



VISION FOR CALVARY CHAPEL RENO-SPARKS

WORSHIP MINISTRY

1. **Our Main Vision is to Exalt God with Excellence (Because He is excellent) (Psalm 150)**

Our desire is to exalt God with all that we are from our heart level, our passion, our skill level, our appearance, to the sound mix, projection screens, lighting and dress. We desire to offer up to God an offering of praise that glorifies Him and draws our church into His presence in worship. We believe He is worthy of our best.

Practical Ways to Accomplish This: (Psalm 33:1-3)

-New songs on Sundays only if the confidence level of the worship leader of the team is high.

-Worship songs chosen are modern contemporary with one song each set that is considered either a Hymn or a well-known song that is at least 5 years old.

-A practice or no play rule in place (exceptions may be granted by worship director if extenuating circumstances are a factor)

-Singing skills (ability to sing harmonies) and musician skills (able to pick up on new songs quickly) are required and must be at a high level.

-Equipment should be upgraded as necessary to be state of the art and kept at modern levels.

-The lights in the sanctuary will be turned down and the music and sound will be turned up to create an atmosphere where the focus is taken off the congregant, allowing them the ability to worship freely as the worship team leads the congregation in worship.

2. **Passionate Praise from Pure Hearts: (Matthew 5:8) (1 Peter 1:22)**

-Pure hearts are essential for offering pure worship to a Holy God. While we realize that nobody is perfect, we look for those on our team who exemplify Christian character and are pursuing Jesus. We are told to love one another with a pure heart fervently. Sincere love from a pure heart, that is the worshipper that God is looking for.

-The heart of worship is essential for our church- we all exist to glorify God and enjoy Him forever.

-Worship should be passionate- The lyrics to the songs need to truly touch our hearts and that should be reflective in the way that we express our worship. At times you may be moved to close your eyes; if the lyrics of the song talk about raising our hands than the reflective response should be that of raising your hands. During praise songs movement of the body and the clapping of the hands might be an expression of your worship and joyful shouts of praise- all these are biblical and appropriate expressions of worship.

Prayer during services: Due to time constraints all male/female led prayer before/after songs are directed by the Worship Director. Prayers need to be Holy Spirit led and glorifying to Jesus. The heart is to amplify the gospel, lyrics of the song, and/or the sermon. Services are prepared down to the minute and every detail adds up. Accuracy and Timeliness are both goals for this area as well.

3. **Skilled Musicians and Vocalists to the Glory of God (Psalm 33:3) (1 Chronicles 24:7-8)**

-If a musician's or vocalist's skill level doesn't allow them to be comfortable in leading the entire congregation in worship in the presence of God, then further development and training will be needed before they serve on Sunday. Wednesdays may be different, but only inasmuch as the musician may just need more opportunity to grow into the comfort level necessary for Sunday morning worship; although Wednesday service will not be used for novice level musicians.

-All musicians should strive for a distraction free, harmonious, tasteful, and God-glorifying worship session. This can only be accomplished by practice and preparation.

-Vocalists should not be staring at their music stands or iPads. This can only be accomplished by practice and preparation. Many of the worship

songs that we sing can be memorized by the vocalist so that they are free to worship with no distractions.

-Worship leaders and vocalists should be leading the congregation in passionate praise and expressive worship. This may be reflected by closing your eyes, raising your hands, leading the congregation to clap throughout a praise song, appropriate verbal encouragement at the right moments, and occasional expressive praises to God are necessary and encouraged.

-Any worship leader/vocalist that is not comfortable in leading the congregation in this way should not be leading the church in worship

-Musicians and vocalists are encouraged to learn and receive from other skilled and proven worship teams and ministries. For example: Calvary Vista, Calvary Chapel Joshua Springs, Calvary Worship Center, Calvary Chapel Chino Valley will serve as model ministries that we can learn from. All of them provide examples on their websites for our teams to check out.

4. Sound Structure for Training and Equipping (Ephesians 4:11-16)

-There is a structure for training musicians and vocalists who desire to serve in the worship ministry at CCRS. This structure should involve the following:

-An assessment of their spiritual maturity (is their heart right for worship?)

-An assessment of how their talent level (this should come from the Worship Director who is an objective person with tact and experience)

-A clear structure or plan for the person who is assessed.

1. If you are gifted and ready spiritually and talent-wise, then we will add you to the team as the need arises.

2. If you are not ready either spiritually or talent-wise, the Worship Director will ask you to continue to develop your gift and you can try out again in the future.

5. Administrative Commitments for Team Members (Ephesians 4:16)

-On-Line Planning Center is the program that we use to send out emails to team members, publish the song lists and the links to the songs. All team members will be required to use On-Line Planning Center. If any training is needed, you can make an appointment with the Worship Director who will

provide the training necessary. When block-out dates are sent out, it is required of the team member to input the block out dates asap. The Worship Director is unable to schedule team members until the block-out dates are input. Once the team members are scheduled, the need to confirm the date should also be done as soon as possible so that the Worship Leaders of the teams know that the position is securely filled.

- **Chartbuilder:** is an app that ALL worship team members are required to use for practice at home to be prepared for Thursday night practice and Sunday service.

-**CCRS APP:** all worship members are required to be able to navigate and operate.

-**Music Stand:** Is also an app that the team needs to be able to Operate.

-Meetings with Team Leaders will be held once a month to ensure that we are communicating and working together as a united team for the excellence and glory of God.

6. Loving Leadership (John 13:34) (Galatians 5:13-15) (Galatians 5:22-23) (1 John 4:7)

-Above all, LOVE is the most important attribute of sound leadership. Love for God will help us to present only our best to Him and to the congregation in our worship. And love for the individuals will help us to show compassion, be tactful, and guide us in our dealings with them.

-Loving leadership must be willing to take ownership for what happens in worship at CCRS. If it sounds or looks bad, then that is something that shouldn't be taken lightly. A leader must be objective about the goal and mission of the church's worship. It's not about whether or not an individual's feelings might be hurt, it's ultimately about whether or not God is being worshipped with excellence. Excellence means a worship team who love God and are living for God, and have been granted skill by God to glorify Him and lead others to worship Him with their voices, instruments, passion and leadership abilities.

7. Adding New Songs

Heart and Vision:

1. Christ-centered
2. Biblically accurate
3. Edifying to the church

- Here at CCRS we want our worship and praise to God to be an authentic act of confidence in and longing for our Savior.
- We prayerfully select songs that are theologically accurate and edifying to our church body. We desire to worship in spirit and in truth. (John 4:24) Biblical accuracy of the songs is of the utmost importance to our choosing of songs.
- Our heart is to choose songs that are “God Centered,” so that as a church we can sing and allow the Holy Spirit to work in our lives; to exhort, encourage, challenge, urge, and give examples for us to relate to. We prayerfully desire our worship to be an example of what heaven is going to look like as we are worshiping our God for all eternity.
- Our God is a creative God. One who is alive and well. Our worship throughout all of time has evolved and changed but the gospel has stayed the same. Styles change, the overall sound of worship changes, but again, it's all about Jesus. The lyrics of songs should always point us back to God and His perfect being.

Procedure

- We will establish a yearly library. All new songs that are added to the yearly library need to go through the worship director.
- They are thoroughly read for biblical content and compared to the Word of God.
- We will prayerfully review each song to verify that it is a song the church can learn, sing, and relate with.
- The worship director will work with other worship leaders to understand the vision of the song and ensure that all leaders are able to lead the congregation with the new song. Then the worship leaders will work together to introduce the song to the church.
- Repetition of songs allows the church to learn the new song. Preferably played at least twice in one month.

· New songs are to be briefly explained by the worship leader when introduced; short testimony or biblical background information to help the church understand and relate to the new song. Or a short chorus played prior to the whole song.

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“Grace upon Grace.”