



## *Calvary Chapel Worship Ministry*

### **Worship: Every Believer's Ministry:**

Worship is every believer's ministry. We are all called to worship the Lord. As soon as we are saved worship becomes a huge part of our lives. For now we know God, Who alone is worthy of all praise and worship, and as we walk with the Lord and grow in knowledge and grace, as we study His word, pray, and begin to serve, and give and live in obedience to His word we worship Him. Face it! This walk is a walk of worship all the way! As we gather in a group corporately we worship Him together, we sing out to Him with thankful and grateful hearts for Who He is and what He has done for us. So in reality every born again believer is a part of the worship ministry, as we minister to the Lord with grateful hearts in thanksgiving and praise.

Speaking to the Samaritan woman at Jacob's well in John 4:21-24, Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe Me, the hour is coming when you will neither on this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, worship the Father. You worship what you do not know; we know what we worship, for salvation is of the Jews. But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth." That's our goal, just to be true worshippers in spirit and in truth, and serve the Lord out of that worship daily. In a nutshell, Jesus was declaring that man himself would be the temple of the Spirit and true worship would be from our spirit bearing witness with the Holy Spirit, and it could happen anywhere at anytime, wherever a Spirit filled person may happen to be. Paul later wrote, "Do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have from God and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; Therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's." 1 Corinthians 6:19,20

When Jesus said these words, (John 4:21-24) the Jewish people had already reduced worship to outward forms and ceremonies. They thought that by religiously adhering to the letter of the law, and going through certain rituals, they were worshipping the Father. But, theirs was not a worship of the spirit. It was outward, not inward. Their bodies might be bowed down to the ground but their hearts were not right before God. They were going through the rituals and going through the motions like the scribes and Pharisees that Jesus rebukes in Matt. 15:8. He says, "These people draw near to me with their mouth, and honor Me with their lips but their heart is far from Me."

We want true hearts of worship, sincerely worshipping Him, and to be pleasing to Him in our worship of Him. The Samaritans on the other hand had a form of worship but it was false. It had no scriptural authority. They had started their own religion and were carrying out ordinances of their own invention. (What mankind always does when they don't follow God's Word). So when the Lord said worship must be in spirit and in truth He was rebuking both Jews and Samaritans. But, He was also informing them that now that He had come it was possible for men to draw near to God through Him in true and sincere worship. "The Father is seeking such to worship Him."

So if you are born again, a true believer, the Father desires you to worship Him. When we were born again, born of the Spirit, born into God's family, the church (which means called out ones), we were called to worship. God is interested in the adoration of His people. Does He receive this from me? Does He receive this from you? True and sincere worship. If we worship Him according to His word in spirit and truth, yes! He does receive this from us and we can please Him as we worship in obedience to His word. "God is Spirit" is a definition of God's being. He is not like us at all, subject to our errors, sin, limitations, and humanity. Nor is He confined to any one place, but present everywhere all at the same time (omnipresent), He is all knowing (omniscient), He is all powerful (omnipotent), and perfect in all His ways. He is holy and righteous, set apart, in Him is light, no darkness at all. He alone is good and He alone is wise, awesome beyond our comprehension. The God we worship is exactly as He declares Himself to be, according to His word, and He alone defines how He is to be worshipped, not man. It's His way or not at all!

There must be no idea that in going through a series of rituals God is therefore pleased. Even if God instituted those rituals Himself, He still insists that man approach Him with a broken and contrite heart. God is God! He sees if we are sincere or not, He hates sham or hypocrisy, any pretence to be religious when inwardly ones life is corrupt. So those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth. So by faith we enter in to the presence of God and praise and worship Him. We may be in a prison, or a field, or a mountain top, or desert, or in a church building, but in spirit we can draw near to God by faith and worship Him, for He dwells within us. The Father is seeking such to worship Him. So every believer should be a worshipper in spirit and truth. So truly that is the first thing, to be a worshipper in spirit and truth, and continue to grow as worshippers as we grow in knowledge and grace. Worship is certainly much more than just the singing of songs, or the playing of an instrument. Almost any one can sing a song, and there are good, average, and not so good singers, or players, but worship first comes from our heart (which we will discuss more later), and again worship must be done according to "Orders from Headquarters." These orders are in the word of God from Genesis to Revelation. We want to worship Him according to His word, through His Spirit's help, seeking to honor Him and give Him the glory due His name.

I can remember a troubling time early on in the ministry when we had no guitar players or keyboard player and we were struggling every Sunday and every Wednesday trying to get someone here or there to help us out. We were struggling with things the church down the street and other churches weren't struggling with at all, or so it seemed, and it was hard. We went through a several month period of pre-recording Sunday and Wednesday worship, a whole set of eight songs or so, complete with intros and endings, or a little flute or harmonica part, and we would sing and play along to the "canned guitar" and you'd better not make a mistake or it would throw everything off! In my frustration I even played the bass guitar alone! (and I'm not a good bass player) and we sang to it on a Wednesday evening, my wife was truly glad we only did that once.

Times were tough and I prayed and cried out to the Lord, why is it so hard? Why will You not send us some help? You know we need help! You know we need others to come along side and help us. The local musicians that were Christian, it seemed, wanted to be in fancier churches, or bigger, or different, or had other problems going on, or whatever, and not wanting to hang around to be a part of a little slow growing Calvary Chapel, so we'd get a "fill in" from time to time, sing acapella sometimes, or tape guitar worship sets and sing along.

During that time, that's when I felt the Lord speak to my heart about worship. I was pretty frustrated, and certainly the ministry was showing itself to be more than just fun, and a whole lot different than what I thought would be happening by then. Then came the thought as I sought the Lord, "Would you worship Me no matter what? Would You worship Me without an instrument, with no accompaniment, if you only had two sticks to tap together would You worship me then?" Yes, Lord I will worship You no matter what. It was like the Lord said, "Then worship Me and quit complaining." Then I realized, He is more interested in our hearts by far than the music. Music is always secondary in worship. Singing is the glad response of a worshipping heart, a compression release, if you will of an overflowing heart that is glad because salvation has come. Glad because of the work done when our Lord said from the cross, "It is finished."

So come, now is the time to worship! No Matter what, let's worship! Now I had realized that He will send help when He wants to. It's the Lord's ministry, He will give and take away as He pleases. No matter what worship the Lord! Accompaniment is nice but it isn't needed to worship the Lord. Music and worship are two different things; though it is quite nice and helpful when the two are brought together. Worship though, first must be out of our hearts. We just have to hang in there when things are hard and we don't have a solution, and pray and wait upon the Lord. It reminds me of something I heard Pastor Greg Laurie say one time, "God's will, in God's way, in God's timing." We must be willing to wait on the Lord. God isn't in a hurry. It is His church and He will build it His way! He will teach us our lessons His way also. "My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing." (James 2:2-4) He doesn't work exactly the same way with each church, but, the goal is the same - to mature us and to form Christ in us.

We have joy because we are saved! We worship because we are saved! We sing and play instruments out of a worshipping glad heart, not the other way around. I wouldn't want to be a part of the greatest sounding worship team with the most skilled musicians if we didn't have hearts of worship, if we weren't sincere in our love for the Lord, the One Who first loved us. You see if we aren't worshipping we are only singing and playing. The world is full of singing and playing of songs and of every variety of music, but the Lord's music is different, the Lord's songs are all about worship. God's songs are all about Him, and His kingdom, and His ways. God centered, not self centered worship is what we want because that's what He wants.

Worship is every believer's ministry but not all are called to the worship ministry. Is the Lord calling you? Romans 12:4-8 says, "For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another. Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; He who teaches, in teaching; He who exhorts, in exhortation; He who gives, with liberality; He who leads, with diligence; He who shows mercy, with cheerfulness." So pray about it! Ask the Lord to show you where He would have you serve. If it is the worship ministry great, or if it is elsewhere great! Worship wherever you serve, that's what your service is, an act of worship!

## First things first:

**1. Interview** If you have inquired about serving in the worship ministry, we need to talk; to find a time after service or some evening simply to discuss the ministry. Where you can see where we are coming from, and we can see where you are coming from, past involvement, doctrinal issues, expectations, what to expect, etc. If you have received this booklet we have probably already talked.

**2. Six Month waiting period** Why should there be a six month waiting period? Mostly because it's a good idea! First, because then you have a chance to find out if Calvary Chapel is going to be your church home. Some folks say, "They just love it here," and then they disappear! During this six month waiting period you'll have time to get to know us a bit and us to know you. You can sit under Pastor Gil's teaching, and grow with the rest of us, get to meet some people and see how you feel after several months of Sundays and hopefully Wednesdays and Communions too, and determine rather or not you want to call Calvary Chapel Red Bluff your home church. If you stay you have our blessing! And if you feel the Lord is calling you elsewhere you have our blessing! We know we are only a part of the body of Christ on the planet. We may not be all you desire, and we know we are far from perfect, but we do feel that we have something to offer the body of Christ. So hang out for a while, fellowship, pray, and get in the word and let the Lord direct, He is faithful, He will do it!

**3. Thursdays, 7:00 pm at the Chapel** After six months if still you really feel that the Lord is calling you to the worship ministry I'll invite you to come and sit in with us on Thursday evenings. This is a real important evening for the worship ministry. Usually we are there from 7:00 – 8:30 or 9:00. At this time if you haven't already read it get a "Calvary Distinctives" book so you can learn more about how we do things here at Calvary Chapel. It would be good to do so that you may understand where your church is coming from and where it is going to for that matter.

First we have about fifteen minutes in the word either reviewing the previous Sunday's message or, we may be in our own micro bible study. Why? For all of our worship instructions are found throughout the entire word of God. So keeping His word first will keep us where we need to be, letting the Lord lead us and teach us, and learning to work together to glorify Him.

Secondly, we work on Sunday's song list and go through all the songs we will be doing. So if you play an instrument or sing you can play along and begin to learn the songs. Soon, Lord willing, we will have the songs available on a CD so you can practice along with song sheets and CD on your own also. Depending on past involvement in other worship ministries some songs you may already know.

Thirdly, we are always working on new songs, or songs new to us as a church. "Sing to Him a new song play skillfully with a shout of joy. For the word of the Lord is right, and all His work is done in truth." Psalm 33:3,4. So Thursday evenings are also for this, to learn new songs and eventually introduce them to the body. By now it is 8:30 or 8:45! Sometimes we will hang out and fellowship for awhile, still working on songs, or maybe we are all pretty tired and we head home.

## Thursdays continued:

It is important that we understand we need this time to come together because it is Jesus Christ our Lord whom we serve, not me, not Pastor Gil, not Calvary Chapel, but the Lord our God. We want to give Him our best so we want to give Him time to help us develop as a ministry, and give us time to do what we are called to do - worship the Lord. Sometimes you may be the tired one, the struggling one, the beat up one, or it may be me or someone else's night to feel like, "Man I'm tired tonight", that's alright we need to be there anyway. Life is a struggle and hardship quite often, that's just the way it is, but serving the Lord is still our priority. Now I know once in awhile any one of us may get sick or have a problem come up and you just can't make it. I'm not saying be there sick, but, what I am saying is be serious about your commitment, Jesus certainly was for us, now it's our turn.

Thursday evenings are pretty much mandatory for the Sunday morning - Wednesday Bible Study - and Communion Worship teams.

**Children's Worship:** if children's worship is where you are being led to serve you'll need to see **Jim Purcell**, as he is in charge of children's worship. Thursday evening will not be mandatory for those doing children's worship but you are welcome if you want to come and join us.

## Commitment

As a servant commitment is not an option. It's the same for every ministry. We have to be committed to our calling. There will be times when it is hard, certainly no cake walk. Our flesh constantly needs "Crucifying" - the world wants to get in the way - and yes we have an Adversary seeking to lead you and me, and every servant for that matter, into other things that will pull on us for our time. Distractions like you have never had, and hardships will come up more than ever. Expect this! But, if you are committed, remembering who it is you serve and why, you will stay committed, "for the love of Christ compels us" (2 Cor. 5:14). You'll want to be there for the ministry because the Lord put you there, and you will be there! Occasionally something will keep you from it, a life circumstance, or a sickness, or whatever it may be, but, you will get right back to where you need to be because you are committed to the Lord and because of His love for us..

Remember the great prophet Jeremiah, what a hard ministry! The Lord was ready to judge the people. False prophets were everywhere and false teachers were abounding and here stands one man whom the Lord is speaking truth through, but, no one wanted to hear the weeping prophet, Jeremiah. This calling just seemed too hard to Jeremiah, and he was ready to quit. He said, "Then I will not make mention of Him, nor speak anymore in His name. But, His word was in my heart like a burning fire shut up in my bones; I was weary of holding it back, and I could not." (Jeremiah 20:9) So Jeremiah gets right back on track and continues doing what he was called to do, speak God's words to those who did not want to listen, those who hated what he was saying. What an inspiration to us when things get really tough. Just trust in the Lord, He's bigger than our problems.

## **Commitment Continued:**

Now, I'm not saying that serving in the worship ministry can be compared to all the hardship Jeremiah endured in his ministry for the Lord. What I am saying is that we need to have the kind of commitment that Jeremiah had. As things seek to move us away, and the troubles and trials of life happen, or the Adversary is telling you forget it, and in your frustration you say, "I can't do this!" Put your trust back in the Lord and let Him be your priority. As Jeremiah realized he had to get God's word out, he couldn't hold it back; that he must do what he was called to do. That's how we want to look at our ministry. Serving God, He is first, ministry is a high calling and we must be committed to that calling and stay committed. He will help us do that, we only have to let Him.

## **Availability**

Commitment means availability, available to do what you are called to do. Availability is a choice, as you choose to be available to serve the Lord you will avail your abilities so to speak. Your abilities are from Him so you will want to be available to let the Lord use you for His glory. You may be asked to help out on Wednesdays or a Sunday communion, or you may be asked to fill in when someone is sick or has an emergency or problem of some sort. Would you be available? Being available says you want to be there when the church doors are open. If we are worshipping you want to be there! Sundays or Wednesdays you want to get into the word, you want to worship with your brothers and sisters, you want to fellowship. If this is your heart availability will be a snap because God is in the right place in your life's priorities. In fact you realize He is your life! So, availability, no problem!

"Praise is awaiting You, oh God, in Zion; and to You the vow shall be performed. Blessed is the man You choose, and cause to approach You, that he may dwell in Your courts. We shall be satisfied with the goodness of Your house, of Your holy temple." Psalm 65

"As the deer pants for the water brooks, so pants my soul for You, oh God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When shall I come and appear before God?" Psalm 42:1, 2.

## **Responsibility**

If you are committed and if you are available then you definitely will need to be responsible. You need to be someone dependable that can be counted on. You'll let your yes be yes and your no be no. If you say, "I'll be there", we'll believe it. And unless you died or had a vehicle break down, or had something totally out of the ordinary happen, we know you will be there on time and ready to go. When you know it is time to start you'll be there; and if you are not a punctual person you will become one, for again it is the Lord you serve, you'll be on time for Him. When we have various functions and when you are needed you will be there. Responsible you are because you want to glorify Him. We just want to be responsible to the Lord, and responsible to those we are serving with.

“And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men. Knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ.” Colossians 3:23, 24

## Accountability

Accountability defined is: The state or quality of being accountable; liability to be called upon, to account or answer for something; responsibility. Who are we accountable to? Our Lord first, we represent Him. Worship is an up-front ministry, like it or not people are watching us, in church and out of church. We must remember we will give an account to the Lord. Hebrews 4:13 says, “And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but, all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.”

We must live our lives in such a manner as to show we are accountable. We want to represent Jesus well, to believer and unbeliever alike. We want the people, our brothers and sisters, God’s people to be able to worship Him. We don’t want to hinder that in any way, nor do we want to hinder anyone from coming to church because of being a bad example out side of church. We are representing the Lord, and His church, Calvary Chapel Red Bluff, and all who call this church home. We don’t want to be living a carnal lifestyle, but rather “walk in the Spirit”. Smoking and drinking or frequenting questionable places, doing things that are a bad representation of our Lord we just can’t do; but, rather to walk in accountability, for we will all be called to give an account for our lives one day. We don’t want to stumble anyone by our actions or by our practice of anything contrary to God’s word. Philippians 1:27 says, “Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs, that you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel.”

So ministry requires that we be accountable. Colossians 3:17 says, “And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.” What does it mean to do all in the name of the Lord Jesus? It means to do things as He would do them. His name represents Who He is, His character, so we want to do things the way He would do things according to His word. We must learn that accountability is a good thing and be accountable, living to honor Him, living according to His word in accountability. Romans 13:14 instructs us, “But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts.”

## “State of the Heart Before State of the Art”

State of the heart before state of the art is a good way of remembering hearts first, not any old heart but a right heart. Our work for the Lord must come out of a right heart that we may be well pleasing in our worship and in our work for Him. The Lord doesn’t care how great we can sing or play an instrument. We never impress God with any ability, music or otherwise. He is the One who has given us any talent we may have anyway, rather it be a little or a lot; He is the One who has given it to us. If the worship team sounds great, but our hearts are not right before the Lord, it’s not pleasing to the

Lord. It is not what He desires our worship to be. It's like putting the art before the heart, or the cart before the horse, so to speak.

### **State of the Heart continued:**

What are we in the ministry for? Is it to please ourselves or to please Him? It is not about us, but it is all about Him, so the state of our hearts must be first. The Lord is concerned about our hearts, and He knows our hearts much better than we do, so we must be concerned about them also. How many times have we heard Jeremiah 17:9? "The heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked, who can know it?" Definitely enough to know our hearts can deceive us, get us off track and lead us away from the Lord's will. Hebrews 3:10 says, concerning Israel, "Therefore I was angry with that generation, and said, they always go astray in their heart and they have not known my ways." And we are no different!

Psalm 33:1 says, "The fool has said in his heart there is no God. (His heart was certainly deceived). Jesus said, rebuking the Pharisees, the religious leaders of His time, in Matthew 12:34,35, "Brood of vipers! How can you, being evil, speak good things, for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. A good man, out of the good treasures of his heart brings forth good things, and an evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth evil things." These religious leaders were so deceived in their hearts that they were accusing the Lord of operating under Satan's power! They had gone astray in their hearts.

Earlier in Matthew 6:17 Jesus said, "For where your treasure is there your heart will be also." This is a very good scripture to put in our hearts for sure, for He is our treasure of treasures. True riches, unsearchable riches are in Christ. We want a heart for Him, to obey Him, a heart to serve Him; A heart for His word; A heart for the lost; A heart of worship; A heart for the hurting; A heart of compassion; The state of our hearts must be a priority to us for it is to the Lord.

So what do we do about our hearts? Proverbs 4:23 tells us, "Keep your heart with all diligence for out of it spring the issues of life." The heart speaks of the inner life, the mind, the thoughts, the motives, and the desires. So the heart of our problem is our hearts! We need to guard our hearts, not let them wander, as they are prone to do, but, keep them in the Lord's hands. We need to follow the instructions given us just above where this scripture lies in Proverbs. We scroll our eyes up three verses and read what we need to do to keep our hearts right. Proverbs 4:20-22 says, "My son, give attention to my words; Incline your ear to my sayings. Do not let them depart from your eyes; keep them in the midst of your heart; For they are life to those who find them and health to all their flesh." In John 6:63 we find the New Testament counterpart, "It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life." So to keep our hearts in the right place we must keep our hearts in the word.

We must expose our hearts daily to the light of God's word, to always make a place in our hearts for the word of God, that we may be led of His Spirit. His word tells us where our strength comes from. It tells of our need to pray and how to pray. It tells us what to do about our sin. It tells of our need to fellowship and be in church. It tells us everything we need to know about our faith and about our hearts. In fact, our faith won't even grow without His Word. "So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." (Romans 10:17) There are numerous examples in the bible of men's hearts going astray. So the state of our hearts in the worship ministry is of the utmost

importance. We must keep our hearts with all diligence, stay on top of them. Trust the Lord to speak to us through His word, put faith in His promise to help us, and He absolutely will do it for He said He would. He is faithful. We just have to do our part and obey His word.

## **Motive for Ministry: “Love”**

Paul said in 1 Corinthians 16:14, “Let all that you do be done with love.” When we back up three chapters to 1 Corinthians 13, we come to that wonderful chapter we call the “love chapter” for it shows us God’s love. Our God not only sets the standard for love, what love really is, but He is that standard, He is that love! The love we want to show, the love we want to be towards others, the love we want to operate in, this is the motive that we serve by – God’s love. We are motivated by His love for us. It would seem strange indeed if our God wouldn’t require us to be people of love, servants that love Him and love one another, and love His word, for God is love. We are to represent a loving God, love is the only way to do that!

Paul tells us in 1 Corinthians 13:1-3, “Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging symbol. And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing.” Love must be our motive for service. It doesn’t matter how much faith we have, or how gifted we are, or what great sacrifices we may make for the Lord if it isn’t done out of love for our Lord it profits us nothing. If I am motivated by how good I think I am, or what I have to offer talent wise to the ministry or if there is any other motive, I am missing the point. Love comes first. We must constantly remember how important this is to God and to our walk with Him, and to our ministry. Love!

After the Apostle runs us through all love does and does not do, and a few things love is, in 1 Corinthians 13:4-8, Paul says an amazing thing in the beginning of verse 8, that love never can do or ever will do - “Love never fails.” So God never fails for God is love according to John in 1John 4:16, “And we have known and believed the love that God has for us, God is love and he who abides in love abides in God and God in him.” So if love is not our motive for service we have already failed. We must abide in love. “Love is the greatest of graces,” someone said, “because it is the most useful to others, it is not self centered but others centered.”

Jesus told the church of Ephesus in Revelation 2:4,5; after commending them for their works, their labor, and their patience, that they couldn’t bear those who were evil, and that they had tested those who said that they were apostles but were not, but were liars, they had persevered, had patience and had labored for His name sake. But then the Lord says, “Nevertheless, I have this against you, that you have left your first love. Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lamp stand from its place unless you repent.” This really shows us how important love is to the Lord, and really fits well with what Paul was saying in 1 Corinthians 13:1-3. The church at Ephesus had done many good works for the Lord, yet they were in danger of having their lamp stand removed unless they repented and returned to their first love. We need to remember the fruitlessness in serving without love. When we have issues come up, and we will, they must be settled in love. Mercy has been shown to us and we must show mercy. Forgiveness has been given to us so we must forgive. Love must rule our hearts, God’s love, if His love is ruling He

will be ruling. So remember first-love. That's the first thing and the last thing we must always do. Walking in the Spirit is walking in love.

### **Motive Continued:**

For, "The fruit of the Spirit is love," Paul said in Galatians, and "If we live in the Spirit let us also walk in the Spirit." We are constantly to pursue love and pursue God, trusting in His unfailing love. In Galatians 5:13,14 we are told, "For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this, you shall love your neighbor as yourself."

I believe every time we walk away from love, from God's love we are wrong. Love is a big deal and we need to learn to act and react as love would in all of life's circumstances and not go the other route, away from love. His love compels us to walk in the Spirit and to love. What an awesome God we serve. He is faithful. He never fails. What a joy that is to know!

I am reminded of something a Calvary pastor, Damian Kyle, once said in a teaching, "Christianity is not trying to imitate Jesus in our own strength. Christianity is the impartation of the Holy Spirit. We need, not only the "what" of God's word, but the "how" of the Holy Spirit. Our imitation of Christ is in the strength of the Holy Spirit, as we yield to God's word for direction, His Spirit enables our performance of His word. Or we are seeking to do in the flesh what cannot be done. We need to pray for such a filling of the Holy Spirit daily to be the "how" behind the "what" of the word of God." Jesus said, "Without Me you can do nothing." Well thank God He also said, "And I will pray the Father and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever - The Spirit of Truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; But you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you." (John 14:16-18) He is one like Jesus, who has come along side to help (the Paraklete).

As a worship team love is of utmost importance, first that we love the Lord and then love one another. "Let all that we do be done with love." Then we know that the Lord will be pleased. Especially as we are up front our love should be apparent, not only for the Lord and one another, but for all who have gathered in His name. We have always been taught here at Calvary Chapel to love the Lord, to love His people, and to love His Word. So in the ministry we are totally reliant upon the Holy Spirit's help. We've been called to a walk, which we cannot do, without Him. So the fruit of the Spirit is love, and as we abide in Christ and obey the word of God, His love flows through us. So God's love must be our only motive for service, nothing else could ever do. Nothing else would please the Lord.

### **God has an agenda**

God has an agenda and so do we, so we'll stick with His. Remember Greg Laurie's statement, God's will, in God's way, in God's timing. How do we improve on God's will for our lives? We can't. So we want to do His ministry - His way. His ways are written down for us in His word. This has been mentioned several times already, for it is always key for us to be in His word so that we may stay in His will and do it His way. So our

agenda here at Calvary Chapel, Red Bluff is already set by the word of God. Worship is not going to turn from God centered to self centered worship. We aren't going to be swayed by fleshly motives either.

### **God's Agenda continued:**

We aren't going to start doing this, that, or the other, perhaps like the church over there does. Now it doesn't mean we won't constantly be improving on what we do. It doesn't mean we won't be better worshippers as we grow, or that there won't be new and more ministries developing. It doesn't mean that God won't get a hold of us and do whatever He wants to, when He wants to. But, it does mean those new waves of "this and that", that always come up, the latest "flash in the pan" or "wind of doctrine" blowing through the church, we are not going to jump on the band wagon, for God has His own agenda and we'll stick with His. There is always going to be "something new" coming along in the church, that's just the way it is. There is always a new twist or a new wrinkle or some ones new strategy about what we need to do. What God has established in the beginning for His church still stands today. So we will just keep studying His word and trusting in His Spirit's power as we serve Him.

I'm reminded of something Pastor Gil would say at Friday morning prayer or at a Sunday service, "How is it going" I would say, "Same old, good old," he would reply, meaning "same old, good old gospel of Christ." I like that! We can't improve on perfection, but perfection can, and is constantly seeking to improve us. Perfection, of course, is our Lord, so, same old, good old, gospel of Christ, the word of God, the truth, the uncompromising truth, walking in it, growing in it, worshipping out of it, and worshipping because of it. It's always been all about Jesus, It will always be all about Him. We'll stick with the "same old, good old." "My soul, wait silently for God alone, for my expectation is from Him. He only is my Rock and my salvation; He is my defense; I shall not be moved." (Psalm 62:5,6)

## **Some things to remember and do:**

### **Decently and in Order**

"For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace as in all the churches of the saints. Let all things be done decently and in order."

1 Corinthians 14:33 & 40

So our worship service, as well as all of our service to the Lord will be done decently and in order. There are many churches and many differences in the various church services. So it is with us. We desire that all the glory go to the Lord and not to us. We don't deserve the glory but He certainly does. We do not want to draw attention to ourselves, but rather, exalt the Lord. We do not want to be a praise band up front for people to look at, rather we desire to be worshippers that may simply help our brothers and sisters come to Jesus feet and worship Him. So wild and crazy will not be what you see, or should want to see for that matter. Confusing and strange behavior you won't see unless one of us is having a heart attack! The best worship teams are invisible - all

the attention goes to the Lord. We want to help the congregation to come to Jesus and to worship Him, not focus on us.

### **Decently and in order continued:**

This doesn't mean - no excitement or enthusiasm, or dull lifeless worship, or just a song singing service, far from it. When we say, "I love You," to the Lord, it certainly shouldn't be in a dull mono-tone, insincere way. Worship should be a wonderful thing to us because our God is wonderful. It should be an opportunity for us, as we gather to collectively honor our Lord together, to love Him back for He first loved us. The psalmist said in Psalm 66:1-4, "Make a joyful shout to God, all the earth! Sing out the honor of His name; Make His praise glorious. Say to God, How awesome are Your works! Through the greatness of Your power Your enemies shall submit themselves to You. All the earth shall worship You and sing praises to You, they shall sing praises to Your name." Now that isn't dull and lifeless!

That is a glad heart responding to God's grace and mercy. It doesn't mean that we are all going to start shouting and be out of order in our worship, but with hearts full of worship and praise we will honor Him. People get all worked up at football games, base ball games, golf, or over a car, money, you name it, all kinds of things, they get excited. Well, we certainly above all people have the most to be excited about. We have been born again and now we worship Him, our Lord, our God, our King, our all in all. Let's ask Him together, "Lord make Your praise glorious at Calvary Chapel, Red Bluff."

### **Be prepared:**

Be "prepared" or be "prayer-pared" (prepared by prayer). Even in the boy scouts this was the "Motto" - be prepared. How much more then should we as Christians be prepared as servants. Preparation starts on Saturday evening, make sure you get plenty of rest for Sunday. It's the Lord's Day!

### **Sunday Morning: Put on your armor - let's pray!**

"Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit." Ephesians 6:18

Rise early enough to spend some time in prayer. Go before the Lord and get ready to serve Him. The Lord blesses this time in a wonderful way, softening our hearts, filling us with His Spirit, bringing us into a worshipful state of mind and heart. So pray. Pray for the service, for those who will come to worship, pray for the Pastor, and that the word would come into the hearts of the people. Pray for the worship team, for God's anointing on us all. Pray for our singing. Pray for our playing. Pray for the other ministries, for your fellow servants. Pray as God leads you to pray, but pray!

Take some time in the word and let the Lord speak to you. We need to come into His presence before we come into His house. We want to be ready to be used by the Lord. We want to have our hearts and minds prepared to minister. We want to go to be a blessing, not just to get a blessing. Gayle Erwin (Jesus style) encourages us to go to

church ready to bless someone, to be a blessing. “Who will it be? I’m gonna bless somebody! I’ve got to bless somebody!” I like that. If we all had that attitude blessings would abound indeed.

### **Be prepared Continued:**

We want to be Romans 12:1&2 Christians. “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.” So we want to come with our minds renewed and ready to go. This is not automatic. You will have to discipline yourself and make time to do this. If you do, you will soon find out you will not want to leave home without it! You will look forward to meeting with the Lord and worshipping Him One on one before you ever go through the first song, and He will make you ready.

One more note on prayer. As you pray daily, pray for your worship team members, even when it may seem quiet on the battle field. We are in a war. The Adversary is relentless, but praise God he is already defeated.

### **Sunday Morning Worship Team:**

**Dress Code:** Casual is fine, but sloppy is not. We won’t be wearing cut-offs or flip flops, but on the other hand we don’t have to wear suits and ties, or dresses (ladies) either. Some people in the congregation do come dressed up and that’s great, others dress casual and that’s o.k. too. But, up-front leading worship though we do want to look presentable and not sloppy or uncaring in our appearance. Ladies shouldn’t be wearing too short of dresses or revealing type of clothing (in or out of church for that matter). Guys shouldn’t be wearing shirts or pants that look like they were slept in either. Ultimately we don’t want to stumble anyone, but help create a good and worshipful environment.

Wednesday evenings traditionally has been a little more casual. I’ll let you know if anything changes. Again we just want to be good examples and not stumble anyone. Dress responsibly.

### **Service Times/Rehearsal Times**

It is important to be there in time for rehearsal and for the start of each service. Be sure you know when that time is and make sure you are plenty early because others are depending on you and you are serving the Lord.

### **“I just can’t be there” (problems, trials, tribulations, life)**

I would like to know a week in advance, at least, if possible, if you are unable to serve a particular Sunday, Wednesday, or even rehearsal; Especially if you are playing guitar or keyboard or any lead instrument so that we have time to make any adjustments necessary. It’s really hard if it’s Saturday and we were counting on you for Sunday. Please try to remember that this is a team effort and we are depending on each other to be responsible. (Barring emergencies and the unexpected, of course), we don’t want to be unfair, just responsible. For instance, your car breaks down on the way to church,

that's not your fault, or Saturday evening you end up with the flu, you are sick, hey it happens, call me and let me know. So whatever may happen that you, "Just can't be there", please let us know as soon as you can.

## **Teamwork in the Worship Ministry – Be a team player**

“Therefore, if there is any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy, fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interest, but also for the interest of others. Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus.”  
(Philippians 2:1-4)

If we put faith into action and obey these words trouble will be eliminated if we each do what the word of God says, and if the whole team does this God will bless our worship team! For we certainly need to obey the Lord and be this way toward one another, working together in love. The more people we have to work with, the more we have to work together to be as one. If we are louder singers, singing with softer singers, or more talented singers singing with singers of less talent, we all want to come together as one team, “esteeming others better than ourselves.”

The same with instruments, we don't want a competition type mentality, but seeking to work dynamically together, complimenting one another, again, seeking to be one. We want to be sensitive to the mood of a song, blending harmoniously, and sensitive to one another and sensitive to the Holy Spirit. We all have various levels of experience or perhaps this is your first time working with a worship team, either way we must learn to work together. We need to “humble ourselves in the sight of the Lord” and He will help us all come together that we would be of the same mind and heart, of the same love, and in one accord.

We are all different people, with different personalities, different strengths and weaknesses, with different giftedness in different areas; of different ages and each of us are wired differently. That's O.K.! The Lord doesn't care how different we may be, or that we are an old or a new believer, what He wants is that we love and respect one another and obey His word. He wants to see faith, love, and humility in each of us and when we do it His way, we get His results. If we all want our own way we won't like the results we get and either will He! We need to be team players. God is for us, we are for Him and His will to be done, one for all and all for One. Let mercy lead. Let the Lord lead. Watch attitudes- watch what we say, because what comes out of our mouths, comes out of our hearts. Remember we have the ability to bless or curse. We want to be a blessing and not a cursing.

Working out music sometimes can be frustrating, patience is needed. Patience is also a part of love. “Love suffers long and is kind.” We need to remember this. Sometimes any one of us has had that harder than usual day, a “Satan has tanned my hide” kind of day, and now we are ending our day at a Thursday evening worship rehearsal. We still must be sensitive and loving toward one another. No “selfish ambition” or “conceit”, but in “lowliness of mind, esteem others higher than ourselves.” What a problem solver this verse is! “Let each of you not only look out for his own interest, but also for the interest of others.” As Paul said, “Fulfill my joy.” This will fulfill all of our joy as we do this and the Lord will be pleased.

**In Closing:**

With all that has been expressed in these pages I realize there is so much more that could be said about worship and the worship ministry. It is exciting to think of all our Lord may have in store for us here at Calvary Chapel, Red Bluff. For our God is an awesome God and a blessing God. It has been such a blessing over the years just to simply serve and worship Him. It is such a blessing to see those the Lord has sent us and raised up for the ministry. We don't know all that God has in mind, but we do know as we walk in obedience to His will it will be good! So may the Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord make His face shine upon you, and be gracious to you. May the Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace as you seek His face and worship Him.

Blessings! In His love, Curtiss