

MAKING THE MOST OF THE MODERN WORSHIP MOVEMENT

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I. Introduction

II. Our Goal

- A. Define
- B. Discerns
- C. Devote

III. What is a Worship Song?

- A. Any song can be a worship song, if it is written or performed for the glory of God, or listened to for the purpose of exalting God.
- B. Good worship songs have certain characteristics which enable God's people to worship Him.
 - 1. The lyrics of a worship song should be clearly related to biblical truth and a scriptural worldview. It should contain some aspect of who God is and/or who we are in Christ, and it should be expressed in a way that everyone can understand.
 - 2. Worship songs should be singable.
 - 3. Worship songs intentionally and successfully exalt God over against our own creativity. While we want always to be seeking fresh ways of communicating eternal truths, "there is a level beyond which literature cannot rise if it is to be good hymnody. (Erik Routley, respected hymnologist from the last century)

IV. The Pluses of the Worship Movement

- A. A God-focused emphasis within the Christian music industry.
- B. More people seeking to encounter and exalt God as they listen to Christian music.

- C. Enlarging the repertoire of songs that magnify the greatness of God.
- D. Revitalization of worship services
- E. More teaching on worship
- F. Expressions of unity
- G. More styles of music being used to praise God
- H. Financial provision for those who write worship songs
- I. People responding in faith to the God who is being worshipped by so many.

V. The Concerns

- A. We can tend to think that worship is equivalent to music.
- B. We can tend to think that because we listen to worship music, we must be worshippers.
- C. There can be a temptation to think that worship is somehow “new” or has finally become “genuine.”
- D. Many songs focus almost exclusively on the subjective side of our relationship with God.
- E. Musicians can become our primary theologians.

VI. How Do We Benefit?

- A. Be discerning and humble about songs that are current.
- B. Value the role of the worship leader in your local church.
- C. Use modern offerings to expand rather than replace hymns.
- D. Use new songs and arrangements to help your church grow in expressiveness and passion for God.
- E. Encourage the writing of songs that contain objective truth about God and the redemptive work of Jesus Christ.

VII. The Priority of The Local Church

- A. The plight of the aspiring 17 year old Christian worship song writer.
- B. Worship songs aren't written to be performed on a stage, but to be sung by God's people. Jesus didn't come to establish a worship music industry. He came to build a church.
- C. Songwriters could serve local pastors.
- D. How DO I get my worship songs out to others?
 - 1. Make sure you're committed to your local church and your pastor.
 - 2. Ask others for observations about your life.
 - 3. Practice the spiritual disciplines faithfully.
 - 4. Serve in whatever ways you can.
 - 5. Play your songs for people that you respect in your church, asking them for suggestions. Keep revising and improving your songs.
 - 6. Continue to serve the church God has placed you in. As you grow, God will bring the increase and fruit that He desires.

VIII. Resources

- A. Sovereign Grace Music – www.sovgracemin.org/music
- B. Worship Together - www.worshiptogether.com
Includes CD's by Stuart Townend, Chris Tomlin, Brian Doerksen, and many more. Offers downloadable sheet music.
- C. GoldUsa – www.goldusa.com
Hundreds of worship Cd's as well as printed music. Stoneleigh/Events NewSongs compilations are worth looking at.
- D. www.acorndirect.co.uk
Primarily British CD's with no shipping costs.
- E. Indelible Grace – www.igracemusic.com
Two Cd's of updated hymns with a third one on the way.
- F. Integrity Music – www.integritymusic.com

G. www.worshipmusic.com

Broad selection of worship related materials and links

H. Vineyard – www.vineyardmusic.usa.com

I. www.grassrootsmusic.com