

Men's Worship Training Workshop

Attitude

Remember What Worship Is All About:

1. What it isn't:
 - a) To Entertain others
 - b) To gain recognition for yourself
 - c) To call people out or press a personal agenda
 - d) To impress others
 - e) To gain power or prestige
2. What it is:
 - a) **We want to be "True Worshipers":** John 4:23-24 – *"23) But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. 24) God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth."*
 - b) **Remember that God is in our presence:** Matthew 18:20 – *"For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them."*
 - c) **Praising God In Song:** Psalm 147:1 – *"Praise the Lord! For it is good to sing praises to our God; for it is pleasant, and a song of praise is fitting."*
 - d) **It's All About God – Not Us!**

Your Spiritual Condition Is Important:

1. **A clean life is important:** Psalm 66:18 – *"If I had cherished iniquity in my heart, the Lord would not have listened."* Proverbs 15:8 – *"The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the Lord, but the prayer of the upright is acceptable to him."*
2. **Be a good example:** Matthew 5:16 – *"In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven."*
3. **Be humble and contrite:** Isaiah 66:2 – *"All these things my hand has made, and so all these things came to be, declares the Lord. But this is the one to whom I will look: he who is humble and contrite in spirit and trembles at my word."*
4. **Be holy and acceptable to God:** Romans 12:1 – *"I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship."*

5. **Effects of sinful behavior:** A Christian that is openly struggling with sin in his life, must be temporarily suspended from public worship participation until such time he can repent of and correct his sin, and allow sufficient time to restore the trust of the congregation and once again be regarded as a good example.

Bible Examples Of Good And Bad Attitudes Toward Worship:

1. **Cain:** Genesis 4:4-7 – *“4) and Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat portions. And the Lord had regard for Abel and his offering, 5) but for Cain and his offering he had no regard. So Cain was very angry, and his face fell. 6) The Lord said to Cain, ‘Why are you angry, and why has your face fallen? 7) If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is for you, but you must rule over it.’”*
2. **The Patriarch Built Altars:** The first altar we read of is that erected by Noah (Gen 8:20). Altars were erected by Abraham (Gen 12:7; 13:4; 22:9), by Isaac (Gen 26:25), by Jacob (33:20; 35:1,3), and by Moses (Ex 17:15).
3. **Jacob:** Genesis 35:1-4 – *“35 God said to Jacob, ‘Arise, go up to Bethel and dwell there. Make an altar there to the God who appeared to you when you fled from your brother Esau.’ 2 So Jacob said to his household and to all who were with him, ‘Put away the foreign gods that are among you and purify yourselves and change your garments. 3) Then let us arise and go up to Bethel, so that I may make there an altar to the God who answers me in the day of my distress and has been with me wherever I have gone.’ 4 So they gave to Jacob all the foreign gods that they had, and the rings that were in their ears. Jacob hid them under the terebinth tree that was near Shechem.”*
4. **David:** Psalm 122:1 – *“I was glad when they said to me, ‘Let us go to the house of the Lord!’”*
5. **Levi Priests:** Malachi 1:6-8 – *“6) A son honors his father, and a servant his master. If then I am a father, where is my honor? And if I am a master, where is my fear? says the Lord of hosts to you, O priests, who despise my name. But you say, ‘How have we despised your name?’ 7) By offering polluted food upon my altar. But you say, ‘How have we polluted you?’ By saying that the Lord’s table may be despised. 8) When you offer blind animals in sacrifice, is that not evil? And when you offer those that are lame or sick, is that not evil? Present that to your governor; will he accept you or show you favor? says the Lord of hosts.”*
6. **Money Changers:** Matthew 21:12-13 – *“12) And Jesus entered the temple and drove out all who sold and bought in the temple, and he overturned the tables of the money-changers and the seats of those who sold pigeons. 13) He said to them, ‘It is written, ‘My house shall be called a house of prayer,’ but you make it a den of robbers.”*
7. **Pharisees:** Attempted to lead the people in worship and service but were corrupt and consumed with personal recognition and adoration -- that was their agenda and it tainted the entire worship process.

Worship Leaders Control The Tone And Energy Level Of Worship:

1. The worship tone and energy level is reflective of a congregation's spiritual health.
2. The tone of worship sends a signal to visitors: It can be negative or positive.
3. Yes, the first goal of worship is to praise our God in heaven, but we also want to create an environment that uplifts and encourages.
4. **Announcements:** Usually the first person to address the congregation. (Brief and to the point)
5. **Song Leaders:** We will have separate lessons on song leading later in the class that will focus on the mechanics of song leading. But the attitude is just as important as the mechanics. Song leaders must create a positive tone for the worship. This is accomplished by using the appropriate pitch and tempo linked with enthusiasm and passion.
 - a) Psalm 100:1-2 – *“Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth! Serve the Lord with gladness! Come into his presence with singing!”*
 - b) Psalm 95:1-2 – *“Oh come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation! Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!”*
6. **Prayer Leaders:** When leading public prayer, you have the responsibility of leading the entire congregation in prayer, and you are speaking directly to God. Make your prayers scriptural, relevant and timely. Most importantly pray from your heart!
 - a) Matthew 6:7 - *“And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words.”*
7. **Lord's Supper Speaker:** It is your goal to help the congregation to reflect upon Christ's death on the cross. All your comments and scripture references must focus on Jesus. That's the point of the Lord's Supper. This is a very important part of our worship and is deserving of special emphasis.
 - a) 1 Cor 11:26-27 – *“For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of profaning the body and blood of the Lord.”*
8. **Preaching, Invitations & Teaching:** First of all, you're presenting God's Word and you *must* always treat it with the utmost respect. This will require advance preparation and a lot of practice in the beginning. *Winging it* is never a good idea! It is usually good to get some constructive criticism to help you improve.

Preparation:

1. **Be prepared mentally and spiritually.** Clear your mind, be aware of what you are doing and why. Perhaps say a quick prayer to yourself asking God for help.

2. **Be on time:** Chronic tardiness for worship can be an indication of a lack of preparation and seriousness. When you are late you make things difficult for the worship organizers.
3. **Song leaders:** Make your song selections early and get them in a day or two early so the Power Point slides can be set up. Double check your pitches and tempos. If you have advanced notice of sermon titles, try to choose songs that will relate.
4. **Prayer Leaders:** Listen closely to announcements and make a list you can include in your prayer.
5. **Lord's Supper Speaker:** Give some prior thought to the things you will say.
6. **Preaching and Invitation:** It goes without saying that prior reflection and study is a must. Some try to speak off the top of their head – most people are unable to do this effectively. Just because a person talks for a long time doesn't mean a lot of thought went into the presentation. A lengthy, long-winded talk often reflects a lack of organization, study and structure. That's why notes or a brief outline is important. In our sermon prep class we will talk about the art of sermon editing.

Ability & Talent:

1. Matthew 25:24-25 – *"24) He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed, 25) so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.'"*
2. Don't hide your talent in the ground!
3. Try things at least once to discover what your natural abilities may be.
4. Don't give up if you begin poorly, perhaps with time and work you can improve.
5. Don't be lazy and just do what comes easily.
6. Some men with above average talent in a particular area may depend solely on their talent and never truly develop it. You might get by with this for a while, and other Christians may compliment your efforts. But deep down you know you aren't doing your best, and God knows it too.
7. Some men may also have promising talents in leadership. This talent needs to be nurtured and mentored over time to provide future elders, deacons, teachers and preachers.