

How to Create Multicultural Worship

I. Why Multicultural Worship

- a. *Position* – The face of Western Protestantism has changed. Many pastors and church leaders find themselves in the midst of having a multicultural congregation. There wasn't a warning bell! It kind of slowly came about, but it is here in full force now. There are also generational issues to be dealt with as well. The church culture that Baby Boomers know will be nowhere near acceptable for Millennials to worship in.
- b. *Unity* – Music and worship are both things that unite people. They are, and always have been, part of Judaism's practices and Christian practices. Except now, when multiculturalism has become the norm, they can become divisive. How is a Pastor, a Worship Leader, a Prophet or an Evangelist going to know what songs to request and prepare for a service? How are leaders to know how to use music in today's situations to get the people on one accord?
- c. *Legacy* – Christian Theology has been sung more often than it has been preached. Yet with Millennials on the rise, what musical legacy are they inheriting? And what legacy will be left by today's worship leaders? Are we creating new music that will stand the test of time?

For these reasons(and more) we need to have some type of framework for creating multicultural worship in today's protestant and non-denominational environments.

II. First Step – Measure your Demographics

As a leader you must have a firm grasp on your congregation's demographics. You must know:

- First & Last Names
- Snail Mailing addresses
- Email addresses
- Age
- Ethnicity
- Denominational Background(if any)

This data is what gives you the foundation for planning events. An event designed for a church full of twenty-somethings is clearly going to look different from a church full of people in their mid-fifties.

III. Second Step – Assemble Your Worship Team

When you assemble a team for worship, remember this principle:

You want servants, not stars.

So many pastors and leaders find themselves in that common predicament. You have people with charisma and talent, but they're inconsistent. Or they think that worship is about them. They often fight you as you try and grow the church. That's because they're stars. What you need are servants.

A servant minded worship leader and servant minded members will show up on time. They will sing the music you ask them to sing. They will support you as you prepare to release the Word of God through preaching. They will understand that their function is to prepare the people through a prophetic worship encounter with God. And to create an atmosphere where the presence of the Lord can come into the room. Especially in a multicultural context, where new structures must be formed, you need someone to understand your program and help you build it.

IV. Third Step – Create New forms of Worship

If you have a multicultural congregation, you're going to have to do some new things. Every service can't be the same, nor can you sing the same six songs all year long. You have to create some new worship situations.

First and foremost, you need to create prophetic worship. Prophetic worship is where the musicians and the singers are yielded to the flow of the Holy Ghost. Songs are not preprogrammed to last three minutes and then be cut off. Rather, spiritual songs can be created on the spot as the worship leader feels led.

Secondly, you must allot a healthy amount of time to worship. Worship cannot be timed to finish after twenty minutes. Worship time should be a minimum of thirty minutes, and the pastor can take over even after an hour. This will give the worship leaders a chance to listen to the Spirit and stay with a song or an atmosphere as long as they need to.

Thirdly, it's possible that English may not be the primary language of some of your congregants. If that's true, you'll need to sing some songs in their language. Or have translators available as worship is unfolding so they can participate. You also may need to create a service where all the music is in their language.

Lastly, the biggest trap that ministries fall into is trying to do too much on Sunday morning. There may need to be additional programs created to give more outlets for the overflow of musical gifts and anointings present in your congregation.

V. Fourth Step – Overheads, Screens, Powerpoints

Critical in this process is the use of words on the screen. Do not assume that everyone in the congregation knows the words to every song. Congregants need to see the words on a screen that the worship leaders are singing. This will automatically get more members involved in the worship. If there are no lyrics available, it can begin to feel like a concert, and the people will just watch.

If and when the worship leader goes off book, there needs to be some portion of that that is call and response. The worship leader will throw out a phrase and the congregation will repeat it or answer it. The worship leader must be careful not to go into solo mode or what we call “phone booth mode” and feel that they are alone in a room with God. If spiritual songs are being created in the moment, the congregation must constantly be invited to participate as it is happening.

VI. Fifth Step – Record & Stream

Prophetic multicultural worship services need to be shared. With Social Media, this is easier than ever before. There are many different ways to do so, from Periscope to Facebook Live, to YouTube live. Other potential congregants will see the diversity in your church, and this serves as an evangelism tool for new members. It also helps create a video historical archive of your church’s events and services.

VII. Sixth Step – Assess

Create(at a minimum) quarterly meetings with your worship team that help you assess how the congregants are receiving the worship. If there are things that need to be added or taken away, this meeting will reveal that. Online survey forms are easy and convenient to create a portal for feedback.

Listen to the musicians, the singers, and the congregants. They will(perhaps surprisingly) all have very different perspectives. You as the pastor/leader need to be aware of the needs of every group. They most likely will not be able to achieve the balance that they need without your guidance.

VIII. Conclusions

As with all things, this framework is just scratching the surface. If you’d like a personal mentor to help you with this, I am available for:

- Telephone Conferencing
- Skype Conferencing
- In person Workshops

Contact my office to schedule an appointment.

- Email: pdt@ProphetDavidTaylor.org
- Phone: 773-792-7748

Initial fifteen-minute consultation is free, and we schedule according to your needs after that. God bless you as you worship through hymns!