



Fighting Stagnation & Complacency in our Worship “Toward a deeper understanding”

By Chris R. Hansen

I believe that corporate worship service styles tend to be cyclical in that they should rotate between:

*Traditional and contemporary models
Passive and participatory exercises
Simple and complex structures
Emotive and stoic expressions*

I believe this is added by the Holy Spirit in an effort to help keep our focus and attention always on the Creator. When our worship world is shaken up we will tend to rely on the object of our worship as opposed to the way or style of our worship. This is often uncomfortable and disappointing but only because we've grown accustomed to a style and our focus has shifted away from the object of our worship to the mode of our worship. One must be careful not to “worship worship”. I believe this is God's way of helping us to focus on Him and not on the vehicles we use to convey our love and adoration of Him.

We are prone to continue or return to our comfort zones, to our safe consistent traditions. We do this because we are creatures of habit and we are often fearful and scared to move to something we do not fully understand. We often view our worship style as an end, as the best or only way we can relate to God. Yet in truth we never arrive but are always evolving in our love for God and I believe that's what God wants. God wants us to always be changing—moving closer to Him. Never be content with our current ‘place’ but keep moving closer to Him. Our ever-evolving worship expressions

help us do just that.

Stagnation and complacency is never an option in regards to our corporate expression or personal expressions of love to God. These ever-changing modes of worship help chip away at our rough edges allowing us to become more reliant purely upon the person of God. Our worship expressions are journeys that have no end. The conclusion is in our ever transformation from glory to glory. It is never ending.

We can never capture all that God is through any one kind or style of worship but we can gain a larger perspective of Him through varying ways in which we seek Him and desire Him, which is more about what worship should be about. Each style or venue can help engage a different part of our being in communion with God.

Read 2nd Corinthians 3:7-18 from the Message - Lifting the Veil

7The Government of Death, its constitution chiseled on stone tablets, had a dazzling inaugural. Moses' face as he delivered the tablets was so bright that day (even though it would fade soon enough) that the people of Israel could no more look right at him than stare into the sun. 8How much more dazzling, then, the Government of Living Spirit?

9If the Government of Condemnation was impressive, how about this Government of Affirmation? 10Bright as that old government was, it would

look downright dull alongside this new one. 11If that makeshift arrangement impressed us, how much more this brightly shining government installed for eternity?

12With that kind of hope to excite us, nothing holds us back. 13Unlike Moses, we have nothing to hide. Everything is out in the open with us. He wore a veil so the children of Israel wouldn't notice that the glory was fading away - 14and they didn't notice. They didn't notice it then and they don't notice it now, don't notice that there's nothing left behind that veil. 15Even today when the proclamations of that old, bankrupt government are read out, they can't see through it. Only Christ can get rid of the veil so they can see for themselves that there's nothing there.

16Whenever, though, they turn to face God as Moses did, God removes the veil and there they are--face to face! 17They suddenly recognize that God is a living, personal presence, not a piece of chiseled stone. And when God is personally present, a living Spirit, that old, constricting legislation is recognized as obsolete. We're free of it! 18All of us! Nothing between us and God, our faces shining with the brightness of his face. And so we are transfigured much like the Messiah, our lives gradually becoming brighter and more beautiful as God enters our lives and we become like him.

