

# + Worship Arts Philosophy



### *What is Worship?*

Worship is a universal human activity of attributing worth to something or someone that ultimately governs our time, thoughts, longings, and actions.

*Christian* worship is distinct in that God is the object of our worship (2 Kng. 17:35-36; Jhn. 4:23), through Jesus Christ (Heb. 8:1-2, Rev. 5:9-10), and by the power of the Holy Spirit (Phil. 3:3). The purpose and end of all of existence is God's glory (Rom. 11:36) therefore, as the Westminster Confession explains, "The chief end of man is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever." Thus, worship involves all of life; nothing said, thought, or done is out of the realm of the worship of God. Worship is not primarily something we do for God. Rather, worship is a *response* to what God has done for us. While this defines "worship" in the broadest sense, the word is also used to describe more narrowly a "worship service," and even "singing" within a worship service.

### *Why Worship?*

We worship because we *are worshipers*. We have been created to bring glory to God (Isaiah 43:7, Col 1:16; Eph. 1:11-12, Rev 13:8). We worship *God* for who He is (His character, attributes, and glorious beauty – Ps. 136, 148) and what He has done (redemption through Christ from sin by grace – Ps. 98; Rom. 12:1).

Magnifying God's glory is the purpose of our very existence now and for eternity (1 Cor. 10:31; Rev. 5:13).

### *Who is Involved in Worship?*

There are basically three "participants" in corporate worship: God, the church, and the world. First, God is both the recipient and initiator of worship. He receives honor as the object of our worship but also initiates worship by acting first, in grace, to enable us to worship Him rightly through Christ (Heb. 8:1-2).

The second "participant" in corporate worship is the church. As believers gather together to worship, they are edified and blessed as a by-product of adoring our great God (Heb. 10:24-25).

The final "participant" in corporate worship is the world. Every Sunday unbelievers gather with Christ-followers and witness true worship. Therefore, corporate worship is evangelistic as it serves as a witness of the validity of the gospel to unbelievers (Acts 2:42-47). This means our worship must be both accessible (music and teaching is simple with depth and clarity) and intelligible (leaders must orient the gathered and use language free of "Christian jargon").

Keeping all three participants in mind, God is the object of our worship, while the church is edified in our worship, as it is a witness to the watching world.

### *Mission*

The Worship Arts Ministry exists to glorify God, for who he is and what he has done, and to lead others to do the same through the arts.

*Vision: A picture of what could be fueled by a desire for what should be.*

*Question:* What is the thing that seems impossible but if you figured it out, it would change everything in your industry? (e.g. Steve jobs. Make computers easy to use)

#### *A Vision for our Worship Services:*

What if our church ended the worship war and started a feast? All God's people, young and old, gathering together at one table to feast/ behold the Glory of God in the Gospel of Christ (Titus 2:1-14; John 17:21-23; Acts 4:13).

#### *A Vision for the Worship Arts Ministry:*

Become a ministry that contributes to the global Church, rather than consuming from the global Church. Become an irrationally generous, gospel-centered *resourcing* Worship Arts Ministry (Ephesians 4:11-16).

### *Core Values of Ministry*

- Godward, Gospel-Centered Worship
- God's Word
- Engagement
- Contributors before consumers
- Head and Heart
- Undistracting Excellence
- Balanced Nutrition
- Diverse Expressions of Worship

### *Disciple Making Strategy:*

- Win
  - Win people to what we win people with
    - Gospel-Centered Worship Service
    - Passionate participation before contextualized relevance
- Equip
  - Worship as the fuel for making gospel-centered disciples
- Send
  - Worship as the goal of making gospel-centered disciples
  - "Missions exists because worship doesn't" –*John Piper*

*Role of the worship leader:*

A faithful worship leader magnifies the greatness of God, in Jesus Christ, through the power of the Holy Spirit, skillfully combining God's Word with music thereby motivating the gathered Church to proclaim the gospel, to cherish God's presence, and to live for God's glory. – Bob Kauflin, *Worship Matters*

*Behavioral Values - How Should We Lead?*

- Stay Healthy
  - Because we bring *all* of ourselves in worship, “How am I nurturing my health spiritually, emotionally, physically, and relationally?”
- Model Worship
  - Because worship is more than Sunday morning and involves all of life, “How can my life better reflect the gospel and worship God?”
- Make it Better
  - Because excellence honors God and inspires others, “What am I doing to help us improve as a ministry?”
- Take it Personally
  - Because ministries succeed with people who think and act like owners, not employees, “How am I personally engaged in the mission and vision of the Worship Arts Ministry?”
- Nurture Relationships
  - Because relationship is foundational to worship...
    1. “What am I doing to foster a deeper intimacy with God? (Vertical)
    2. “How am I caring for others on my team and in my church?” (Horizontal)
    3. “How am I cultivating a heart for the lost and engaging those within my sphere of influence?” (External)
- Wash Some Feet
  - Because we are called to be spiritual contributors not spiritual consumers, “What am I doing to serve and honor others before myself?”