

## Importance of keeping the integrity of theology in contemporary worship.

Why is this important?

- Music is a powerful way to convey the truth of God's word and people can learn good (or bad) theology through music.
  - In a 2020 blog written by Dr. Andrew Budson for Harvard Health blog, Music activates just about all of the brain. Music has been shown to activate some of the broadest and most diverse networks of the brain. Of course, [music activates the auditory cortex](#) in the temporal lobes close to your ears, but that's just the beginning. The parts of the brain involved in emotion are not only activated during emotional music, [they are also synchronized](#). Music also activates a variety of memory regions. And, interestingly, [music activates the motor system](#). In fact, it has been theorized that it is the activation of the brain's motor system that allows us to pick out the beat of the music even [before we start tapping our foot to it!](#)
  - Music often bypasses barriers in our brains, opening us up to receive the message within the song.
- It's our responsibility to present God before the congregation accurately.
  - As we look at music, we need to weigh whether or not the music being chosen (or written, if you're a writer) presents God in a balanced way. God is love and often we like to stay in that vein. But He is also just, and long-suffering, and jealous, and omnipotent, and holy, and infinite, and immutable, and self-sufficient, and faithful...
- God will hold us accountable for what we TEACH through the medium of music.
  - The book of Job shows us that Job's friends were held to account when God showed up on the scene, "My anger burns against you and against your two friends, for you have not spoken of me what is right..."

## Song Types

- Celebratory Songs – Praise songs, songs that are fun to sing with catchy tunes and lyrics.
- Horizontal Songs - These are songs which touch on life issues and tell a story, or take us on a journey. Songs ABOUT God can fit in this category. You see that so often in the Psalms. **When we become the primary focus, that is problematic.**
- Vertical Songs – These songs focus on God as we lead people in adoration and worship. **Sometimes, it is a journey for the people to get to this place.**

## Ways to Keep Theological Integrity in Worship

- **By Knowing God's Word**
  - Colossians 3:16 says, "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God."
- **Abiding IN Christ**
  - *John 15:4, "Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me."*
- **Pray, asking God for His will in what music is chosen.**
  - Matthew 6:10, "*Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.*"
- **Evaluate the sources you're getting your music from.** Even content from well-known and trusted sources should be examined. Don't assume that because a writer or even a collective of writers (or even an organization) is popular or even has longevity, that every song will be theologically sound.

### VERSE 2

God of Your promise  
You don't speak in vain  
No syllable empty or void  
For once You have spoken  
All nature and science  
Follow the sound of Your voice

### CHORUS 2

And as You speak  
A hundred billion creatures catch Your breath  
Evolving in pursuit of what You said  
If it all reveals Your nature so will I  
I can see Your heart in everything You say  
Every painted sky  
A canvas of Your grace  
If creation still obeys You so will I

