

9 Shortcuts to Keep Your Church Grounded in the Gospel

“Are you not entertained?”

The famous quote from the Russell Crowe character in “Gladiator” echoes the sentiment many pastors experience as they work to engage congregations and maintain attendance.

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“Those that fail to learn from history are doomed to repeat it,” Sir Winston Churchill said.

Throughout church history, leaders have grappled with the tension between spiritual depth and the allure of spectacle. In the early centuries of Christianity, as the faith gained prominence in the Roman Empire, church leaders were tempted to incorporate elements of Roman paganism into Christian worship to attract converts. However, the wise recognized the dangers of compromising spiritual integrity for popularity.

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One notable example is found in the life of Augustine of Hippo, a fourth-century theologian and bishop. Augustine emphasized the importance of spiritual training and discipleship, warning against the distractions of worldly entertainment. He urged believers to seek fulfillment in God alone, not fleeting pleasures.

During the Victorian era, amid the bustling streets of London, Charles Spurgeon emerged as one of the most influential preachers of the day. With a voice that thundered against

complacency and compromise, Spurgeon warned against the dangers of excessive church amusement and entertainment.

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