

Calvary Creekside Philosophy of Worship

WORSHIP MUSIC SHOULD BE INTENTIONALLY SCRIPTURAL

At Calvary Creekside worship music, like the rest of the worship service, should be filled with Biblical quotations, imagery and allusions (Col. 3:16). In some cases (as with the metrical Psalms) it means that the lyrics should essentially be thought-for-thought paraphrases of the Biblical text. Even in cases when songs pursue a Biblical theme or doctrine the Biblical content behind the lyrics should be clear. We should be singing the Scriptures! Worship music is able to both *express* and *advance* the singer's theological understanding. Thus, what we value in a worship song is not only creativity and artistry, but Biblical and theological accuracy. The songs we sing in worship should be doctrinally sound. It is desirable to have people meditating on spiritual truths as they sing. We endeavor to provide fuel for meditation through theologically astute texts, especially regarding the doctrines of God, Christ, and Salvation.

WORSHIP MUSIC SHOULD BE INTENTIONALLY GOD-GLORIFYING

Worship music takes place for the glory and pleasure of God. Scripture teaches that just as all things were *created* by and for Christ (Col. 1:16; Rev. 4:11), all believers are *saved* by and for Christ (Eph. 1:6, 12, 14). Thus, we are striving to produce music that encourages the Lord's people to "magnify" and "exalt" Him (Psalm 34:3) by reminding them of His titles, attributes, words and deeds. In addition, we strive to express a balance between "upward adoration" and "outward love." We seek to help the congregation see our Lord as He has revealed Himself and to acknowledge that others will know that we are His disciples by our love for Him and for one another. While we trust that the songs will be enjoyable and edifying for the Lord's people, they are intentionally balanced in expression so that the church might fulfill its purpose of glorifying God by singing (Eph. 1:12; 3:20-21; Rom. 11:36).

WORSHIP MUSIC SHOULD BE INTENTIONALLY CHRIST-CENTERED

Worship music should be distinctly "Christian" (i.e. Christ – centered). Our songs should make much of Jesus Christ and the glorious gospel because Christ is the centerpiece of human history (1 Cor. 1:23a; 2:2) to which the entire Old Testament prophesied and the entire New Testament bears witness (Luke 24:47). Calvary Creekside is determined to produce music that will point people Christward and help them appreciate in fresh ways the glory of Jesus' person and work. We want to sing about Christ—His perfect life, sacrificial death, victorious resurrection, intercessory ministry, and glorious return!

WORSHIP MUSIC SHOULD BE INTENTIONALLY CONGREGATIONAL

Worship music should encourage an "every-member" ministry. We believe that God is uniquely glorified by congregational singing. Worship does not belong only to those who are specially trained or gifted, but to every believer in Jesus Christ. Singing praise is the *responsibility* of the entire body, not a select few (Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16). These truths motivate us to produce music that is accessible, both textually and musically. We are not trying to be academic or classical. We seek to produce music that will be useful for the average, musically-untrained church member. The text and music may and sometimes will *stretch* the worshiper, but it shouldn't be "beyond" him.