

**THE HEART OF WORSHIP: A Worship Leader Training**  
March 20, 2021 @ FBC, Union, New Jersey

**Introduction:**

“It is easily forgotten that the fellowship of Christian brethren is a gift of grace, a gift of the kingdom of God that any day may be taken from us, that the time that still separates us from utter loneliness may be brief indeed. Therefore, let him who until now has had the privilege of living a common Christian life with other Christians praise God’s grace from the bottom of his heart. Let him thank God on his knees and declare: It is grace, nothing but grace, that we are allowed to live in community with Christian brethren.” – Dietrich Bonhoeffer (1906-1945)

**Our Purpose in Life**

In the whole passage of Ephesians 1:6, 12, 14, Paul had emphasized that everything that God has done for us to redeem us, adopt us, and love us were all “*to the praise of his glory.*” This truth urges us to worship God for his glory. Truly, our main purpose in life is to glorify God. Even the creation worships God, in Psalm 19:1, “*The heavens declare the glory of God, and the expanse proclaims the work of his hands.*”

Now that we have grounded that worship is essential in Christian life, we will focus on the topic of worship leading and the heart of worship.

**What is Worship Leading?** In order to come up with a good definition of worship leading, we need to understand what worship is.

**What is Worship?** Let us read the following verses:

- Psalm 29:1-2, “*Ascribe to the Lord, O heavenly beings, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength. Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; worship the Lord in the splendor of holiness.*”
- Corporate worship, Psalm 100
  - o Hebrews 10:24-25, “*And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.*”
  - o Romans 15:5-7, “*May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.*”
- Read: John 4:21; Matthew 18:20; 1 Corinthians 11-14 (11:18; 14:23-25, 40); Colossians 3:16; 1 Timothy 4:11-16
- Hebrews 12:28-29, “*Therefore, since we receive a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let’s show gratitude, by which we may offer to God an acceptable service with reverence and awe; for our God is a consuming fire.*”
- This is the gravity of worshipping God. We ought to give our best; we need to be lively because it is a celebration of Christ’s victorious work; it ought to be joyful. (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18; Luke 15:32, rejoice in all things for worship)

Let us ask our dear brothers in Christ from the past: J. I. Packer said, *“It is essentially doxology, a giving of glory, praise, honour, and homage to God.”*

George Swinnock: Worship comprehends all that respect which man oweth and giveth to his Maker.... It is the tribute which we pay to the King of Kings, whereby we acknowledge his sovereignty over us, and our dependence on him.... All that inward reverence and respect, and all that outward obedience and service to God, which the word [godliness] enjoineth, is included in this one word worship. (Swinnock 1:31)

Stephen Charnock: God is a Spirit infinitely happy, therefore we must approach him with cheerfulness; he is a Spirit of infinite majesty, therefore we must come before him with reverence; he is a Spirit infinitely high, therefore we must offer up our sacrifices with deepest humility; he is a Spirit infinitely holy, therefore we must address him with purity; he is a Spirit infinitely glorious, we therefore must acknowledge his excellency... he is a Spirit infinitely provoked by us, therefore we must offer up our worship in the name of a pacifying mediator and intercessor. (Charnock 1:298)

### **The Big Problem:**

Worship is now being taken for granted by “religious consumers.” They are the one who asks “did I like the musicians?” “Was the service good for me?” Having the customer mindset who thinks that customers are always right.

But Bonhoeffer reminds us that “we enter into that common life [ie. corporate worship] not as demanders but as thankful recipients.”

### **Corporate Worship is Discipleship**

Ephesians 5:12-16, *“to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.”* This includes singing, psalms, hymns, spiritual songs, and giving thanks (Ephesians 5:19-20).

### **In Short:**

1. Read the Word (Call to Worship; Scripture Reading)
2. Pray the Word (Opening and Closing Prayer)
3. Preach the Word (Message)
4. Sing the Word (Praise and Worship)
5. See the Word (Summarized in the two ordinances: Baptism and Lord’s Supper)

**Christo-centric (Christ-centered) worship:** Christ *and* Us (reverence), Christ *with* Us (co-heirs), *in* Christ (communion), *through* Christ (access), *of* Christ (finished work), *to* Christ (exaltation), and *for* Christ (purpose).

## Qualifications:

1. *You must be a Christian.* Worship is a privilege only given to God’s children. Only Christians can offer true worship to God. Our object of reverent worship is God in Christ and subjectively applied by the Spirit to make it possible. (John 3:5-8: spiritual regeneration or born again in Spirit)
2. *You must have a Commitment* (Proverbs 16:3; Psalm 37:5; Mark 12:30-31)
  - a. You must understand Volunteering as Servant Leadership
  - b. A ministry of service, Christ-modeled service
  - c. 2 Timothy 2:15, “*Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.*”
3. If you know have to serve, then you know how to lead.
  - a. Relational and connection to the body of Christ
  - b. The presence of “togetherness”

**Benediction:** Jude 24-25 or 2 Corinthians 13:14, “*The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.*”

Next is **Call to Worship** by Bro. Demler Bedayo

### TRUE & PROPER WORSHIP

“Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship”

Romans 12:1

by: **Ptr. John Paul Arceno**/ March 20, 2021

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### References:

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