

Roles of the Worship Leader

- **Worship Leaders or chief musicians have been around since the days of Moses.**
 - **Worship leaders and musicians within the church have a huge heritage and a great responsibility within the church.**
- **The New Testament gives us little to go on to establish the nature of a corporate worship leader. However, Ephesians 4 lists the kind of men God has given to equip and build up His church.**
 - (Eph 4:11-13 NIV) *“It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.”*
- **In a corporate worship leader we have a leadership role which combines these and other New Testament gifts in the context of music:**

What then is a corporate worship leader seeking to accomplish?

An effective corporate worship leader,
aided and led by the Holy Spirit,
skillfully combines biblical truth with music
to magnify the worth of God and the redemptive work of Jesus Christ,
thereby motivating the gathered church
to join him in proclaiming and cherishing the truth about God

An effective corporate worship leader:

- **We need to seek to be effective in what we do.**
 - **You should expect fruit in the ministry you are called to.**
- **As a worship leader, you need to step up and lead – just as the title alludes to.**
 - **Rom. 12:6** *“We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully.”*
 - **To be effective in our leadership we need to know where we are going first.**
 - **What is our goal**
 - **Our goal is not to lead people into the presence of God**
 - **We are always in His presence**
 - **We are leading people into fresh awareness of who God is**
 - **What He has done for us**

- Providing a time to respond to God with words of praise, adoration, love.
- People come distracted, you help focus.

Aided and led by the Holy Spirit:

- All true worship of God is impossible apart from the work of the Holy Spirit.
 - John 4:23 – *“Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks.”*
 - (Phil 3:3 NIV) *“For it is we who are the circumcision, we who worship by the Spirit of God, who glory in Christ Jesus, and who put no confidence in the flesh.”*

The enabling of the Holy Spirit, so essential to true Christian worship, according to the Scriptures, means that worship is not just an act of man alone, but in it man is moved and enabled by the Spirit of God. If worshipers are not consciously dependent upon the Holy Spirit, their worship is not truly Christian. (Robert Rayburn, O Come, Let Us Worship, pg. 22)

- Certainly if Christians in general need the Holy Spirit to worship God, it must be true of the one who is leading them in public praise.
- Involves listening for the direction of the Holy Spirit before, during and at the close of the meeting.

Skillfully combines biblical truth with music:

- Skill – we need to be prepared when we lead others in worship.
 - Always improving in our musical training
 - We don’t want our lack of training or preparation to be a distraction
- We want to sing songs with lyrics that draw our attention to God, through a balance of objective truth and subjective response.
- God delights in being praised with music.
 - (Ps 69:30-31 NIV) I will praise God's name in song and glorify him with thanksgiving. This will please the LORD more than an ox, more than a bull with its horns and hoofs.
 - (Ps 100:2 NIV) Worship the LORD with gladness; come before him with joyful songs .
- Music enables us to join seamlessly doctrine with devotion, purity of truth with passion of heart.

To magnify the worth of God and the redemptive work of Jesus Christ

- God’s Worth
 - Our primary goal in corporate worship and in life is the exaltation of God’s worthiness in our minds and hearts.
 - (Ps 29:1-2 NIV) *“A psalm of David. Ascribe to the LORD, O mighty ones, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength. Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; worship the LORD in the splendor of his holiness.”*

We must not allow ourselves to be satisfied with vague ideas of the love of Christ which present nothing of his glory to our minds. (John Owen, *The Glory of Christ*, pg. 54)

- **God never changes. What changes is our awareness of His eternal nature and ongoing activity.**
 - **Magnifying the worth of God involves specifically presenting Who He is and what He has done in a compelling, appealing manner.**

"All true worship is a response to the self-revelation of God in Christ and Scripture, and arises from our reflection on who He is and what He has done....The worship of God is evoked, informed, and inspired by the vision of God....The true knowledge of God will always lead us to worship. (John Stott, *Authentic Christianity*, pg. 250)

- **The redemptive work of Jesus Christ 1. The main thing He has “done” is present His only Son as a sacrifice of atonement for our sins, so that we might enjoy forgiveness and fellowship with Him forever.**

There can be no doubt as to the center of gravity in New Testament teaching on worship. The lodestone which irresistibly draws the New Testament Church to the recognition of God's love and mercy is His saving action in the Son of His love. (Ralph Martin, *Worship in the Early Church*, pg. 16)

- **There is no biblical worship apart from faith in the substitutionary sacrifice of Jesus Christ.**
 - *(Heb 10:19-22 NIV) “Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water.”*
- **The worth of God and the redemptive work of Christ are tied closely together.**

In Christ we behold the wisdom, goodness, love, grace, mercy and power of God all working together for the great work of our redemption and salvation. The wisdom and love of God are in themselves infinitely glorious. But we cannot see how glorious they are except in the redemption and salvation of the church which is achieved only in and by Christ. (John Owen, *The Glory of Christ*, pg. 25)

Thereby motivating the gathered church:

- **We don't demand of the church through manipulation, through music, through performance.**
 - **Scripture always gives us reason to worship God.**
- **We need to be motivating by grace**
 - **Presenting a compelling picture of God and his greatness**

- **Leading from personal knowledge and experience**
- **Leading from a place of dependence and humility**

To join him in proclaiming and cherishing the truth about God:

- **Invitation to join with you in worship.**
 - **This implies that you lead a life worship.**
 - **You are a student of God's word.**
 - **Come join with me in experiencing God's presence, God's love.**
 - **Let us declare these truths to one another, let us proclaim our adoration to God.**

And seeking to live all of life for the glory of God:

- **Worship doesn't end when the singing stops**
- **He is worthy of worship not only when we gather, but at every moment of time, by every creature in creation, for all eternity. That mindset should be the goal not only of our corporate worship leading, but of our lives.**