



Direct From Dave —
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Society today seems to foster a sense of entitlement. Entitlement is that feeling of having a “*right to something*” or that we “*deserve*” it. On Sunday we will explore how that sense of entitlement of society has infiltrated, affected and infected the church. Our ego has always been something that has to be monitored. Oh, we try to be selfless, but so many times we are selfish.

Many people today take “selfies.” They even have “selfie sticks” to assist with this. We like things to be about us! We try so hard, but we care so much about the 3 people closest to us---that would be--Me, Myself, and I! And yet scripture says “*Don’t be concerned for your own good but for the good of others.*” (1 Corinthians 10:24)



On Sunday we will continue our sermon series on **Fake Christianity** with the theme “**Meism.**” Here is where we, unfortunately, allow our selfish ways and our preoccupation with entitlement to infiltrate the church. What if we viewed worship as not what we want, but how is worshiping reaching others? As scripture said, “*For the good of others.*” It is difficult to not want things done our way.

How has entitlement encroached into the church? It is when what “**I**” want becomes such a focus that it excludes others’ needs. I have found in society that we are a people that want what we want and we want it now. There is a selfish “*right*” that we can do what we want, even if it offends or hurts other people. It’s as if people say, “*You can’t tell me what to do because I have the right to do what I want.*” You can’t stop me; I deserve this because I have...money, seniority, (fill in the blank). Really? Do we have such a degree of entitlement that we think we can do what we want when we want? Has this entitlement and **Meism** become embedded in our Christian lifestyle and worship?

Long ago there was a spiritual that said, “*Not my brother, not my sister, but it’s me O Lord, standin’ in the need of prayer.*” Maybe that is a proper use of **Meism**. Today I think it’s a mix of **consumerism** and **meism**. If I don’t like worship, the music, the message or things done the way “**I**” want them, then *they* must be wrong.

Beloved, it’s not about us!!! It is about God. It is about the good of others. Let’s not have an “**I**” problem! Let’s make sure that we have proper focus not only in worship, but in living for Christ. After all, aren’t we living for Christ, not for ourselves? Have we died to self so that Christ can shine through?

Not me, but Thee. Not me, but We.

See you Sunday,

Pastor Dave