DM 906 LITURGIES OF A CHURCH NOT MY OWN

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The church I observed was a African American Church in northwest Atlanta in the Adamsville portion of Atlanta, Georgia. All the liturgies was aimed at the head of the congregation and not at the heart of the congregation. According to our textbook written by James K. A. Smith Desiring the Kingdom the liturgies should be aimed at the heart and not the head. The church service was full of actions and rituals. When I walked into the sanctuary there was Christian rituals such as bulletins and programs outlining the church services and the various services going on and outr from the church.

The service began with devotion and prayer meeting which was touching and spirit filled. I could tell this was a ritual that was practice in this church every Sunday. The scripture was read by one of the ministers in the pulpit followed by Altar call. This was followed by lifting the offering, preaching, the choir singing and so forth. The church service was aimed at the head and not the heart.

Our text give the examples of the rituals that are aimed at the head not the heart. The author calls these examples secular rituals. They are aimed at the human person intellect, reason and cognitive parts of a person. Doctor Smith notes that human person are desiring person. The football stadiums and also the shopping malls aims at the intellect and the heads of persons. He wants the church liturgies to aim at heart of people and not the heads of people because human being are desiring persons.

He writes on[page 33[1]] of his introduction in his book Desiring the kingdom: We are what we love. "The liturgies is a heart and mind strategy, a pedagogy that trains the us as disciples precisely by putting our bodies through a regimen of repeated practices that get hold of our heart

[1] Desiring The Kingdom [209] by James K. A. Smith

and our love toward the kingdom of God." In this way we will love rightly. We love love both God and neighbor. I agree with the author that if we are to be good at anything we have to practice. The author describes what he call the world view and this is the view of the secular worldview. The author compares the the world view which has to do with the head with the christian view which should have to do with the heart.

The church that visited and observed the service was aimed at the head and not the heart. I could tell this because the people were not told they could practice the liturgies of the church as a counterculture to the liturgies of the mall and also the football stadium liturgies and also the liturgies of the world view. We are indeed what we love. Something has to happen to us that has to do with our desires. That something is baptism. When we are baptized the Holy Spirit changes our desires from the things of the world, that is the worldview and culture.

Bibliography

1. Desiring The Kingdom by James k. A. Smith 2009 Published by Baker Academic a Division of Baker Publishing Group P. O. Box 6287, Grand Rapids, MI 49516-6287