

Worship Ethics

Fusion Breakout

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OVERVIEW & PURPOSE

This workshop/breakout explores worship as a form of moral formation, asking not only *what* we believe about God, but *who* our worship practices are shaping us to become. We'll look at worship in the context of post-evangelicalism and Christian nationalism, introduce foundational principles of Worship Ethics, and consider how trauma-informed worship can help create spaces of healing, dignity, and restoration.

OBJECTIVES

1. Equip attendees to think not only theologically, but also ethically.
2. Stewarding our artistry, leadership, and innovation in a way that dignifies everyone's humanity, reduces harm, provides healing and restoration, and participates in the kin-dom of God.
3. Develop an understanding and awareness of trauma-informed worship.

OUTLINE

1. Introduction
2. Liturgy as moral formation
3. Post Evangelicalism/Christian Nationalism
4. 3 I's
 - a. Emotionally Intelligent
 - i. How do we deal with the reality of emotional manipulation in worship?
 - b. Led with Integrity
 - i. Who has the power?
 - c. Intentionally Patterned
 - i. Who are we becoming? ("Who am I becoming" is a part of this question)
5. Trauma Informed Worship
 - a. Creating safe spaces of healing and restoration
 - b. David in the King Saul's court
 - c. Ministry with the vulnerable:
 - i. Homeless/extreme poverty
 - ii. Teens
 - iii. Religious harm
 - iv. Adults with disabilities
6. Wrap Up, Q&A

NOTES

If we want to reflect Christ in our worship and in the world, we must not only think theologically, but ethically.

Why Worship Ethics? Christian music ("worship") is the most popular it's ever been, yet when we look at our world, the rate and quality of transformation does not seem to match the rate and quality of popularity.

Our theology asks: Who is God? Who is Christ?

Our ethics asks: Who are we becoming? Who am I and what should I do? And what does THAT *actually* say about what I believe?

Worship Ethics is not something we're not doing - it's something we're not naming. And in not naming it, we're not doing it very well.

This is assuming we have the artistry. Worship Ethics is about stewarding our artistry, leadership, & innovation in a way that dignifies everyone's humanity, reduces harm, provides healing and restoration, and participates in the kin-dom of God.

Who are we becoming? Who am I and what should I do?

Liturgy as moral formation: What is the liturgy of your life?

- If we lead worship, we are worship ethicists: we are helping to shape the liturgies, patterns, and morals of our own life, our congregations life, and our community's life.

Musical worship is powerful... and dangerous?

Post-Evangelicalism/Christian Nationalism/Worship

3 I's

1. Emotionally Intelligent
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2. Led with Integrity
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3. Intentionally Patterned
 1. Who are we becoming? ("Who am I becoming" is a part of this question)

Trauma-Informed Worship

- Creating safe spaces of healing and restoration
- David in the King Saul's court
- Ministry with the vulnerable:
 - homeless/extreme poverty

- teens
- religious harm
- adults with disabilities

Be Still

Many people are hesitant to adopt contemporary worship because of the perceived harm. The harm came from the authoritative abuses of power – NOT from the music. Because of where we are in history, Worship Ethics is a necessary component of Wesleyan worship. And there are good things happening! (end on an encouraging note)

One-line session description:

Who are we becoming through the way we worship? Explore how worship leaders can steward artistry, leadership, and innovation in ways that reduce harm, cultivate healing and restoration, and reflect the way of Christ.
