

Men's Worship Training Workshop

Serving In Public Worship

Things To Consider About Worship:

1. **1 Corinthians 14:40** – *“But all things should be done decently and in order.”*
 - Be on time
 - Be prepared to participate
 - Don't be a distraction
 - Be presentable in your dress (Clean and well-arranged clothes). Avoid wearing clothing with advertising, slogans, or sports logos. People's mind will wonder if they are reading the writing on your shirts. Be neat in your appearance. Shorts and sandals may be great for a backyard barbecue but inappropriate for worship. Remember: Your appearance makes a statement about you!
 - Don't make faces, wink or mouth-whisper to people in the audience.
2. **1 Corinthians 14:26** – *“What then, brothers? When you come together, each one has a hymn, a lesson, a revelation, a tongue, or an interpretation. Let all things be done for building up.”*
 - Everything we do in worship is to build up and edify the congregation.
 - You want to prepare so you can do the best job you can.
 - When the monthly participation is available take a few minutes to highlight your work assignments - you will also receive a text and email reminding you.

Five Acts Of Worship Authorized In The New Testament:

1. **Prayer:** Acts 2:42
2. **Singing:** Colossians 3:16
3. **Teaching/Preaching:** Acts 5:42
4. **Giving:** 1 Corinthians 16:2
5. **The Lord's Supper:** Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 11:17-34

Qualifications:

1. Serving God in public worship is an honor and privilege – **Not a right!**
2. **Men:** 1 Timothy 2:11-12
3. **Faithful Christians:** Acts 6:3
4. **Good examples in attendance, manner of life, dependability, and love for God:**
Matthew 5:13-16; 1 Timothy 4:12; Mark 12:30

Leading Public Prayer:

1. Matthew 6:9-13: What does the Lord's prayer teach us?
 - Praise God – the word “hallowed” literally means proclaimed holy.
 - Petition – for sustenance, for forgiveness, and for deliverance.
 - Is there anything wrong with using the Lord's prayer today? If so, explain.
2. We pray for others: James 5:16; 1 Thessalonians 5:18
3. Give thanks: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18
4. Things to consider:
 - Begin your prayer with an address to God, and close with, “*in Jesus name,*” which acknowledges Jesus our mediator.
 - In public-community prayers, some want to be politically correct by removing all “Jesus” references from the prayer. This is wrong and suggests we are ashamed of Jesus – Mark 8:38.
 - Step up to the microphone and speak loudly and clearly. If the congregation cannot hear you, they can't follow your words of prayer.
 - Make your prayers timely and relevant.
 - Avoid *canned prayers* where you say the same thing over and over. That will lead to embarrassment. (i.e. Thanking God for the beautiful day and sunshine when it is pouring rain outside.)
 - Watch the length of your prayer. A long prayer doesn't always equal a good prayer. Longer is not always better. Sometimes shorter is better. (i.e. it's usually prudent to keep the dismissal prayer brief – especially if worship runs overtime.)

The Lord's Supper:

1. Should always be solemn and respectful – 1 Corinthians 11:23-28.
2. The focus is Jesus and his death
3. Attendants:

- Be presentable
 - Remember that all eyes are on you
 - Be sure everyone is served. Be aware of who is in the restrooms and cry room.
 - Don't get in a hurry. Be sure you always have a firm grasp of the communion ware.
4. Officiating:
- Remember your purpose: To help the audience to reflect upon the death of Jesus and its significance to us today. You are like a mind-guide.
 - Be sure to use scripture but be careful about reading lengthy passages.
 - Be sure to break the bread before serving it.
 - Avoid clanging the plates and trays – that can be a real distraction.

The Offering:

1. Important to distinguish this act of worship from the Lord's supper.
2. Make a few comments about why this is done, and for what purpose. (1 Corinthians 16:1-2; 2 Corinthians 9:6-7).
3. Pay close attention to everyone, especially children who are expecting to place something in the collection plate. Don't press people that may send signals they don't plan to give.
4. Always keep a firm grasp on the collection plates.

Teaching / Preaching:

1. James 3:1 – *“Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness.”*
2. 1 Thessalonians 2:4 – *“But just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, so we speak, not to please man, but to please God who tests our hearts.”*
3. An awesome responsibility.
4. We have already discussed the acts of worship.
5. There may be a later lesson on teaching a Bible class.

The Singing:

1. Ephesians 5:19-20 – *“19) addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with all your heart, 20) giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.”*
2. The singing can go along way in setting the tone for a worship. It can lift everyone's spirits, or bring them down.
3. The song leader has a very important responsibility that must not be taken lightly.
4. Later in our class there will be special lesson for singing and song leaders.

The Announcements:

1. Obviously, the announcements are not mentioned in scripture and not an act of worship. But it can be necessarily inferred that there must be some process to communicate important facts that the membership needs to know.
2. Today's technology has made available many ways to disseminate information. (i.e. Weekly *News & Notes*; email, text messages, etc.)
3. Things to consider:
 - The announcer is often the first person the members and visitors see. In that moment they are the face of the congregation.
 - Initial greeting: Put a little oomph into it. Be cheerful, smile, be energetic. Convey the idea that you are glad to be at worship. Make sure visitors feel welcome.
 - Have all the facts nailed down. Conversations between the announcer and members of the audience is not a good idea – it can get out of hand.
 - Don't ask if there are any additional announcements. You may be opening yourself up to complications and distractions.
 - Speak up so everyone can hear you. Use the microphone.
 - Keep your remarks brief and to the point. Unless there are some very special circumstances, don't allow your announcements to go over five minutes.

The Reading:

1. 1 Timothy 4:13 – *“Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching.”*
2. Nehemiah 8:8 – *“They read from the book, from the Law of God, clearly, and they gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.”* (Note: Ezra read to the people and they listened attentively). Read simply and naturally. Speak loudly and clearly.
3. Don't be careless and listless with your reading, but don't attempt to read like a Shakespearean actor.
4. Read through the Bible text several times. But your goal should not solely be word pronunciation. Try to understand the meaning of the reading. I've heard some readers give a brief context before reading. But be careful not to preach a sermon.

Conclusion:

1. Titus 3:1 – *“Remind them to be submissive to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good work.”*
2. Always be ready (prepared, equipped) to serve in worship.