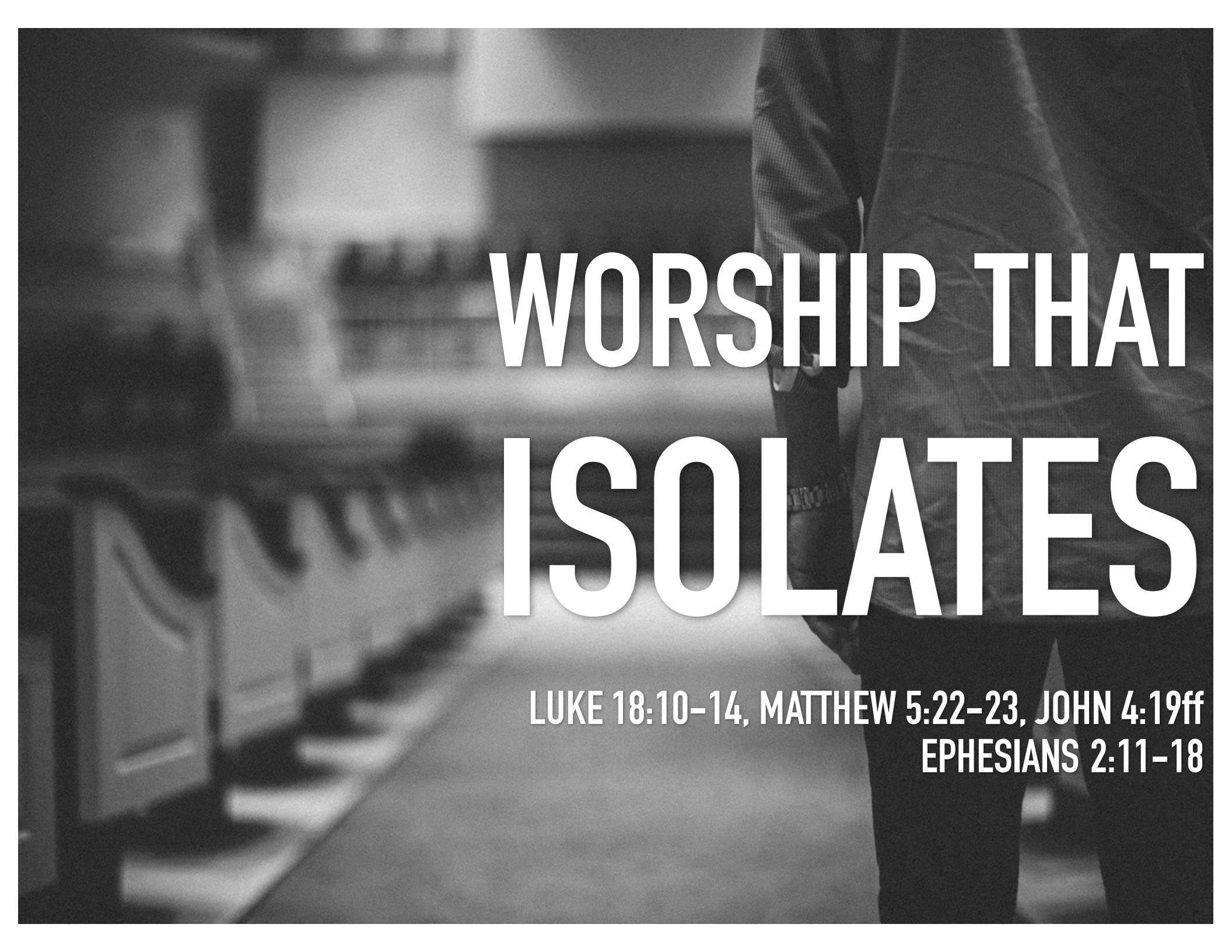


A HAPPY LITTLE WORSHIP CLUB



WHEN DOES “CHURCH” BECOME SOMETHING IT WAS NEVER INTENDED TO BE?

- **Many churches have an inward-focus when it comes to their work and worship. The attention is placed on facilitating a pleasing experience, as if church members are consumers or spectators.**
- **This seems a far cry from the way the early disciples served Jesus Christ, constantly putting personal comforts aside in order to lead others to the Lord (Acts 8:3-4, 11:19-26, 14:19-22).**



WORSHIP THAT ISOLATES

LUKE 18:10-14, MATTHEW 5:22-23, JOHN 4:19ff
EPHESIANS 2:11-18



**NO FOREIGNER
IS TO GO BEYOND THE BALUSTRADE
AND THE PLAZA OF THE TEMPLE ZONE
WHOEVER IS CAUGHT DOING SO
WILL HAVE HIMSELF TO BLAME
FOR HIS DEATH
WHICH WILL FOLLOW**



A black and white photograph of a person in a lab coat standing in a laboratory. The person is wearing a watch on their left wrist. In the background, a computer monitor is visible on a desk. The text "HOW DO WE BUILD A BALUSTRADE TODAY?" is overlaid on the image in a large, white, sans-serif font.

**HOW DO WE BUILD
A BALUSTRADE
TODAY?**

THE INWARDLY-FOCUSED CHURCH...

- MAKES WORSHIP INTO SOMETHING WE CONSUME
- SEES ATTENDANCE AS THE PRIMARY MEASURE OF FAITHFULNESS
- MAKES WORSHIP ASSEMBLIES THE END-GOAL OF THE CHURCH
- EMPHASIZES “TOGETHERNESS” AND “FAMILY” TO ITS OWN DETRIMENT
- THINKS UNITY IS ESTABLISHED IN SOCIALIZATION NOT MUTUAL SACRIFICE

SO WHAT IS THE ANSWER?

- Obviously, worship, attendance, social activities, etc. are necessary. The problem only comes when they are done in a way that is focused solely on our own desires, preferences, social circles, and satisfaction. A church that devotes all its effort to staying comfortable in its happy little worship club will never reach outsiders with the gospel!
- True unity is found much more in doing the uncomfortable things together (Romans 12:9–16, 1 Peter 4:1–9).
- "Church" is not about me, but serving God and reaching sinners. This needs to happen much more than on Sundays if we want to be true participants in the gospel (Phil. 1:3ff).