

Our vision for corporate worship at Legacy Bible Church

By God's grace, we want to strive to be worshipers who...

Deeply engage both our minds and hearts in worship. We want to have real, vital affections for God that are fueled by powerful truth about who He is.

Jesus declared, "Believe me, woman, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews. Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks." -John 4:21-23

Recognize that God's glory is bigger than any of our own conceptions.

How great is God—beyond our understanding! -Job 36:26

As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. -Isa. 55:9

We should have a sense of awe and humility whenever we draw near to God as well as a desire to experience Him in new ways.

Then Moses said, "Now show me your glory." -Ex. 33:18

Sing to him a new song; play skillfully, and shout for joy. -Ps. 33:3

By faith, come to corporate worship with the expectation that God will do a powerful work in our lives through our gathering together.

Come near to God and he will come near to you. -Jas. 4:8

For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them. -Mt. 18:20

[My word] will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it. -Isa. 55:11

Consider our whole lives to be the sacrifices that we have to offer. When we sacrifice what is valuable to us in this world—time, money, energy, temporary pleasure, pride, etc.—for what is supremely valuable—God Himself, we experience greater joy than we would have settling for what the world offers. We should bring that experience with us when we gather for corporate worship.

Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God--this is your spiritual act of worship. -Rom. 12:1

But even if I am being poured out like a drink offering on the sacrifice and service coming from your faith, I am glad and rejoice with all of you. -Phil. 2:17

Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise--the fruit of lips that confess his name. And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased. Heb. 13:15,16

Love our brothers and sisters by supporting others whose tastes, preferences, or backgrounds are different than our own. We are a body of many differing parts, and we can rejoice in that truth rather than segmenting ourselves because of it.

Now the body is not made up of one part but of many. -1 Cor. 12:14

Here there is no Greek or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all. -Col. 3:11

Each of us should please his neighbor for his good, to build him up...May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus... -Rom. 15:2,5

... then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. -Phil. 2:1-4

(See also 1 Cor. 9:19-22, 1 Cor. 11:21,22, Rom. 14:1-15:7)

Demonstrate an alternative culture to the one around us that focuses on community, fosters encouragement in spiritual things, and delights in what pleases God.

*And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds.
-Heb. 10:24*

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. -Col. 3:16

Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. -Phil. 4:8

With these characteristics in view, we affirm the following implications for our corporate worship at Legacy Bible Church:

Both the content and form of songs, prayers, greetings, exhortations, preaching, testimonies, ordinances, and any other elements in our worship services should engage both the mind and the heart.

All elements in our worship services should be free of any unnecessary distractions. Excellence in all up-front acts will be valued, but there will be a focus on leadership, not performance.

We will involve spiritually mature believers in worship leadership whose faith and affections for God may be an encouragement to the congregation and whose gifts may be used and developed for the building up of the body.

The tone set by the lead worshipers, greeter(s), and pastor will not be flippant, frivolous, or superficial, nor will it be an attempt to “rouse the crowd.” Rather, we will strive to set a tone of honest, authentic expectation to meet God and longing to draw near to Him in adoration.

We hope to incorporate a variety of musical groups—from praise teams to choirs to various instrumental ensembles—to lead in worship. We also hope to incorporate more non-musical elements in our worship services such as drama, poetry, testimonies, etc. Experiencing corporate worship in a variety of settings reminds us of the many-faceted glory of God and promotes an atmosphere in which the truth of God can touch a greater variety of senses and emotions within individuals.

We will continue to value both old and new, historic and current, fine and folk expressions of praise in corporate worship with the hope, again, to broaden our view of the glory of God and to promote both familiarity and richness in our corporate worship experience.

We will encourage all worship participants, especially mature believers, to embrace worship formats, traditions, and styles that may be new or less familiar to them as a way of loving their brothers and sisters within the body.