

Sensates, Traditionalists, and Ascetics

Sensates: Loving God With The Senses

Who Are We?

- Some Christians are moved by sensuous worship more than anything else.
- By sensuous we're referring to the five senses of taste, touch, smell, sound, and sight.
- I feel closest to God when I'm in a church that allows my senses to come alive—when I can see, smell, hear, and almost taste his majesty.

Scriptural Examples of Connecting Through Senses

- Ezekiel 1: 3-4 (NKJV)
- Psalm 115: 4-8 (NKJV)
- Psalm 34: 8 (NKJV)
- Genesis 8: 20-21 (NKJV)

What Are Our Pitfalls?

: Words may be sung with no more emotion than placing an order for a Big Mac. Also, while we're singing,

the words we say don't really matter. God knows it's just a song, we think.

Music can make us feign a commitment that just isn't there, causing us to

become callous, insincere believers.

: Someone could leave a very beautiful liturgical service satisfied by the sensuous experience without having entered the true presence of God.

Suggestions for the Road:

- 1. Listen to worship-producing music
- 2. Absorb worship-producing art (POST-IT NOTES)
- 3. Sing scriptures
- 4. Create a worship space for yourself: light a candle, set out meaningful articles, e.g., a cross.
- 5. Use a "pocket piece" (paper clip, rubber and, nail)
- 6. Vary prayer posture: stand, sit, kneel, lie prostrate

Traditionalist: Loving God Through Ritual and Symbol

Who Are We?

- I feel closest to God when I'm participating in a familiar form of worship that has memories dating back to my childhood.
- Rituals and traditions move me more than anything else.
- I begin to feel closest to God when I lay something on the altar, sacrificing it for him.
- Participating in a formal liturgy or "prayer book" service, developing symbols that I can place in my car, home, or office, and developing a Christian calendar for our family to follow are activities I would enjoy.

Scriptural Examples of Connecting Through Tradition

- Genesis 12: 708 (NKJV)
- Numbers 15: 37-41 (NKJV)
- Acts 3: 1 (NKJV)

What Are Our Pitfalls?

: Without attention ritual becomes an empty	
exercise that fills us with insincerity.	
: It is not enough for us to cultivate holiness; we	
must reach out and minister to others. Amos 5:21-24. Jesus says that religion	
without substance is hypocrisy. : Religious practice can powerfully enhance a perso	n's
faith, but it can also destroy corporate faith if it is used to criticize, measure, or	
divide	

Suggestions for the Road:

- 1. Select a Psalm to say every morning and one for each evening; Practice liturgical prayer (see Book of Common Prayer)
- 2. Set a regular time and place to meet with the Lord each day.
- 3. Follow the Church calendar and celebrate significant days, e.g.

Pentecost, Advent, Fasting, Devotions

4. Find areas of sacrifice

ASCETICS - LOVING GOD IN SOLITUDE AND SIMPLICITY

Who Are We?

• I feel closest to God when I am alone and there is nothing to distract me from focusing on his presence.

THE THREE WORLDS OF ASCETICS

- 1. SOLITUDE
- 2. AUSTERITY (SIMPLICITY, MINIMALISTS, NON-MATERIALISTIC)
- 3. STRICTNESS OR DISCIPLINE

Scriptural Examples of Connecting Ascetically

- Matthew 4: 1-2 (ESV)
- Matthew 6: 5-6 (ESV)
- Matthew 14: 13 (ESV)
- Matthew 13: 22-23 (ESV)
- Matthew 26: 36 (ESV)

What Are Our Pitfalls?