

# A CASE FOR BLENDED WORSHIP

“God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.” John 4:24

One of the undeniable evidences of the world-wide Christian renewal movement is the restoration of worship. Every denomination and stream of Christianity has been affected by the resurgence of worship. From “high churches” to “independent churches,” worship is coming alive by the Holy Spirit. John 4:23 says “the Father is seeking worshippers who will worship Him in spirit and truth. I believe this means the Father longs for those who will worship Him with the body, mind, soul and spirit, according to the truth of God’s Word.

As many of you know, Anne and I, are “cross-pollinators” in the Body of Christ. In 2005, we worshiped in over fifty different churches of many flavors. We worshipped with the overhead projector as well as out of the hymnal. We sang “Stamps/Baxter songs” as well as anthems from ages past. We raised our hands. We bowed our knee. We worshipped quietly and we worshipped exuberantly.

On our journey we were exposed to many different types of worship. Some would be called traditional while other would be contemporary. By His grace, we found it possible to worship the Lord in many ways with many worship styles. Our home church tends to focus more on the contemporary and it displays the excellence of our internationally-known worship leader. Yet very often, we have felt that something was lacking.

The dictionary defines “blend” as meaning “to mix smoothly and inseparably together.” I want to make a plea for blended worship in the church. Not either but both is what I would call for if the church is to experience fullness in worship. Consider these points as you worship in the coming year.

The church does not need to lose touch with the hymns and anthems from ages past. They have stood the test of time and contain many valuable lessons.

Our children need to worship with songs and hymns that date back to the early days of Christianity. They need this link with Christianity’s rich heritage.

The songs and hymns of old contain many deep theological truths that need to be embedded in our hearts. Hymns from ages past, when infused with the Holy Spirit take on new life and meaning. Old wineskins need only to be renewed by the Spirit of God.

Songs and hymns from the years gone by often stir up warm and pleasant memories to the glory of God.

A church does not have to be charismatic or even contemporary to take advantage of some of the wonderful songs and choruses being written by today’s Christian song-writers. I believe many of these “new” songs will become a part of the church’s

repertoire for years to come. Can you imagine our losing touch with songs like “Majesty” or “Above All?” There are many others like these.

Finally, may I say that true worship is not a matter of style, body posture or the generation from which the song or hymn was chosen. True worship is a matter of truth and most of all, the heart. Someone has defined worship as “attributing worth to God for Who He by nature is.” If this is true, and I believe that it is, we can worship the Father in many ways, from many tribes and cultures and in a countless number of expressions.

I encourage you to become a worshipper. God seeks true worshippers!