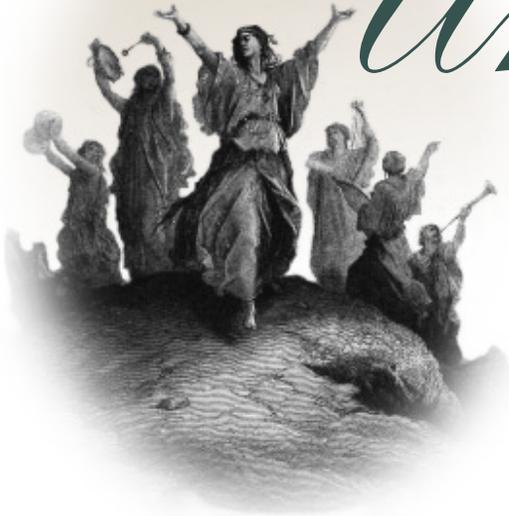


In Unison



The trumpeters and
singers joined in unison,
as with one voice, to
give praise and thanks
to the Lord.
2 Chronicles 5:13

Worship the King



Over the last year, this series has been looking at who we are—as choir members, leaders, and individual worshipers—and what we are called to be. This would be a good time, at a midpoint, to review what has been discussed so far.

With One Voice

We are to be *united*. We join together, magnifying our praise as we magnify God together. We agree on the object of our praise and the motives with which we sing. Our intentions and focus are continually on the Lord.

Up Words

Our worship is to be *vertical*. Jesus said that the greatest commandment was to “love the Lord your God.” All other ministry is *energized* by worship. Without it, ministry will fail; with it, success is assured. Vertical worship is, simply, our telling God that we love Him.

Loving One Another

Our worship should also be *horizontal*. The natural outflow of loving God is to love those who are also loving Him.

And this commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also. | John 4:21

A Purity of Worship

True worship has more to do with the condition of the heart, than the speed of the feet. As much as they are honored in society, busyness and camara-

derie count for little before the throne. True worship is buoyed by the Spirit, and has eyes only for the God of heaven, and His Son, Jesus Christ.

Sincerity

The Lord asks little of us; it’s really not difficult to worship Him properly. All He asks is honesty, sincerity, and truth. *All He asks is that we mean what we say.*

Generosity

The most misunderstood moment in the Sunday morning worship service may be the time of the offering. Our worship is not to be limited to words, either spoken or sung, but is also to include—as did the Magi of old—*the giving of our gifts.*

Prompting Revival

As worship leaders we *demonstrate* praise for the congregation. Following the God-ordained model of the first choirs of ancient Israel, we lead the worship of others by *prompting* them through our example. The choir is there to lift us up out of ourselves—to lift us up to God.

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“Here is good argument: The Maker should have honour from His works, they should tell forth His praise; and thus they should praise His name—by which His character is intended. The name of JEHOVAH is written legibly upon His works, so that His power, wisdom, goodness, and other attributes are there made manifest to thoughtful men, and thus His name is praised. The highest praise of God is to declare what He is. We can invent nothing which would magnify the Lord: we can never extol Him better than by repeating His name, or describing His character.” (Charles Haddon Spurgeon in *The Treasury of David*)

- Do I approach the worship service with a commitment to be an example for others? Is my every action intended to lead others toward God’s holiness?

- Even with pure intentions, what do I need to do (personally) to prepare my heart, my mind and my spirit for worship and the leading of others in worship?

And on a deeper level...

- Has choir practice become simply a necessary inconvenience, which I attend grudgingly, or do I approach it as one more opportunity to serve and worship my God?

- When the choir is leading worship, do my appearance, dress, and manner reflect my purpose in being there? (Am I dressing for the Lord, myself, or my friends in the pews?)

- Am I careful to do nothing that would detract from the meaningful worship of others?

- If I attend reluctantly, what does this say about my motives—my reason for singing in the choir?



As much as God desires our praise, Satan desires to prevent it. We live in a world in which his minions clamor to distract us from the things of God. Use the following checklist to stay on track while the voices outside (and sometimes inside) the church press for your attention elsewhere.

- Do I acknowledge that God created me for His glory—that my singing is His gift entrusted to me, and should be used in His service?

- As I enter this rehearsal or worship service, are my thoughts and desires for Him? Do I enter the room with a heart of gratitude for His gifts, eager to give them back in praise?

- Am I singing to and for the Lord, or for myself? Am I here only because it’s fun or convenient—or am I here to serve and worship my God?

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The Spirit and the Flesh

Worship requires *preparation*. It is an honorable position of responsibility to lead others in worshiping God. To do so properly, we should begin preparing early; we should worship God on our own; and we should worship Him regularly. We need to “practice the presence of God.”

Three Little Words

Praise is not thanksgiving. Thanksgiving is good, but it is not worship. We *thank* God for what He does for us; we *worship* Him for who He is. Thanksgiving is based on God’s interaction with us; worship is based on His holy differences from us.

Obeying Our Parent

We worship out of *obedience*. Jesus said, “Love the Lord your God,” and He called it a *commandment*—not a suggestion. The Father calls us to serve Him, and for some that service is to be as a worship leader in the choir. If He calls you to this, and you refuse, you’re disobeying your Father; if you do this without His call, who are you serving?

A Fragrant Offering

We serve because *He is Lord*. We are all created by Him and *for Him*. How can we ration out our gifts, when those gifts have come from the Father? God equips us to serve Him. If you have a voice, He gave it to you for singing His praise.

“You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being.”

Revelation 4:11

“Verily, God is of infinite greatness; more than we can think; unknowable by created things; and can never be comprehended by us as He is in Himself. But even here and now, whenever the heart begins to burn with a desire for God, she is made able to receive the uncreated light and, inspired and fulfilled by the gifts of the Holy Ghost, she tastes the joys of heaven. She transcends all visible things and is raised to the sweetness of eternal life... Herein truly is perfect love; when all the intent of the mind, all the secret working of the heart, is lifted up into the love of God.”

(Richard Rolle, in *The Amending of Life*)

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