

Growth Points

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Dynamic Worship

Call it exalting, inspiring, celebrative, stimulating, encouraging, rousing, engaging, moving, energizing, or whatever other words you desire, worship is a major sign of a growing church.

Respected researcher Kirk Hadaway explains, "Worship in growing churches, and especially in rapidly growing

revival.' Whatever terms are used, anyone who has worshipped in many growing congregations will agree that the worship experience sets these churches apart."

When corporate worship inspires, people come to the service expecting God to work, to see sinners repent,

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churches, has a different character from worship in plateaued and declining congregations. This character is somewhat difficult to describe, but the terms usually employed are 'excitement,' 'celebration,' 'electricity,' and 'spirit of

the sick made whole, the hurting restored, and the Word of God preached in such a manner that people are challenged to live life with vibrancy and to take appropriate action in the world.

Worship Trends

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Worship has changed over the centuries. Here are a two major trends to consider.

- Churches used to think in terms of a music pastor, but today's churches seek a worship arts pastor to oversee a broad range of ministry technology, visual arts, drama, dance, banners, etc.

- Churches used to think in terms of individuals who would play the piano, organ, or sing specials, but today's churches think in terms of worship teams. Today the question asked of worship pastors is not "Can you lead worship?" but "Can you build teams?"

How do these two trends affect your worship services?

How is your church adjusting to these trends?

What is Worship?

Did you ever notice how casually we use the word “worship” without really considering its meaning? People say, “I’m going to the worship service,” or “Where is the worship center?” or “Did you enjoy worship today?” Worship is a familiar word, but how often do we really think about what it means?

The Bible declares two major pillars of worship. First, worship is an expression of respect and submission. The main words used for worship in the Old & New Testaments are often translated as “bow or bow down.” This is usually seen in the physical act of kneeling or prostrating oneself to the person being worshiped. For example, when the people of Israel heard of God’s concern for them “they bowed low and worshipped” (Exodus 4:31).

Second, worship is an act of sacrifice and obedience, which

is normally seen in service to God. The Old Testament word includes the ideas of “to carve, to labor, and to serve.” While, the New Testament word means “to serve the Lord.”

Thus, in both the Old and New Testament, worship is a response from our hearts to God, actively seen in our respectful submission and our active obedience to Him. At its root, worship is something people do, not something they watch.

Key Questions to Ask

As you develop your worship services, but sure to ask and answer some of the following questions:

1. What is the purpose of worship?
2. Which generation are we seeking to reach? All generations? What does that mean for designing worship?
3. How does our service help mature the people who attend worship?

4. What are the legitimate needs of the people we’re trying to reach, and how can we meet those needs through our worship service?
5. Since worship involves active participation of people, how do we encourage our people to be involved in worship?
6. Since worship involves submission to God, how do we encourage our people to show respect to God in our services?
7. How do we engage people in worship?

Former professor of Church Growth, Eddie Gibbs, declares that dynamic worship exists when “church members are eager to come. They are reluctant to be absent from a service in case they miss anything. As a result of their coming to the service, they go home refreshed and better able to face the week.” What makes people eager to come to your worship service?

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