

Comparison of Traditional Worship and Contemporary Worship

Written by Calvin Fox

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I.) **Emphasis about GOD, His attributes**

transcendence vs immanence

greatness, holiness vs goodness, love

II.) **Emphasis in emotional response to God during Worship**

awe, fear vs intimacy, warmth

focus on attributes of God vs focus on feelings about God

focus on mission & work of the church vs focus on fellowship

focus on Christian living & service vs focus on spiritual warfare & victory

III.) **Emphasis in Mood of Worship**

solemn, serious, reserved vs celebrational, joyous, spontaneous

intellectual, mental vs emotional, physical

quiet, listening to the Word written & spoken vs usually loud, enjoying upbeat music

music: words and doctrinal content instruments vs feelings, instruments

sermon: intellectual, rational over personal stories, narrative

IV.) **Emphasis of Purpose in Worship**

to honor God & praise of God, offer thanksgiving vs actively seeking and experiencing the presence of God

V.) **Target Group**

established, traditional Christians vs newer or younger Christians & seekers

The above categories are not mutually exclusive. They are comparisons of emphasis on a sliding scale

1. What role does personality or personal traits have in one's approach to worship? in determining emphasis?

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2. What role does custom or culture play in determining what one prefers or is comfortable with in worship?
3. What role does Theology & the Bible have in determining the emphasis in worship?