

for with such sacrifices God is pleased. - This is the ultimate goal for the lead-worshiper, namely, *pleasing God*. If we gather together as a church family and we sing songs, read passages, listen to a sermon, shake people's hands and smile, but our hearts are not focused on loving our Father God, then WE WILL FAIL as worship leaders. God is TOTALLY concerned with our hearts, not our appearances. 1 Samuel 16:7 says, "For the LORD sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart."

Church Membership - The only other requirement that we have in order to lead worship in any capacity at CBC is *church membership*. Some may question why this is the case, and it is intended to protect the local body of Christ and the glory of God. Since the membership process walks newcomers to Clayton Baptist Church through doctrinal issues, ministry methods, biblical salvation and baptism, this serves as an entry point where they can learn who we are and ask questions. This gives us a chance to get to know them and they, in turn, will know whether they want to commit to the CBC church family. If worship leadership were open to anyone who attends our church, then there would be little ability to gauge their walk with Christ and an uncertainty as to whether or not they are committed to this local body.

THESE ARE THE REQUIREMENTS FOR LEAD-WORSHIPERS AT CLAYTON BAPTIST CHURCH. This applies to all choir members, band members, technical team members, instrumentalists, etc.

For any questions or concerns, just contact Cliff Lewis at the church office or by email - cjlewisj@windstream.net.

For the Glory of God and Christ's Church,
Cliff Lewis (Associate Pastor of Worship and Music)



“Through Him then, let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that give thanks to His name. And do not neglect doing good and sharing, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.”

Hebrews 13:15-16 (NASB)

Worship is the continuous outpouring of all that I am, all that I do and all that I can ever become in light of a chosen or choosing god.

Harold Best (Unceasing Worship)

Since worship is the business of heaven and that is where all God's children will be, it is good for us to strive for true worship while we are here on earth. God takes the worship of Himself seriously, so we should also. God is rightly jealous for our worship, "You shall not worship them or serve them (*false gods*); for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God." God is also specific about how we are to worship Him. Jesus said in John chapter 4, "But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." So this is our task - to become this kind of people. Only then will we be able to lead others in worship.

What should the Lead-Worshipers at Clayton Baptist Church look like?

We will use Hebrews 13:15-16 for a description.

Through Him - The first thing we must be are *worshipers*. That seems obvious, but it has to be stated explicitly. You must be a follower of Jesus Christ in order to lead people in true worship. If you are trying to lead people in worship without being a true son or daughter of God, then you are endangering yourself and others. You would be a picture of what Paul describes in 2 Timothy when he says, "having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power."

let us continually - Secondly, worship should mark our *entire lives*. A great trap that many spiritual leaders can fall into is worshiping outwardly around certain people, and then acting differently around others or when alone. THIS SHOULD NOT BE. Our lives should be a continuous outpouring of devotion to a Holy God.

offer up a sacrifice of praise - Worship leading, really the Christian life as a whole, is a *sacrifice*. This stands in contrast to having a performance mindset or seeking our own glory. Actually seeking glory was the reason the greatest "worship leader" was thrown out of heaven. Isaiah 14:12-15 depicts Lucifer (Satan) being "thrust down" because he said, "I will make myself like the Most High." We must be ever mindful of our motives as lead-worshipers, and make sure we are seeking God's glory.

to God - Worship must be *God-centered* and *God-focused*. Sure, worship is our response to what we see in God's love through the glory of Jesus's sacrifice and resurrection. But, it should NEVER be about us. When it becomes more about what we like or prefer or are comfortable with we are treading on dangerous ground. Our main question in worship is, "Does this glorify God?"

the fruit of lips - Worship is not reduced to lifestyle. The truth of God's goodness and glory must come from our lips. Speaking and singing praise to God is not optional for the believer in Jesus Christ.

that give thanks to His name - Again, the focus of worship is God, and specifically here, coming from a *thankful heart*. Critical, ungrateful attitudes have no place in a Christian worshipers life. Be careful what you say, and examine the motivation of your heart.

And do not neglect doing good and sharing - Worship leaders should never view themselves as greater than anyone else because of their "status" as a worship leader. Our lives should be marked by living out, in our actions, what we proclaim with our lips. The second part of Jesus' response to the question of the greatest commandment was, "Love your neighbor as yourself."