

Principles for Worship Ministry

Principles For Biblical Worship

There are basic principles, provided in Scripture, which should guide our thoughts and practices in regards to corporate worship. We should use these principles to provide the framework from which we construct our forms of worship and shape our lives as worshipers and worship leaders.

God-centered

God is the beginning, middle, and end of worship. He draws us and enables our worship. He is the focus and receiver of our worship. Everything is for His glory. God is jealous for His glory, and will not share or give it to another. We should pursue God to gain God Himself, not merely the benefits that He gives to us. We should seek satisfaction in God, not just His gifts. We pursue Christ as our treasure, prizing Him above all things.

Romans 11:36; Psalm 115:1; Isaiah 42:8

Spirit and Truth

Worship is an inward, spiritual experience and expression of the heart, ignited by and carried along by the Holy Spirit. Apart from the Spirit of God, there is no true worship of God. At the same time, worship is a response to truth about God and is shaped by truth about God. Worship should be an expression of the entire life of the believer and a pursuit after the living God, not a mere performance of religious rituals or obligations.

John 4:20-24; Romans 12:1-2; Colossians 3:1-4

Authentic

Worshiping with reverence, humility, passion, and wonder from the believing hearts of His people. God does not accept worship that is not genuine and does originate from faith. Outward forms of worship that do not spring forth from inward desire and passion for God are hypocrisy. This type of worship is in vain and God is not honored. It will produce no spiritual fruit or eternal benefits. Biblical worship is authentic worship.

Psalm 42:1-2; Psalm 63:1-8; Psalm 73:23-26; Matthew 15:8-9; Hebrews 11:6

Biblical Principles and Motivation for Worship Team Members

If worship is to be God-centered, then those who lead should be motivated by a pursuit of God and leading the congregation to bring Him glory. If worship is to be in spirit and in truth, then those who lead should have an inward pursuit of God, based on and in response to His truth, and not merely outward rituals or expressions. If worship is to be authentic, then those that lead must be believers and pursuing Christ with their lives. Anything less is vain worship. Our goal should be to seek and experience the powerful manifestation of the glory of God in our lives and in the gatherings of the body of Christ. Those who lead should have the capacity to understand and assist in this pursuit.

Therefore, the characteristics that are important for those who are lead worshipers could be summarized by the following three qualities – a heart for God, a heart for the team, and a heart for the congregation.

Biblical Principles and Motivation for Worship Team Members (continued)

Heart For God

True worship leading will come from a heart that is passionately pursuing God. Being on the worship team is not about entertaining people. We can play all of the right notes, sing all the right words, and be expressive and demonstrative in our presentation – and it can all be a complete farce. If our leading does not come from a genuine heart for God, God does not accept it. It is hypocrisy. His Word is absolutely clear on this.

Our heart for God is demonstrated by authentic and genuine worship, humility, reverence, being Spirit led and empowered, having our focus and vision on God and bringing glory to Him, etc.

1 Samuel 16:7; Psalm 2:11; Psalm 42:1-2; Psalm 51:15-17; Psalm 63:1-5; Psalm 111:10; Psalm 115:1; Proverbs 1:7; Proverbs 9:10; Proverbs 28:26; Ecclesiastes 12:13; Isaiah 42:8; Matthew 15:8-9; Luke 12:1; John 4:20-26; Acts 4:13; Acts 5:1-14; Acts 6:1-7; Acts 8:14-24; Acts 17:24-28; Acts 19:13-16; Romans 12:1-2; 1 Corinthians 1:26-2:5; 1 Corinthians 5:6; 2 Corinthians 12:9; Galatians 5:9; Philippians 3:7-11; Ephesians 5:18-20; Colossians 3:1-4; Hebrews 12:1-2; Hebrews 12:28; James 4:6; 1 Peter 5:5-6

Heart For the Worship Team

Working together, leading worship, there is a tremendous amount of time is spent together. We need to be able to work together with grace and humbleness, considering the needs of others above our own. It is absolutely essential that we be able to serve and work together in unity, striving toward the goal of pursuing God in worship. If the focus becomes ourselves or our own personal preferences and priorities, the effect could be devastating to the entire team and, therefore, the church. As we minister together, the passionate pursuit of God and an unwavering commitment to the love and care for the body of Christ is a powerful tool in God's hands.

Our heart for the worship team is demonstrated by a teachable spirit, forgiveness, charity, humility, encouragement, submission to one another in love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control, valuing each other's time commitment by being on time to practices and meetings, etc.

Acts 2:32-35; Galatians 5:9; Ephesians 5:21; Philippians 2:1-11; Philippians 3:12-16; Colossians 3:12-16

Heart For the Congregation

As a worship team, we exist for the purpose of leading others to worship God. We have the responsibility to lead by word, song, expression, and actions. We are issuing an invitation to those that are hungry for God. We are seeking to provide an atmosphere and opportunity, for those that come seeking God, to experience the joy and satisfaction of worshiping Him together with brothers and sisters in Christ. We do not participate on the team with the primary goal of getting to play and sing music, using whatever musical abilities we may have. Our primary goal is to lead people in worship. We are also issuing an invitation to those that don't come hungering for God. We want to give them a taste of something that maybe they have never had before or something that they have not experienced in a long while – the presence and glory and grace of the Almighty God. Our goal is that the church would worship and experience the living God and that they would be edified.

Our heart for the congregation is demonstrated through engaging and inviting worship, being hospitable, friendly, connected, authentic, and transparent worship leadership. It is modeled through leading others in adoration, confession, thanksgiving, and supplication. It is shown by our desire to see them worship the Lord and experience fullness in Him and leading them by example.

Ephesians 1:15-21; Ephesians 3:14-21; Philippians 2:1-12; 1 Thessalonians 3:6-13