
 - c. I need help walking this road. I love Jesus, but have my struggles, and I have my victories in Jesus. Maybe we can all help each other love Jesus more, and show this love to the community of St. James.