

“Principles of Christian Worship”

(Part 3 - Selected Scriptures)

Principles that would apply to any worshipper living in any culture:

Christian Worship (in any culture) should be:

1. **Doxological** - *Corinthians 10:31 “Do, do all to the glory of God.”*
2. **Spiritual** - *John 4:23 - True worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him.*
3. **Biblical** - *We are admonished to worship God “in spirit and in truth” (John 4:24)*
4. **Christ-Centered** *John 16:13-14 - Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come...He shall glorify me:*
5. **Scripturally Organized** - *1 Corinthians 14:23-40*
6. **Suitable for a Holy, Righteous God**

"Questions to Ask About Worship Music"

1. **Does the music glorify God? Or the musician?**
(Exod. 15:1, 2, 21, 21; I Chron. 15:27, 28; 16:9, 23; II Chron. 20:21, 22; Ps. 95:2; 105:2; Acts 16:25; Eph. 5:18, 19; Col. 3:16).
2. **Is the music sensual?**
Rom. 13:14 - *"But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof."*
(Does it move the flesh or the spirit?)
3. **Is the music worldly?**
I John 2:15-17 - "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world.
4. **Is the music worthy of God's dignity?**
Psalm 7:17 - *"I will praise the LORD according to his righteousness: and will sing praise to the name of the LORD most high."*
(Does it fit [suit] the holy character of God and His Word?)
5. **Does the music (melody, harmony, and rhythm) match the text of the song?**
(The music should support the Scripture or truth being sung) (You can't sing "Holy, Holy, Holy" to a disco beat)
"The perception of the message is greatly colored by the vehicle which carries it" (Danny Sweatt).
6. **What message does the music communicate without the words?**
Does the music "sound like war"? (Exod. 32:17-20) The music Moses and Joshua heard Israel singing (during their idolatry and wild dancing) was not sounds of contentment, satisfaction, peace, serenity, joyfulness, and worship. Rather, what was communicated was discontentment, rebellion, unrest, confusion, defiance, and a lack of reverence for God (Garlock & Woetzel)
7. **Is the music acceptable to God?**
Eph. 5:10 - *"Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord"*
(Could it be sung in His presence in Heaven? Would Jesus listen to it?)
8. **Does the music edify me or others?**
I Cor. 10:23 - "All things are lawful for me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but all things edify not." Rom. 15:2 - "Let every one of us please his neighbor for his good to edification"
9. **What physical response will this music produce?**
[If one was to dance to this music, what type of dance would he do?] [What type of physical behavior would the music bring out?]
[What emotion(s) would this music stimulate?]
10. **Is the music well-written?**
(Is the music doctrinally correct? Theologically sound?)
The sacred music's words must square with the Word (sacred Scripture). We must never twist a truth of Scripture to make it fit a melody line.

Christian Worship (in any culture) should be:

7. **Conscientiously Prepared**

II Chronicles 34:12 - "And the men did the work faithfully. Their overseers were ...skillful with instruments of music..."

Do we take worship lightly?

The following are ideas to be considered when conscientiously preparing for worship:

- **Conscientious Public Scripture Reading:**

- **Conscientious Public Prayer:**

- **Conscientious Public Testimonies:**

- **Conscientious Public Announcements:**

- **Conscientious Public Invitations to Respond to God's Working:**

- **Conscientious Distraction Control:**

- **Conscientious Planning for Worship:**