

## Artificial?

by Roy Lanier, Jr.

“But I fear, lest by any means ..... your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity and purity that is in Christ” (2 C.or.. 11: 3). “And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto myself” (John 12:32). One of the most dangerous trends among us today is employing artificial lures to draw people to Christ. Jesus said the simplicity of the cross would draw people. No lure has ever been better or ever shall be!

However, some of my brethren think they have found some better lures! They take public personalities of the day in show business and sports, point them out to our non-Christian friends, and say they are good reasons for being a Christian! They champion the sweet voice of Pat Boone, the fast legs of Bobby Morrow and Eddie Southern, the golfing prowess of Byron Nelson.

Others advertize the church because it “keeps up in the 20th century!” Do you suppose they are more interested in what the world thinks about the church than what Jesus thinks about his church?

Still others try to draw folks because the recreational activities give everyone the opportunity to “enjoy themselves”! Their forte is among young folks, for we “emphasize youth activities in our church.”

Then others use the artificial lure of pulpit power and personality of the preacher saying, “Oh, you must come to our church, for our preacher is so good.”

Why not ask folks to repent and be baptized in order to be saved?

Why not advertize the church as a group that has given up drinking, dancing, gambling, and all other forms of ungodliness?

Why not tell them they are lost without the cross of Christ?

Brethren, I am concerned because some think to draw people to Christ by ways Christ never intended! "No man can come to me,, except the Father that sent me draw him: and I will raise him up in the last day. " (John 6:44) It seems we want to get on the “good side” of people without telling them the truth too!

The gospel is its own advertising. We do. not need to try to draw people by artificial lures, but by the simple fact they are lost and the cross of Christ is the only way they can be saved!

I fear the emphasis is fast shifting, and that in the wrong direction.

Brethren, let’s “love people,” but not forget to “speak the truth” along with it! (Eph.

4:15).