

## WORSHIP MINISTRY

1. Two Kinds of Worship – corporate worship services and personal worship. Both are important. Churches sometimes have a tendency to be strong in the service on Sunday and weak in helping members to read, pray and serve the other 6 days.

Corporate – Hebrews 10:24,25, Acts 20:20, Acts 2:42-47

Individual – I John 1:9, Phil 4:6-9, Colos 2:6,7, Psa 119:11

2. Common parts of the worship service:

Preaching – teaching God’s Word, what does it say, what does it mean, how can we apply it?

Singing – expressing praise, truth, thanks, and singing words of scripture

Prayer – confession, praise, thanks, praying for our church, community and the world

Testimonies – asking members of the church to talk about what God is doing is very powerful

Baptism – a great opportunity to help people share their testimony verbally & w/ the symbol of baptism

Lord’s Supper – celebration of what Christ did for us and a time of examination of our life

3. Better balance for health. Churches put in a lot of effort to make the worship service happen each week. We also have to have a healthy balanced emphasis on small groups and serving others.

4. Traditional or Contemporary. Some churches pick only one, but other churches offer both options and let people choose the type of service that speaks to their heart. Some choose to have services one after the other – maybe at 9:30 and then 11:00. Other churches have two services at 11:00 – the traditional in one building and the contemporary in another building.

5. Too Full. When the worship seating is 80% full or higher, it is a good thing because it communicates enthusiasm, but it is also bad because it begins to cause frustration for families trying to find enough seats to sit together. Researchers say that your worship attendance will stall when 80% of seats are full. At that point, churches think about finding or building a larger room, adding more chairs, or adding another worship service either at another time or at the same time but in another room.

6. Too Empty. When a church has a large worship space but a small number of people attending the service (only 1% to 30% of the chairs are filled) this can be a big problem for the health of the church. It creates a psychological atmosphere that communicates to guests and members that this church is sick and dying. Some possible options might be:

- Move your worship service to a smaller room to better fit your attendance.
- Remove some of the pews or chairs so that 50-70% of the chairs are filled on Sunday. You can add chairs back in as attendance increases.
- Set up some dividers or ropes across the pews/chairs in the back so that people sit closer together and toward the front.
- Probably the most difficult option is to ask your church members to voluntarily sit closer to the front and to one another. You will probably have a lot of resistance to this.
- If you don’t solve this problem, it will communicate to people – “these members don’t like each other enough to sit close together”. It will hurt the singing – people will stop singing. It will chase guests away. It hurts the preaching – everyone communicates better when you are closer together and have good eye contact. A big part of communication is reading facial expressions.
- If you removed the last several rows of seats at the back of the auditorium, it would provide more room for people to stand and talk to one another. It would also allow room for information tables about ministry, small groups, prayer request tables, student ministry, coffee, etc.