

What is God calling us to do this next year?

- Baptize at Least 60 People

1. Defining Worship: More Than Music

Worship in the Old Testament: Sacrifice and Service

In the Old Testament, worship was often understood in terms of:

- Bringing a sacrifice or an offering to God.
- Bowing down before Him.
- Offering your service.

Worship as a Response to God's Glory

Psalms 96:8–9 NET

Ascribe to the LORD the splendor he deserves! Bring an offering and enter his courts! Worship the LORD in holy attire! Tremble before him, all the earth!

- Recognizing the glory of God with our minds.
- Cherishing the glory of God with our hearts.
- Proclaiming the glory of God with our mouths.
- Celebrating the glory of God in all of life.

- Ron Man, *Let us Draw Near*:

Worship in the New Testament: A Living Sacrifice

Romans 12:1 ESV

I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.

1 Corinthians 10:31 NET

So whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God.

Form vs. Function: The Place of Music in Worship

- Beyond the music: Worship is showing that we value Christ, and it encompasses everything we do.

Psalms 33:2–3 NET

Give thanks to the LORD with the harp! Sing to him to the accompaniment of a ten-stringed instrument! Sing to him a new song! Play skillfully as you shout out your praises to him!

Psalms 92:1–3 NET

It is fitting to thank the LORD, and to sing praises to your name, O sovereign One! It is fitting to proclaim your loyal love in the morning, and your faithfulness during the night, to the accompaniment of a ten-stringed instrument and a lyre, to the accompaniment of the meditative tone of the harp.

Psalms 150:3–5 NET

Praise him with the blast of the horn! Praise him with the lyre and the harp! Praise him with the tambourine and with dancing! Praise him with stringed instruments and the flute! Praise him with loud cymbals! Praise him with clanging cymbals!

Matthew 26:30 NET

After singing a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

Acts 16:25 NET

About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the rest of the prisoners were listening to them.

Ephesians 5:18–19 NET

And do not get drunk with wine, which is debauchery, but be filled by the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, singing and making music in your hearts to the Lord,

2. The Heart of Worship: It Starts with Obedience

God Desires Exclusive Worship

- God is a jealous God.
- He desires the complete loyalty of His people.

The Danger of Lip Service

Listen to Matthew 15:8

Matthew 15:8 NET

‘This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me,

The True Test: Obedience vs. Idolatry

3. Worship Lived Out: Our Approach at Vail Christian Church

Redefining Your "Worship Week"

Tangible Expressions of Worship at VCC

- Gather
- Give
- Serve