

The Menace of the Religious Movie

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I. Introduction.

- A. The tabernacle-built after God's pattern
- B. The New Testament church-also built after God's pattern and approval.
- C. The blueprint for the age was complete after the New Testament canon was complete.

II. Remote and immediate consequences for introducing new things.

- A. The church has suffered at the introduction of new things.
- B. The Apostles would hardly recognize the church today.
- C. While Evangelicals criticize Catholics for their extra baggage, Evangelicals introduce their own through new methods.

III. The religious movie.

- A. The motion picture is amoral.
 - 1. It has been a service in many ways.
 - 2. It has also been corruption to countless.
 - a. The harm lies in those who use it as an evil end.
- B. The religious movie as an evil ends.
 - 1. Does not include the travel film speaking of the harvest field.
 - 2. This involves shoddy imitations of spiritual truths.
 - 3. Usually involves some type of invitation.
- C. Why it is wrong.
 - 1. It violates the spiritual method of hearing.
 - a. Words are building blocks for communication.
 - 1) This stems from our very nature.
 - 2) This explains God's biblical revelation to us.
 - b. The Bible rules out pictures and visuals as a means.

- 1) Pictures can only recall the words that were shared.
 - 2) Religious instruction and words are bound together by a fatal chord.
 - c. The movie addresses itself primarily through pictures, but spiritual realities are to express themselves primarily through words.
 - 1) The Bible places more emphasis on hearing than seeing.
2. The religious movie is a form of entertainment.
- a. Religion should not be entertaining.
 - b. Responsible religious teachers know the danger of using entertainment as a means to convert.
 - c. Religious experience requires work, where entertainment is designed for something else.
3. The religious movie violates a sincerity of being because acting is involved.
- a. A man's selfness is what exists forever.
 - b. Because man is such a creation as this, we are to be basic.
 - c. The sincere man is one who has found nothing foreign in him.
 - d. The sincere man is consistent in character-the opposite is a hypocrite.
 - 1) A hypocrite is an acting term.
 - 2) An actor is one who assumes another character that is not his own.
 - 3) Stepping out of character may be fatal to the soul-that person has greatly harmed himself.
 - e. To simulate religious experience is perverse.
 - d. It is not uncommon to see the character of actors destroyed by playing so many different parts.
 - f. The Bible never approves acting, and it has dubious origins.
 - 1) The old passion plays were irreverent.
 - 2) The Roman Church had to prohibit priestly involvement because they had become so corrupt.
 - 3) Spiritual preaching renewed the church, not drama.

4. The presenters of the religious movie fail to possess Scriptural authority for what they do.

a. The church has a scriptural pattern for what it does-what they do is patterned in the Scripture.

b. There is no allowance Scripturally for the movie as a medium for religious experience today.

c. Playacting is bad in its essence.

5. The Scriptures allow for only four mediums for expressing religious truth and the religious movie is not one of them-we do not have a right to add to Scripture.

a. Prayer.

b. Song.

c. Proclamation of the message.

d. Good works.

e. The threat of a new organization to spread the gospel through the religious movie.

1. Is there to be added a new gift to the gifts of the Spirit?

2. Should people be drawn from the mission field to the movie industry?

3. We are to be separated from the world.

6. The religious movie is out of line with the whole theme of the Scriptures and true godliness.

a. There is no harmony.

b. There is a different in kind to preaching and acting.

c. If preaching needs supplementing than God's appointed method is insufficient.

7. The religious movie has a harmful effect on everyone associated.

a. The harmful effect on its actors.

1. Where is the reverence, fear, and humility of those adopting the parts of the spiritual giants?

b. It identifies religion with the theatrical world.

1. We are selling out our Christian separation.

- c. The religious movie will not satisfy the tastes of the young - they will seek the regular movie house.
- d. The rising generation will look upon religion as nothing more than another form of amusement.
- e. The religious movie is the doom of a lazy preacher.

IV. Conclusion.

- A. Many Christians who have bought into this medium have had to apologize for the religious movie.
- B. We must not stay still while people without spiritual insight guide the church.
- C. The religious movie represents Christian amateurism gone wild.
- D. We must draw the line against this invader and people will come to our side.

Application questions.

1. The author speaks very directly about the dangers of the religious movie. Is this message still relevant today? Why or why not?

2. Assess the author's arguments. Does the Scripture limit religious expression to only the four that he lists?

3. How did you receive this message? If you disagreed what does this tell you about the church's inability to correctly perceive things at all times? If you agreed why is this message so important for the church today?
