

The Culture of Wildwood Worship

The bible is clear that believers are to meet together for mutual edification. While individuals can meet and encourage one another, pray for one another, challenge one another, etc.; there is only one mandated gathering for the entire church (Hebrews 10:25). This corporate gathering is for the purpose of worship.

The corporate worship service should have two different but interrelated aims: the honor of God and the edification of God's people. The first commandment declares that God requires exclusive worship. He is the object and recipient of worship. The triune God is the only one worthy of ultimate worship.

But the worship of God cannot be accomplished without the edification of God's people. The great commandment declares that loving God cannot be divorced from loving people. The heavens declare the glory of God and God is capable of giving the rocks a voice; but the image bearers of God have been given the privilege and responsibility of worshiping Him in spirit and in truth. The heart, rather than just a voice, is what God wants.

The Holy Spirit is the ultimate worship leader, and He uses human worship leaders to plan, prepare, and execute the service. Wildwood is blessed when each worship leader uses his/her unique set of gifts and talents to bring each service to fruition.

Worship is not limited to music, but music plays a role no other element can in the corporate service. With this in mind there are three common threads we want to weave through our music. Each service should strive to include these three elements. Lord willing, the people of Wildwood will come to expect the music to be:

1. God-Centered

The lyrics say something true about who God is and what He does. They say something true about who man is and what he does. The weight of the set list is vertically oriented (songs sung to God).

2. Community-Minded

While the target audience is given deference, the needs of all people, of all ages, of all stages of maturity is considered when developing each week's service. Everyone sacrifices something.

3. Whole-Hearted

The heart (mind, will, and emotion) is intentionally and unapologetically pursued through lyric, arrangement, and performance. God's people are stirred and moved.