

Ephesians 4:11-12

And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.

Today's verse makes it clear that we go to church to be equipped for our ministry's "***for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry***" Yet how many go to church to be entertained? How many go because they like the worship music, or even make worship about themselves? They think or even say things like, "*I don't like that song. I don't like the way they do that song. I don't like them using all those instruments. I don't like all the lights.*" They seem to forget that worship is not for them, but it's for God, and they are not God so they cannot say what songs He likes, what style of music He likes, how many lights turned on that He likes or what instruments He likes. They are basing it upon their own likes, or let's cut to the heart, how they want to be entertained.

Some go to a particular church based upon how entertaining the pastor is with his message and stories and props that he uses. Some go based upon the events that the church does, or if they have a coffee shop or not. Some treat it as a daycare and an excuse to get away from the kids for an hour or so while they are in church, and their kids are in Sunday School. Some treat church like a weekly tv show, wanting to get their weekly fix, looking forward to next week's show to see what's going to happen next.

Also notice that today's verse not only says that we go to church to be equipped for ourselves, but to be equipped "***for the work of ministry***" which means that you, yes YOU, have a ministry. But some, when they hear the word "ministry" think of a pastor or an evangelist. But notice it says for "***the work,***" not "the office" of a minister (Pastor, teacher), which means you are being equipped to share the gospel and even teach the bible just like a teacher of God's word does. It could be to your children, spouse, coworkers, neighbors, etc. and you do so with God's word as well as your actions.

Now, I don't know if you know this, but the bible does talk about us being entertainers, but not in the way you would think.

† **Hebrews 13:2** *Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some have unwittingly entertained angels.*

Notice it does not say to do it because you think that person is an angel, but rather "***unwittingly***" or unconsciously or not knowing.

And the word “*entertain*” as used here is not the word we use to be entertained by going to a concert to watching a movie, but rather to minister to, or to lift up the person you are ministering to.

And entertain means to be “*lover of strangers*” or “*entertain strangers,*” “*hospitality.*” (Strong's Talking Greek & Hebrew Dictionary.)

So the rest of the week, search your heart or even ask the Lord to search your heart and ask yourself honestly, “*Am I going to church because I want to be equipped, or am I going to church because I want to be entertained?*”

† **Psalm 139:23-24 (KJV)** *Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.*

† **Ezekiel 33:31-32 (NLT2)** *So my people come pretending to be sincere and sit before you. They listen to your words, but they have no intention of doing what you say. Their mouths are full of lustful words, and their hearts seek only after money. You are very entertaining to them, like someone who sings love songs with a beautiful voice or plays fine music on an instrument. They hear what you say, but they don't act on it!*