

ALL FOR ONE – ONE FOR ALL:
*Crafting worship in contemporary culture
for the body of Christ and an audience of One*

- How can we pray, preach, teach, serve and sing in such a way that we stay true to our singular objective?

For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by Him all things were created, *both* in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him. He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything. (Col 1:13-18)

- How can we worship in such a way that every generation is edified and encouraged?

When you assemble, each one has a psalm, has a teaching, has a revelation, has a tongue, has an interpretation. Let all things be done for edification.
1 Cor 14:26

And He gave some *as* apostles, and some *as* prophets, and some *as* evangelists, and some *as* pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ. (Eph 4:11-13)

I. Prerequisite of Christian Worship

- All our intentions and our efforts are offered only for the glory of God
- Corporate worship should not be unduly focused on any of the distinct activities of corporate worship: biblical nurture, scriptural exposition and theological instruction, celebration of ordinances, congregational fellowship, giving and singing, musical expressions of praise, evangelistic exhortation, personal invitation nor service. Rather, these are all the requisite activities through which we seek to display the glory of God and celebrate Him.

Not to us, O LORD, not to us, but to Your name give glory
because of Your lovingkindness, because of Your truth. Psalms 115:1

II. Pastoral Leadership Is Your Prime Directive

- Commitment to the Character of Christ
- Commitment to the Glory of God
- Continual Encourager of Worship
- Congregational /Theological Dietician
- Defer from Arguments Over Style / Tradition
- Discipleship above "Dramatic" Impact
- Enabler of Emotional Expression
- Teaching Pastor Too
- The Senior Pastor's Advocate
- The Pastors' Pastor
- The People's Piper to Praise

III. Systematic Nurture through Song

- All music was once new from Bach to Rock and Beyond
- Blended by Biblical Mandate (The Psalms/Eph. 5/Col. 3)
- Christian hymnody remains the meat of corporate song
- "Contemporary" ≠ Culturally Relevant (Relevant to Whom)
- "Contemporary" style must always include musical quality
- Craft and implement your own contemporary material
- Introduce Church history and seasonal emphases
- Introduce liturgical and particularly creedal aspects
- Plan with a Scriptural purpose not a set-list in mind
- Purposefully employ a congregational repertory of song
- Peruse the rep. list under the authority of the Spirit
- Think theologically about corporate song and worship
- Train traditional "dogs" new tricks of hymn-singing
- Traditional must equally mean musically commendable
- Worship with diversity and diligence for excellence

Song Web Resources

www.ccli.com (songselect.com)
www.gettydirect.com
www.igracemusic.com
www.sovereigngracemusic.org
www.tommywalker.net

Worship Web Resources

blogs.thegospelcoalition.org/tgcworship/
www.biblicalworship.com
www.lifewayworship.com
www.nethymnal.org
www.worshipmatters.com

Team Mentality Triumphs

- Children's Choir Focus on discipleship vs. mere performance (doctrinal hymnody, seasonal emphases, scriptural proclamation, personal evangelism of children)
- Choral Ensembles Make choral rehearsal(s) meaningful & worshipful (devotional intent, multi-generational, prayer partners)
- Community Involvement Give locals/the lost a reason to come for worship (engage community entities/groups, school choirs /ens., host community concerts, hire professional musicians)
- Senior Citizens Are the age group with the most availability & experience (seek aesthetic input, asst. with childcare, hospitality, prayer support, suggestions in song-selection)
- Lay Leadership Consider the fact that corporate worship is rehearsal for life (mentor laity in leadership, praise, personal prayer, and Scriptural proclamation)
- Logistical Assist Worship ministry is perhaps the most multi-faceted of all (admin., advertising, graphic design, IT/systems management, lighting, multi-media, SOUND, etc.)
- Youth Investment - Employing/mentoring the next gen. of worship leaders (1st companionship, discipleship, concert attendance, coaching, private music lessons, worship leadership)