

A FUNDAMENTAL GUIDE TO EFFECTIVE WORSHIP

#3 Selfless Communication

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From all that I see in the Old and New Testaments, the **objective** in gathering together believers is to honor to God by an unceasing remembrance of his glory, a willing submission to his lordship, and a life of conscious spiritual service. This is a comprehensive statement that involves commitment, connection, and most of all, selfless communication.

Putting aside all the personal and corporate **impediments** that tend to confuse this objective, an all-inclusive worship event prioritizes the goal of encountering God with all of the biblical tools at our disposal. The aim is to construct an environment whereby all of God's people arrive at the conclusion of the service with a complete sense that they have been with God, glorified him and received teaching, reproof, and correction for training in righteousness.

Accomplishing this requires all the **components** of worship leading to come together in a unified effort that propels Christians back into the world as confident witnesses for Christ. This can only be accomplished, not just with good communication, but with *selfless* communication. It's a step up from normal, personal interaction that constantly requires putting aside personal need for recognition and humbly offering one's spiritual gifts in any way that adds to the overall result.

When we consider how many components go into a worship service, it's easy to see the necessity for good planning, adequate preparation, and effective rehearsal, but moreover for the kind of **communication** that recognizes and responds to the complexities involved in this effort. Music involves vocalists and often various instrumentalists. Sound and video technicians have to work with different systems at the same time, ushers need to know when and how to quietly do their service of seating and collection in a way that does not interfere with the spiritual flow of the moment. Ministers who pray, read Scripture, and give short testimonies or devotions have to be able to skillfully transition from one facet to another, and preachers must always be sensitive in adapting to the spirit in the house as they open the word. How can any of this come together well without everyone humbling themselves, following the plan, encouraging one another, patiently attending to special needs of the moment, and committed to flexibly growing together as a ministry? Selfless communication must be carefully cultivated in the worship environment.

At this point our general approach to constructing a fundamental guide to effective worship is complete. We have addressed the great **connection** between the worship leader(s) and the preaching pastor that is important to constructing the smooth flow of a service. We also have presented the necessary **commitment** of those involved in the ministry of worship leading, and here we have presented what is perhaps the most important component, **selfless communication**. In future submissions we want to comment on other aspects of building effective church worship such as selecting and training worship leaders, recognizing and yielding to the presence and will of the Holy Spirit, promoting special music, and the importance of training the congregation in the nature and purpose of corporate worship. Until later—worship well.