

RECREATION

BY KEITH GREER

Sadly, many of today's churches have stopped preaching salvation through Christ and are attempting to save people through **RECREATION**. Such churches are seeking to satisfy the demands of the masses who desire church to be "fun and entertaining." While wholesome recreation is a good thing, it was never meant to serve as a magnet to draw people to the Lord. Please allow me to explain more fully why this is so...

Personal relationships. Indeed, we should strive to have personal relationships with other Christians. Yet, is my spiritual relationship with Christ based on such human relationships?

Likes and dislikes. Does Christianity come down to what one likes or dislikes? This makes it wholly subjective according to each person's understanding and preferences.

Man's approval. Human wisdom has never been the standard of judgment for spiritual things. Man's approval has never been more important than God's!

Popular. Does it really matter what the masses say or demand? Do we have scriptural authority for taking a VOTE to see what the majority prefers concerning what spiritual direction we need to take?

Allowing people to decide the spiritual direction of a church. Some churches survey the membership to determine their opinions regarding what is important in our relationship with God. Elaborate measures are taken to tabulate the responses of the members and pattern the church's worship and work after what the people desire instead of what God desires.

Did you notice in the above points I gave that no scriptural reference associated with the above standards? Good reason—we don't have any instructions for such in God's word! Such reasoning comes from human secular wisdom, not the wisdom of

God's divine truths. Recreation has its place, but not being used as a drawing card to win souls for the Lord—God's word covers that, *Romans 1:16; James 1:21*.

Please do not conclude that I'm against recreation or having time to relax and play. Let's discuss some vital principles we need to consider when choosing the types of wholesome recreation in which Christians can be involved in:

Does it destroy my identity as a Christian? Please carefully read *2 Corinthians 6:14-18*. Does engaging in this recreational activity destroy my example and influence on unbelievers?

Does it appear to be indecent? Please read *Philippians 4:8*. Does this activity appeal to carnal desires that could cause one to commit sin—first in their mind?

Is it questionable? Please consider *Romans 14:23*. Could I become a stumbling block by encouraging a brother or sister to engage in something that could destroy his or her soul because of doubt/ Can it be labeled an “appearance of evil?”

Does it have a weakening influence on others? Please read *1 Corinthians 8:10-13*. Would my participation in this activity weaken my influence in leading others to Christ?

Does it conflict with my duties to Christ? Is it a worldly activity? Please give careful consideration in how you answer these questions. Many souls are in the balance!! ***