

**University Heights Church
of Christ**

**445 Columbia Ave.,
Lexington, KY 40508
(859) 255-6257**

www.uheightschurch.com

WORSHIP SERVICES

Sunday

Bible Study: 9:45 AM

Worship: 10:45 AM; 6:00 PM

Wednesday

Bible Study: 7:30 PM (This is
immediately followed by a
short worship period)

First Friday of Each Month

Singing: 7:30 PM

LEADERSHIP

Elders

Garry Banks

David Collins

John Thompson

Evangelist

Adam Litmer

Deacons

Troy Antle

Richard Brundige

Matt Thompson

Adam Litmer

Bill Morelan

Jim Parsons

Pat Seabolt

Adam Daniels

Jamie Powell

Adam's Office Hours

Tuesday-Friday (8:30-4:00)

opportunity of the temple, and went home justified. His heart was filled with the peace of God, forgiveness of sins, and a sense that God accepted his offerings and petition.

Who goes home filled? Bring your heart full of faith, hope, and love and you will not waste a song, prayer, communion, or study of God's word. You will go home full and justified. You control all of that. Jesus was not worried about the order of assembly and the staging of things, but of the fact that "this people draws near me with the lips but their heart is far from me." That is what we need to remember to do something about when we come to assembled worship.

IN NEED OF PRAYERS

Richard Brundige, David Seabolt, Jeff Howerton, Rhonda Boyd, Louis Harrod, Paul Atkisson, Jake Spivey, Robert Brundige, Susie Burton, Valerie and Barry Boyd, Janett's mother and stepfather, Sandy Driver, Erlene Young, Burnice Richardson, Ruth Poynter, Larry Sells, Evelyn Damron, Tony Tyree, Andrew Westphal, Jennifer Dunbar, Jean Gartland, John Blessing, Alleen Terrell, the McDonald family

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“Lord, What Fools These Mortals Be!”

Adam Litmer

The ingenuity, creativity, and ability of our fellow man is astounding to me. In walking the streets of downtown Chicago last year I found myself in a forest of skyscrapers, each one larger and more impressive than the last. Pictures from a hundred years ago set next to a modern panoramic makes it hard to believe it's the same place. I've sat in multiple stadiums and coliseums over the years. I am constantly impressed with man's ability to design those structures and then to build "up" so that very few seats are obstructed by the seat in front of it. Just yesterday I commented to Jaclyn on a building that is designed, at least from the outside, to appear as though a massive windstorm blew it sideways and left it tilted precariously. It's one of Ripley's establishments and, as with most of their buildings in tourist heavy areas, is very creatively designed and constructed. Man seems impressive, visionary, and talented...until one does what I did this morning.

At 5:45 I left our rented beach house and walked down the short pier to the beach. A half hour later I watched the sun rise over the Atlantic Ocean as the waves crashed against the shore. There are really no words for it. Those nearby watched in silence and those who did speak did so in reverent whispers. I have no idea what those nearby thought about God, or if they thought about Him at all, yet each soul observing the magnificent sight intuitively understood that it was watching something wholly *other*; something unfathomably *greater*; than *anything* man can conceive. How self-worship and human pride can exist with such demonstrations of God's superiority all around us is quite telling. I think Mr. Shakespeare was on to something when he declared, "Lord, what fools these mortals be!" (*A Midsummer Night's Dream*)

Of course, evidence doesn't do a person much good if that person refuses to acknowledge that it *is* evidence. (Romans 1:18-21) Man's ingenuity,

creativity, and ability is not a strange phenomenon or the result of some “survival of the fittest” evolutionary accident. God said, *Let us make man in our image, after our likeness...So God created man in his own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them,* (Genesis 1:26a, 27) How could man be anything *but* creative and talented when the One who created Him is the absolute standard of creativity and ability? Even so, the sunrise over the Atlantic Ocean reminds us how limited we are in relation to the unlimited Creator.

There is a line that runs along the beach as far as the eye can see. The line delineates how far the water of the Atlantic is allowed to come during high tide. “*Allowed to come?*” someone asks. “You talk as if someone put a boundary on it.” That’s because *Someone* did. *Or who shut in the sea with doors when it burst out from the womb, when I made clouds its garment and thick darkness its swaddling band, and prescribed limits for it and set bars and doors, and said, “Thus far shall you come, and no farther, and here shall your proud waves be stayed”?* (Job 38:8-11)

And yet vastly limited and inferior man, with all the staying power of vapor (Job 7:7a; James 5:15), proudly boasts in himself to the ridiculous point of denying the Creator of that which he cannot begin to fathom even exists. Yes, Mr. Shakespeare was very much on to something. Of course, he was simply repeating a truth expressed by the Creator long before he ever came around. *The fool says in his heart, “There is no God.”* (Psalm 14:1a).

What Really Needs Changing?

Terry W. Benton

It is easy to fall into the mental and emotional trap of wanting something or somebody to change so that our life can be better, fuller, more satisfying and enjoyable. Consider 1 Peter 3! A woman wants her unbelieving husband to change. So, what should she change? Who can she really work on? The answer is “herself”. There is a lesson here.

Instead of seeking more “spontaneity” or disorder in others at worship assemblies, perhaps we should see that there has never been a problem with order, as that is what God wants and demands (1 Cor.14), but rather there is something we can do toward making our hearts more personally utilize the order to draw near to God. After all, Corinth was utilizing the “spontaneous” approach and did not know how to control the disorder of spontaneity itself.

Modern Pentecostalism shows the fallacy of loving spontaneity above content and divine order and restriction. Order never was the problem. The problem is that some people’s hearts are just “far from Him.” Disorder and spontaneity always puts a church on decline. People become enamored with spontaneity itself and do not realize that content and order is what God prescribes.

There was a traditional order to the synagogue assembly. They did the same thing every time. They prayed and read scripture, but Jesus never made that an issue because order and sameness is good if the heart is properly utilizing the occasion. What we bring to the assembly determines more about what we will take away from the assembly than anything else. Changing the assembly and surroundings does not really address the real problem. The real problem is within the individual heart and what you bring in your heart to the assembly.

We need *more* order to how we prepare our hearts for worship. Psalm 122 and forward begins a section on the “Song of Ascents.” These were songs sung on the way up the hill to Jerusalem. What were they doing? They were preparing their hearts to worship God. They were singing on the way up. What we do before we arrive at the assembly place will largely determine if we “get anything out of the service.” What needs changing is what we put into the service, not whether we feel like we get anything out of it.

What needs changing is whether we “set our affections on things above” and “come to the throne-room of His grace.” The orderly arrangements of the assembly have no bearing on whether we can do this. If we can’t do this, then the problem is NOT the arrangements of the assembly or the setting or the staging of the externals.

Who goes away justified? The man who is critical of others? Or, the man who takes an honest look at the inside of his soul? Who gets more out of the assembly? The critic of structure, order, or arrangement? The bored who come with no personal understanding and vision of the greatness of God? Why do some leave as empty as they came? Is it because of the external arrangements? Or, is it because of the lack of internal arrangements of the heart?

The Pharisee left the temple as empty as he came (Luke 18). Why? Was it the order and arrangements? No! The publican came with no desire to change the order, structure, or arrangements, but employed his heart with God in the

