

## **“Worship, More Than Music”**

*By Pastor Mike Bohr*

I recently read an article entitled “*Worship, More Than Music.*” It was another great reminder to me that worship is more than just the song time at church on Sunday. God desires us to live lives of worship. The article also reminded me of the importance of focusing my attention on worshipping God and not so much on the tools and talents that help create our worship experience. One quote that stood out to me was this, “*More important than PowerPoint, great instrumentalists, great choirs or praise teams, is our communication with and worship to Him.*”

As the church music guy I’ll be first to say that the nuts and bolts of the worship service must be in place so that the worship of our God is free from any form of distraction. However, sometimes I can even become so caught up in the externalities of worship that I miss the very reason I’m there, to worship the Lord.

It is so sad to see the problems that face evangelical churches today because of what people *want*. We fail to remember that worship isn’t about what *we* want. Worship is about what God wants from His people! Unfortunately, many come to church on Sunday with expectations or preferences of what they want to hear, what they prefer, or what they are comfortable with. I’m not just talking about music! I’m talking about the sermons too! Some churches have made it the rule not to talk about sin because it might offend someone in attendance. Oh, how that must grieve the heart of our most holy God! The truth of the matter is...it’s not about what we want. It is about what God wants from us, His children! As the song “*The Heart of Worship*” says, it’s not even about the songs we sing. The song in itself is not what He requires. He’s looking deep into our hearts! Our worship should be about Jesus and giving back to Him a heart that is overjoyed and filled with praise because of who He is and what He has done for us.

Too many times we fail to see the point and we miss the opportunity to worship because we’re too concerned with ourselves and what we want to hear. I say “we” because I am often guilty of it myself. When the point of worship is forgotten, we miss out on our opportunity to worship.

We must not let our flesh get in the way of what true worship is all about. We cannot let the externalities (instruments, music style - hymns vs. choruses, sound, lighting, etc.) become our focus. We should never allow ourselves to focus on the things that should help direct us to Jesus. For when we do, we miss our chance to worship Jesus. May we never forget what a pastor once said, “*True worship is not interested in the created but the Creator.*”

*When the music fades, all is stripped away, and I simply come  
Longing just to bring something that's of worth  
That will bless Your heart,*

*I'll bring You more than a song  
For a song in itself is not what You have required  
You search much deeper within  
Through the way things appear, You're looking into my heart*

*I'm coming back to the heart of worship  
And it's all about You, it's all about You, Jesus  
I'm sorry Lord for the thing I've made it  
When it's all about You, it's all about You, Jesus*