

Coram Deo Baptist Church Praise Team Handbook

*"I will sing to the Lord, because he has dealt bountifully with me."
Psalm 13:6*

PRAISE TEAM PURPOSE

The purpose of Coram Deo is to live in the presence, under the authority, and to the Glory of God.

We are a called out people committed to glorifying God (our vision) through worship and obedience to Christ, through the power of the Holy Spirit, by the preaching of His Word, the proclaiming of His name, the discipling of His people, and the spreading of His renown (our mission) for the joy of all nations (our goal). {Ephesians 1:3-14, Acts 2:42, Romans 12:1-2, Matt. 28:18-20, Isaiah 26:8, Psalm 67:1-2}

Corporate worship is an important part of our Sunday Morning Gathering. It delights the Lord when we exalt Him. In so doing He “inhabits the praises of His people” (Ps 22:3). This allows us to enjoy his presence. It is also God’s command to respond to Him in praise (PS 150). In our praising we obey him and submit to his authority. He deserves our response to the praise of His glorious grace (Ps 66:2). We are to praise him and so we use our gifts to the glorify Him. In worship we are giving back the breath in which He gave to us.

As a called out people we should rejoice. We should rejoice that we are no longer enemies of God but his children. We should rejoice that sin and death have lost their power and sting. We should rejoice in the forgiveness we have received from the Lord who works everything to the pleasure of His will. For this reason we commit ourselves to glorifying him. Worship is not only displayed in our public singing but in our everyday lives as well. If you do not worship the Lord with your everyday life, or have personal times of worship during the week you are nothing more than a performer on Sunday morning not a worshipper.

Our spiritual act of worship is living our lives as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing. We know that even our best efforts fall short of this command. Though as we live our lives emulating Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit we trust Christ to live in and through us. This enables us to preach the gospel, proclaim his name, disciple his people, and spread his renown for the joy of all nations.

Staying true to the core values of the church will help us accomplish our mission. These core values should also be apart of our lives outside of our corporate Gathering as well. When considering our Gathering a few values will be more evident than others. The first core value of the church that will be manifested in our worship time will be *Truth*. Every thing we do should be based upon the Word of God. The songs we sing will be centered on the Word of Truth. They will proclaim the name of Jesus. They will assist in discipling people, and they will allow us to spread loud Christ’s renown. The songs we use will have depth. We want the songs we sing to elevate God’s truth (by singing God’s truth.) In contemporary culture many people derive a shallow theology from shallow worship songs. We will not do this. It is important to sing songs that do not “water down” the Gospel. We will sing truths from the tenth century B.C (Psalms), the first century (N.T Scripture), the twelfth century (All Creatures of Our God...), the sixteenth century (A Mighty Fortress...), the eighteenth Century (Come Thou Fount), and

the twenty-first century (In Christ Alone.) No matter when the songs were written if we use them in our times of praise they should echo the Scriptures.

The next core value that will be evident is a *Lofty View of God*. This will demand excellence in all we do. This is for the sake of God's holy name. He deserves our very best. When we have a lofty view of God our personal worship should increase. As our personal worship increases our corporate worship will be an overflow of our experience with God during the week. This will truly help our worship team to be lead worshippers. The stressing of holiness in the lives of our leaders makes for a conducive atmosphere for others to follow their lead in the doxology of the one true God. We may have casual attire, but the praise given should be far from casual. We must cultivate an atmosphere of reverence of the one true God.

The next core value that will be evident is *Freedom in Christ*. The Lord inhabits the praises of His people. As we worship Him He will be present in our midst. 2 Corinthians 3:17, tells us, "Now the Lord^[a] is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom." What a great promise in which to hold fast. As we pour our hearts out in praise. We have freedom to praise Him in any Biblical way we are given whether hands raised, joyful shouts of adoration, or kneeling in reverence, etc.

The next core value that will be evident is *Prayer*. Prayer is our opportunity for direct communication with God. We will take time to go before the Lord in prayers of confession and thanksgiving throughout our Gathering. There will be times of leader led prayer dispersed through our public time of worship to help draw our hearts closer to God. As we draw near to God, He will draw near to us. We are told His house is to be a house of prayer and we will honor that.

There should definitely be an aspect of all the core values represented in our worship Gathering but these are the most evident. Let us strive to cultivate these values in our personal lives in preparation for our times of praise leadership.

GUIDELINES

The praise ministry places high value in rehearsal attendance. In order for the team to succeed at an optimum level, rehearsal attendance is a priority. Without regular attendance the team suffers. While it is expected that members may pursue other passions outside of our church, it is also expected that members demonstrate a high sense of value in the area of rehearsal and corporate attendance.

Absences must be communicated in advance to the Praise Team Leader.

Attendance includes practicing for, and participating in, the event(s) on the scheduled day(s) and for the scheduled duration. The duration of these events is important. As is often the case, the praise team is expected to be on stage at the beginning, as well as at the end of the scheduled event.

Members must be present for mid-week rehearsals in order to participate in the Sunday service. The Praise Team Leader and Pastor reserve the right to wave this policy under

certain circumstances. However, special considerations for excused absences must be made in advance.

The Praise Team members should plan to be on stage and ready for a scheduled sound check before service starts.

As with any skill, practice is essential. Praise Team members are expected to spend the necessary time outside of the formal practice sessions to ensure they are prepared and able to give their best during formal practice and events.

Scheduled Events

- Thursday Rehearsals - Band & Vocal - 7pm to 8:30
- Sunday sound-check Band – 9am – 9:45am
- Sunday Sound-check Vocal – 9am to 9:45am
- Sunday worship services - 10:25am to 12pm
- Special conferences and rehearsals as scheduled

(* Wednesday Night Prayer Meetings are an integral part of our Church life. It is not a requirement to attend each one, but you are strongly encouraged to make it a priority.)

Attire

This is not a legalistic set of rules. We want to maximum grace and minimize rules. If you are on the worship team you should be someone that is walking with the Lord. Your attire should be a *frame your face* not for anything else.

Modest casual dress attire is the standard. As you dress for worship, remember the stage is about 24” higher than the congregation (especially ladies wearing dresses.) We are not only striving for excellence we are attempting to bring Glory to Christ so let us dress as unto the Lord.

Serving Period

Each Praise Team term and schedule will be made quarterly (three months.) Once you commit to serve on the praise team it will be a three month commitment. After the three months you will undergo a review from the praise team leader. You will then be given the opportunity to commit to another term or withdraw from the Praise Team.

Probation or Removal

If there is a failure to comply with any of these guidelines on a consistent basis it will lead to a probationary term or removal from Praise Team for the remainder of the current term or further terms at the discretion of the Praise Team Leader and Lead Pastor.

Praise Team Covenant

We are committed to the Lord. Our attitude will be to put the Lord first. (Deuteronomy 6:4-5)

We are committed to the team. Our attitude will be to put the team before our selfish desires. (Romans 12:10)

We will pray for one another on a regular basis. (Colossians 1:9-12)

We will spend quality personal time with God on a regular basis. (Matthew 6:6)

We will develop our spiritual gifts and natural talents to the best of our ability. (2 Peter 3:18)

We will participate in group fellowships and training events offered by the worship ministry. (Heb 10:25)

We will communicate, in love, our disagreements directly to the parties involved and choose to forgive one another as Christ has forgiven us. (Matt 18:15-20)

We will reconcile all offenses and seek to resolve our differences before taking the platform to lead worship. It is better to be reconciled than to be right. (Matt 5:23,24)

We are sensitive to the presence of the Holy Spirit among us. Therefore we will not grieve Him with bad attitudes. (Ephesians 4:30-32)

We will not tolerate any unwholesome talk among us. We will strive to use words that glorify God and build up one another. (Ephesians 4:29;5:3-12; Colossians 3:5-8; 2 Timothy 2:16-22)

We are devoted in our mission to worship God and will passionately lead others to do the same. (Psalms 9:1)

We will fulfill our ministry responsibilities joyfully without grumbling or complaining. (Psalms 100:2; Philippians 2:14)

We are dedicated to love and serve one another as God has commanded us. (John 13:34)

As a member of the Praise Team, I commit to adhere to the Guidelines as described in the Praise Team Handbook.

Excluding events beyond my control, I commit to participate for 6 months and will faithfully execute my responsibilities as detailed in the Praise Team Handbook.

I commit to walk in grace and love, holding myself accountable to the covenants described, while encouraging and assisting other to do the same.

Name (please print): _____

Signed: _____

Date: _____