

The EXCESSES of Emotionalism

A recent television news commentary in Nashville reported a large church of Christ congregation being torn apart over changes in worship style that include "clapping, shaking, and throwing their arms and their hands over their heads."

Another Nashville congregation offers a Thursday evening worship service with instrumental music for college students and others who desire this format. A Christian college in another state is offering a similar Thursday evening service on their campus.

The Lord's church is under siege. Unless we resolve to stand against this error, we will fall prey to the worldliness sweeping around us. Emotionalism has shifted the standard of right and wrong in worship away from pleasing God and into a mindset that seeks to please people.

Emotion is not wrong, it is a fact of life. It is a natural, God-given part of being human. Christians, however, are not commanded to have any particular level of emotional expression. God commands right attitudes, not particular emotional responses.

We must strive to fill our worship service with godly attitudes: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness and self-control—the fruit that indicates real spirituality. These attitudes will engender, by natural course, emotions appropriate to our situation.

Any attempt to introduce emotion for its own sake is a heresy faithful Christians must oppose. Worship is not a performance designed to please the audience. It is a sacred service to God. If we fail to retain our integrity on this point, we will no longer be the Lord's church. We will have become a church of our own design.

- Greg Tidwell (Submitted)

If you lose your head, what's the use of the rest of your body?

News & Notes

CONFESSION: Jenny Rhodes.

PRAYER REQUESTS FOR: Richard Clutter (Eva Stefl's brother), Linda Fawcett (Scharlotte Cyphers' sister in North Carolina).

CARE & SHARE BEARS: Each Tuesday at 9:00 a.m. Join the ladies in this worthwhile project.

PANTRY: Macaroni & cheese.

SUNDAY EVENING SINGING: Following the worship periods on August 12th and August 26th.

SICK & SHUT-IN: City Hospital: Ruby Kenny. Weirton Medical Center: Jerry Price, Jean Larrimore. AT HOME: Betty Wilson (Margie Martin's mother), Diane Robinson, Wade Sprout, Bobby Hadley (son of Bob & Pat Hadley), Dan Williams (Sharon's husband), Ruth Brewer, Lloyd & Virginia Ferrell, Lloyd Cowdery, Mabel Sprout, Virginia Rickerd, Bette Gentry, Fred Larrimore, Sr., Fred Larrimore, Jr., Cheryl Stackpole, Betty Dunn (Pat Wright's mother). NURSING HOMES: Fox: Ray Baker. Calcutta Health Care: Virginia Clutter (sister-in-law of Eva Stefl). Weirton Geriatric Center: Edna McKitrick, Ila Plum. Aspen Manor, Wellsburg: Ione Asher.

Lectures & Meetings

St. Albans	Aug. 6-10	Lectures
Middle Fork	Aug. 20-24	F. Higginbotham
Barrackville	Aug. 26-30	F. Higginbotham
CHESTER	Sept. 16-20	Roger Rush

GO THE DISTANCE

"...he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved." Mark.13:13

Jesus doesn't say if you succeed you will be saved. Or if you come out on top you will be saved. He says if you endure. An accurate rendering would be, "If you hang in there until the end . . . if you go the distance."

The Brazilians have a great phrase for this. In Portuguese, a person who has the ability to hang in and not give up has *garras*. *Garras* means "claws." What imagery! A person with *garras* has claws that burrow into the side of the cliff and keep him from falling.



So do the saved. They may get close to the edge; they may even stumble and slide. But they will dig their nails into the rock of God and hang on. Jesus gives you this assurance. Hang on. He'll make sure you get home.

- Sunrise church of Christ, Lubbock, TX, via *Bulletin Digest*