

## Creating a Culture of Worship

by *Dave Hershberger*

As a leadership team, our job is to lead the congregation into a worshipful experience with God. To do this well will require that we teach the church how to worship, not just on Sunday mornings, but with their very lives. In this workshop we will explore practical strategies that pastors and worship leaders can use to increase a culture of worship in their church.

**Worship involves art.** Define art. Define Worship. What is “good art”...what is “good worship”? It is pretty tough to do. It is quite subjective and personal...there are many likes and dislikes...preferences and emotions tied to it. There is room for much discussion in the community about all of this, therefore it becomes crucial for the Lead Pastor (LP) and the Worship Leader (WL) to share a voice, and remain united in core places. That relationship is key in the process of creating a culture of worship. It doesn't mean we have to hang out all the time, or campout or share exact ice-cream flavors. But you should be friends...more than on facebook...(-:

**Both leaders have to know the congregation they are leading.** What is the personality/age/history/theology of the congregation? How would you describe it to someone? (Lets do that....share a few-5 minutes). Do you love it? Do you like it? (-: Why is this so important as a baseline?

**What does “growing in worship” mean to you?** If it means, to be more expressive, then we are focused on the external rather than the internal. (God's challenge to me from Vineyard Min to the BiC). Yes, *sometimes* external expression is an indicator of internal position. I would even be comfortable saying that in teaching about worship to most congregations. But usually it is very dangerous for us to use this measure as an evaluative tool about worship in the church.

More importantly, we should be **teaching them values of freedom to express or not to express**, to be genuine about who they are, to **try** a new language, but not require it, to appreciate seeing something fresh without **having** to like it. We need to be sensitive to the feelings from others that they are being “force-fed”.

**Set a turtle pace, but with clear with clear focus, vision and evaluation (internal).** Set a 5 year vision. While we might evaluate week to week what is happening, it is much better to evaluate every year as to what is happening....how have we changed since a year or more ago. Is our worshipping community more gracious/caring/supportive and positive in our language/loving and graceful? How had THAT impacted our corporate expression in worship.