

The Lead Pastor / Worship Leader Relationship Stronger Together

The Lord's prayer (Mathew 6:6-13)

(6) "But when you pray, go into your [most private] room, and closing the door, pray to your Father

- Our Father
- Give us this day our daily bread
- As we forgive those who trespass against us
- Lead us not into temptation
- Deliver us from evil

The Lead Pastor / Worship Leader relationship **MUST** resonate with a resounding **US** for maximized effectiveness

I. The Place of Worship

Biblical concept of worship

-*Lifestyle of Worship* book introduction the account of the Israelites being freed from slavery ... it is all about worship to God how He desires,

Worship is one of countless ways to worship the Lord **Worship (music) and the local church**

Preaching and congregational worship leading accounts for 80% of the service

- A. The other 20 % consists of announcements, testimonies, prayer, offering (musical offertory / video announcements), windows for quest ministries / missionaries

Congregational participation

- B. Congregational worship as led by the worship leader is the **NUMBER ONE** activity that incorporates the entire congregation for the greatest length of time

- C. A thorough understanding of Satan's role is instrumental in worship in the heavenlies and the reason for his fall will help in understanding the lead pastor / worship Leader relationship
- D. Relationship is all about being a 'team' **Lead** Pastor, and also being a Worship **Leader**

The **Lead Pastor** sets the **ultimate example** for corporate worship in the local church

II. **The Relationship**

A Marriage

- A. Incorporates the same principles as a healthy husband / wife marriage
 - 1. Good communication
 - 2. Good chemistry
 - 3. Selflessness
 - 4. An understanding of strengths and weaknesses
 - a. Allowing them to be expressed freely
 - b. Allowing them to **complement** one another
- B. The strength, health, and wholeness of the marriage bond (Lead Pastor / Worship leader) is fully evident to others

Transparent Worship

- 1. A relationship in full display for others to see week after week
- 2. Husband /Wife relationship is primarily behind closed doors
- 3. Husband / Wife relationship can 'cover up' many of the weaknesses but not the Lead Pastor / Worship Leader relationship

Gelling

- 5. 'Gelling' the urban dictionary ... 'being on the same wavelength as someone ...being mentally in synch with someone ... working really well together
- C. A mutual understanding of personality / temperament is paramount BEFORE public ministry expression
 - 1. Domineering
 - 2. Autocratic
 - 3. Democratic (consensus driven versus vision driven)

The congregation's keen sense of 'smell' & 'sight'

- D. The congregation immediately evaluates the strength of the relationship (A keen sense of (SMELL)

1. Cohesiveness
 2. Respect for one another
 3. Loyalty
 4. Submission
 5. Trust
- E. The congregation immediately evaluates the strength of the relationship (A keen sense of SIGHT)
1. The level of participation on the part of the Lead Pastor during corporate worship
 - a. Praise and worship that is demonstrative in nature
 - b. Praise and worship that is sincere and/or passionate
 2. The level of freedom given to the worship leader by the Lead Pastor
 - a. The duration of praise and worship time with respect to the rest of the service
 - b. A **visible level of calm and/or resolve** when the worship leader deviates from the predetermined song list or there is a train wreck

The rotten fruit of 'faking it'

3. The Lead Pastor and the worship leader are two individuals whose relationship and interaction is clearly visible to the congregation as a whole. Body language that communicates a spirit of us and cohesiveness is of utmost importance
4. Rotten fruit is the manner in which the church participants interact with one another and how the other church leaders 'lead' when transparency, sincerity, openness, respect, and oneness is not displayed on the platform

III. Music as a Vehicle for Worship

- A. An understanding of what is needed for worship services is imperative BEFORE a worship leader assumes that position
1. The ability to read notated music / chord charts
 2. The ability to give out parts from notated music and/ or by hear
 3. The ability to rehearse singers &/or musicians
 4. The ability to play in different keys
 5. The ability to effectively modulate from one key to another
 6. The ability to play spontaneously while accompanying the Lead Pastor
 7. Knowing songs /hymns for varying generational genre-ational groups

B. The evolution of music in 'church life'

1. From 'songs and choruses' to 'songs' sung as choruses
2. The proliferation of songs to Jesus versus songs about Him
3. Songs with a rich a Gospel message (the real value of hymns)
no longer a major part of song selection... those with personal expressions dominate

C. The 'GoTo' worship leader as an 'Advocate' for the people

- A. Loyalty to the Lead Pastor is tested from the very onset of their worship leading role
- B. Can be seen as the individual that will finally communicate congregational frustrations to the Lead Pastor

IV. Communication

- A. The expectations of the Lead Pastor must be communicated clearly and specifically to ensure a good relationship
- B. Responsibilities other than worship leading (**non-musical expectations**)
 1. Visitation of church members
 2. Teaching a Sunday School class
 3. Administrative (staying within budget)
 4. Congregation
 - a. Multi-generational
 - b. Multi-cultural
 - c. Multi- Generational
- C. Responsibilities other than worship leading (music related)
 1. Choir (adult, children, youth)
 2. Ensembles (trios, quartets)
 3. Concept of 'Contemporary Worship' & 'Contemporary Worship Leader'
 - a. Contemporary Platform
 - b. Programming lights to be synchronized with parts of each song
 - c. Fog machine
 - d. Background projection colors and/or images
 4. Audio / Visual
 - a. Present state
 - b. Future expectations
 1. New audio and/or visual system install
 2. Simulcast capabilities
- E. Worship leading specifics (**musical**)
 1. Keyboard or guitar driven
 2. Length of worship leading time

3. Hymns versus choruses & about God' or 'to God'
4. Slow versus fast
5. Song List
 - a. Number of songs
 - b. Number of 'praise' songs versus number of 'worship' songs

F. The specifics of worship leading

1. Exhortations between songs (substance and length)
2. How much 'micro-management' is to be expected from the Lead Pastor
3. Church culture
 - a. Sacred cows
 - b. Historical foundation
4. Style
 - a. Traditional versus contemporary
 - b. Liturgical versus free-flowing
5. Dress Attire (what is expected)
6. Bi-vocational role versus full-time
 - a. Number of hours
 - b. Working from home
7. Using *Planning Center*
 - a. iPad
 - b. When the song list is to be ready and emailed to participants
 - c. In the song list pre-approved by the lead pastor
8. Seasonal expectations
 - a. Christmas
 - b. Easter
 - c. Mother's Day, Father's Day, Fourth of July, Memorial Day
9. Invitation of guests
 - a. Workshops, conferences
 - b. Concerts and for Sunday services

The non-negotiables

- G. Non-negotiables of 'who' participates on the worship leading team
- H. Guidelines for interacting with the opposite sex
- I. Transition guidelines (ex: Lead Pastor resigning)
- J. Which songs the Lead Pastor likes and dislikes