

## Cole Young

Is there a difference between being a music director and leading worship? I have experience doing both and I believe there is a difference. What is a worship leader? Is it somebody who sings? Plays a musical instrument? Picks out music for Sunday service? The thing is, all of those, & so much more, are correct! If you are leading people in deep biblical worship of the one true sovereign God of the Universe, you are a worship leader. As Bob Kauflin, so eloquently put, “A faithful worship leader magnifies the greatness of God in Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit by skillfully combining God’s Word with music, thereby motivating the gathered church to proclaim the gospel, to cherish God’s presence, and to live for God’s glory (Bob Kauflin, *Worship Matters: Leading Others to Encounter the Greatness of God*).” What does that quote mean? Let’s break it down a little more:

**“A faithful worship leader magnifies the greatness of God...”** It’s very easy, to sometimes bring God down to our level; to make Him seem accessible to the everyday man. Now, there’s nothing wrong with that in principle. God is accessible. He’s always intimately available to us at any and all times. Sometimes though, we forget the greatness or bigness of God. He’s the creator of the universe! We cannot diminish Him down nor forget about that in our worship.

**“...in Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit...”** Along with not forgetting the bigness of our God, we cannot forget the other two parts of God. God is a Holy Trinity, the Father, Son & Holy Spirit. God, the Father gives His grace through His Son, Jesus Christ. This is the crux that our evangelical faith is built on! God gave His son, Jesus, for the wages of sin, through grace on the cross for us! We’ve got to sing, not only praises but thankfulness for that. What’s the role of the Holy Spirit in worship? John 14:26 says, “But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.” The Holy Spirit fills us up in spirit and truth of the Word! Which is what we should be singing in our churches... The Word... Which leads us to the end of the quote:

**“...by skillfully combining God’s Word with music, thereby motivating the gathered church to proclaim the gospel, to cherish God’s presence, and to live for God’s glory...”**

This is it leaders, this is why & how we do what we do. We combine God’s word with music, leading the Church in teaching through the lyrics, proclaiming the gospel, to ultimately, live out God’s glory in their lives. That’s it, it’s why we lead worship. We don’t do it for us alone, and we absolutely don’t do it to show off. My prayer every Sunday morning with our team is that the people that enter the building do not see us, they see the Lord in all of His glory. It is such a joy to be a part of what God is doing!