

Worship thoughts ...

Since the Church is the people of God, not a building, it is both *what we do and are* that are fundamental and essential. My understanding is that our purpose or reason for existence is serving God by bringing Him glory and honor in all we say and do.

Worship, therefore is not confined to acts of corporate praise but is a whole attitude of life. Worship must be a whole lifestyle, Colossians 3: 17 *And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.* Worship represents the way in which we, as His people, bring glory and honour to God.

Last week we discussed the attitudes we should ensure we have that will shape the effectiveness of our team. As someone who sings or plays in the services, whether on the platform or not, we are leading worship. Whatever our leadership style, teamwork is vital to working well, our unity essential. Our congregation looks to us as to how we worship. We must commit to leading worship even when not up front. Leading a worship service must be an overflow of a life of worship.

You and I are being entrusted with a holy responsibility to lead people into the presence of Almighty God. How we prepare ourselves before hand, how we lead the service does make a difference to what happens in our corporate worship services and I believe how God moves in those services. Each of us needs personal time in the presence of God that will change us first.

The worship *slot* in the corporate meeting is not just a warm up prior to the sermon. People need to experience the wonder, awe and majesty of worshipping God, and then they are then prepared to hear and receive God's life changing Word.

The measure of how good the service is not on how well attended the service was or how well the worship team played together. It is how well, we as His people connect to God. For that to happen the worship team and the congregation need to be prepared for the service. And that means firstly that we are prepared spiritually to lead worship. There is no parallel in any other faith. The living Christ is in our midst, we don't gather together to revere a memory but to celebrate a presence, a living person, and to meet with Him, learn more about who He is through praise and through His Word.

I hope that all of you, as this worship team, will input into the songs that we use to lead the congregation and help them connect with God, not just the people who rota to lead worship. That is why I have asked you to give me songs that are touching your heart. These songs are helping you connect with God and will help you to lead worship.

How will you prepare yourself ready to lead worship in our corporate gathering?