

The Ministry of Music

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The music ministry at CFBC exists to direct the hearts, minds, and lives of God's people to the God of glory & the gospel of Jesus Christ in Spirit-filled worship through the means of music.

The music ministry builds on the following premises.

1. The Music Must Be Undistracting.

The goal of every song at CFBC played by the musician and sung by the vocalists should be to lead God's people to sing well, loudly, and heartfully to the Lord. The band should incorporate nothing that would take away from the worshipful tone of the music portion of the worship service. Thus, CFBC sees 'special music' (e.g., a solo, a special piece, etc.) as detracting from the corporate nature of the event and it can prove to be distracting – and a hindrance.

2. The Lyrics Must Be Theologically Rich.

Every song that CFBC sings must reflect biblical theology. There should be no fluff in the music. The songs must point the mind and heart of God's child to the Scriptures. Oftentimes, it seems as though these songs speak about God, His character, His attributes, His sovereignty, His gospel, and His Lordship. Songs that speak of 'me' the believer's love for God repeatedly can take away from the God-centered focus.

3. The Songs Must Point to God & to His Gospel of Grace.

Many older hymns (and some newer hymns/worship songs) speak about God in the third person and remember His character and His saving gospel. There are some newer songs (and some older hymns) that speak of our love for God and our devotedness to serve Him. Though there is a rightful place for these songs at times, CFBC sees the music time during the worship service as an opportunity to direct the believer's heart to God, to Christ, to the Spirit, and to the only saving gospel from coming judgment.

4. The Focus Must Be on Corporate Worship.

Many hymns and worship songs speak of singing together to praise God's Name. Oftentimes, songs will remind believers of the corporate nature of worship and, in fact, many of the songs call other believers in the assembly to praise God and sing to Him. When the Church is corporately gathered, songs should reflect the corporate nature of reflecting on God's character, His saving grace, His eternal gospel, and the church's commitment to follow Him. Though there is an occasion for this, it should not be so much on *a person's* individual love for God.

5. The Music Should Encourage and Allow for Loud, Congregational Singing.

The music, the melodies, the rhythms, and the lyrics should encourage the entire congregation to sing along. This is why hymns have such a preeminent place in CFBC's worship. They allow believers to sing to rhythms, to meters, and theologically rich lyrics that are memorable. The goal is for all of God's children to obediently follow the Psalms and sing loudly to the Lord and proclaim clearly His wonderful deeds in the great assembly. The songs should help this, not hinder it.