

One of the modern trends today in many churches is to have two Sunday worship services. One service is called the "traditional service" where things are done pretty much as they have been for years. The songs are the old favorites, and the service usually includes a sermon, and the Lord's Supper. The other service offered is called a "contemporary service" and is, by its nature, very non-traditional.

Contemporary services will allow a variety of practices not generally seen in conservative mainline churches. The idea is that the younger generations are "turned off" by a lifeless, traditional service, and to get them back in church (and keep them there) a more liberal structure and practice is advocated. Many of these services border on entertainment for the worshipers, rather than devotion to God.

But my question is why should there be a need for a contemporary service? Worship has always been defined by God (Jn. 4:23-24). Man is not at liberty to choose how he worships. To worship means to adore, not to be entertained. The goal of the assembly is not to please the worshippers but to please God. Lord's Day worship is one of the ways we serve God according to His divine plan for our lives. The Sunday assembly is not to be traditional or contemporary—it is to be worship! Worship is to be done in "spirit" as we pour out our emotions to the Creator, and done "in truth" according to how God has commanded us in His word.

If people are staying away from the Sunday assembly I dare say the problem is not with the worship service, but the heart of the worshipper. Instead of being traditional or contemporary, let's be scriptural!

See you Sunday!

-gls