

Rockin' the Ark...

Holy Rollers



When I was a child, Christians who expressed certain emotions during church worship services were called "holy rollers." The churches that permitted (or encouraged)

such expressions were called "holy roller" churches. People in the community often made fun of them. It was not uncommon to hear someone say, "That church? Oh, they are a bunch of holy rollers!" then folk would laugh.

What they were referring to was the physical manifestations associated with what was known as "getting blessed" during the worship service...usually the Sunday evening worship service. Such manifestations included shouting, waving of the hands, weeping, jumping, even running the isles, accompanied by a cacophony of loud verbal affirmations. It was not dull.

Today, most of the members of the churches previously known as holy rollers would blush with embarrassment to be so labeled. They don't carry on in the worship service like they used to. Shouting has been replaced by group clapping, and unanimous amen's. Weeping has been replaced by waving. Audio visuals now provide most of the excitement, and a lot of the old holy roller churches don't even have what one would consider a regular Sunday evening service.

I have just one question. Are the rollers still holy? It is true that there never was anything holy about the rolling, but it is equally true that more often than not those old-time physical manifestations were genuine expressions of an irrepressible

urge to somehow let loose the joy of God-granted, Jesus-purchased, and Holy Spirit-empowered salvation that was, and still is, the most exciting and wonderful thing known to mankind. I remember something else about those old-time saints...they may have been called rollers, but they were rarely accused of not being holy. Where are they today?

I've never been much of a shouter. I've never run the isles. I don't jump. But lately while clapping and waiting as the overhead screen is being lowered, I have felt like weeping. That same feeling seems to come upon me whenever I ponder the question, "Are the rollers still holy?" Why does that question bother me so, and why this inclination toward weeping?

***"Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord."
Hebrews 12:14***

Editor's Note about *ArkRocker VIEWPOINT*:

The content of this column will always be very thought provoking, stimulating and maybe even a challenge or call to action. The author will never be revealed, so don't ask because we'll never tell.

"For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus, so that with one heart and mouth you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ."

Romans 15:4-6 (NIV)