

THE LIFE OF A MUSIC MINISTER

Introduction:

While the worship of God is more than singing and music, we recognize singing and music to be an important means of worship (Eph. 5:19; Matt. 26:30). We recognize challenges today with trends towards performance-based events, instrument driven worship, demographically specific music, and stylistic rooted music—instead, our desire is to apply our stated worship practice, as best we can, to our songs and instruments, trusting the Holy Spirit to guide us in direction and unity.

What is Music:

A collection of sounds that are very pleasant to ear.

Who is a Minister:

A person officiating or assisting the officiant in church worship.

Who then is a Music Minister:

If you are a music minister, you are a minister of the gospel in songs. Music ministers are people who are appointed by God to serve.

A music minister is someone who serves in **Word** and **Spirit**, using **sound**, **rhythm** and **harmony**.

Difference Between Music Ministry and Music Industry

Music Ministry	Music Industry
service is the mentality	celebrity is the mentality
it is about Jesus and pleasing Him	it is about the artist and pleasing the fans
prioritize ministry	prioritize “moneystry”
leading people to God	winning fans
no competition	sharp competition

Attribute of a Music Minister:

In 1 Timothy 3, Paul writes to young Timothy and provides qualifications for elders and deacons. Though we don’t find a similar list of qualifications for worship leaders in the Bible, we can exercise wisdom and discernment to think about important characteristics of a good worship leader/music minister.

1 – Gift of Musical Talent

An effective worship leader should have some kind of musical talent.

We want to obviously lead with a pure heart, but skill is very important when it comes to leading the people in worship. We see the importance of skill and music when King David is appointing his singers and musicians in 1 Chronicles Chapter 25.

Having musical abilities allows the people we lead to focus more on the act of worship rather than the mistakes we are making. That is why developing our skills and being prepared as a musician and vocalist is so important.

2 – Humility

We must lead with humility.

No matter how many gifts and talents we own, we must always remember that we are nothing without God. Our goal is not to wow the crowd with our gifts, but to facilitate moments where people encounter Jesus. It's not by our power or might, but by His spirit that lives within us that God is glorified and lives are transformed.

3 – Fear of God

Having the fear of God is so crucial as a worship leader. Fearing God is not equal to having the spirit of fear, something that we experience when we are worried or afraid of something. Fear of the Lord is an awe-inspired reference that causes us to respond with honor and obedience.

When we walk in the fear of the Lord, we are moved to please God and not man in our role as leaders. It becomes our desire to live lives and lead in such a way that brings him honor.

4 – Biblical Knowledge and Faith

We carry a responsibility as worship leaders to have biblical knowledge. What we say and sing during our worship moments will influence the people around us. Sometimes we simply need to declare the very word of God in our worship.

5 – Love for God

Love for God is foundational for a worship leader.

Many people would say that another word for the term worship is love, adoration, or passion. Worship leaders need to have an understanding of what it means to love God because it plays out into how we worship.

It is essentially impossible for us to worship God without love for Him. Love for God needs to be the driving force that leads us into a place of worship.

6 – Love for Church

Our love for the local churches worship leaders always seems to never be a main topic. We tend to put more emphasis on the music and the influence we carry, neglecting the importance of how we feel about pastoring and loving people.

This is a dangerous place to be in as a worship leader. If we are only there to fulfill our musical desires, we will feel a major void. Even as worship leaders we were designed for community. We have to lead with a love for our church. How we feel about people will dictate our decisions as a leader. We have to have love for our church in order to have a healthy and successful ministry where we are leading.

7 – Teachable

No matter how much experience and knowledge we have as worship leaders/music ministers, we have never arrived.

This is why we must remain teachable. Being teachable within your ministry makes room for growth and even respect from your team. When we listen to others and allow input, we are humbling ourselves.

Both humility and teachability are characteristics of a good worship leader/minister since those who lead or teach are more likely tempted with prideful motives. Being teachable will sometimes require us to admit when we are wrong, to listen to others, and to accept that we still have room for growth as a leader. Proverbs 13:18 *says poverty and disgrace comes to him who ignores instruction, but whoever heeds for proof is honored.*

Dos and Don'ts of a Music Minister:

DOS:

Do rehearsal always

Pick the right key for the atmosphere

Sing familiar songs

Hear the people sing

Dress well and descent

DON'TS:

Stop Making Worship all about You

Stop singing songs that are theologically inaccurate

Stop singing songs that don't provide depth

Stop being predictable

Stop commanding people during worship

Stop just singing the song

Stop quenching the spirit

Stop assuming people know how to worship

CONCLUSION:

God calls us to serve him diligently and with all sense of humility. Leading people to Christ is the ultimate goal. Therefore, our lives and the styles we live must reflect what we sing or preach. As Music Ministers, we must not live a useless life or practice what our religion abhors, culture and society detest and what defiles us. These can only be achieved when we establish constant fellowship with God.

Shalom!