# Back To The Basics



The Vineyard movement has been blessed with a rich, theological framework and experience of intimate worship over the past 30 years. We started from humble beginnings, with a group of hungry believers gathering in a Yorba Linda, California living room seeking to connect with God. Today, accessible and intimate contemporary worship music is present in most churches, on the radio and virtually everywhere you look. In one generation, we have witnessed a radical change in the way the Church at large approaches God in worship. This is an amazing thing!

With this in mind, as musical styles continue to change, and new generations of worship leaders and worshipers strive to re-interpret what it means to worship God with their unique cultural expressions, it is important that we continue to revisit core values at the heart of the matter in this journey called worship.

Our Vineyard worship values have been described in many ways through the years, and yet I believe these values can be quickly summarized in 3 simple words – *Intimacy, Accessibility and Authenticity (thanks to Brian Doerksen for his initial work in the description and application of these values).*

**Intimacy** – This is *the hallmark worship value* in the Vineyard. This value demands that our worship be self-disclosing and vulnerable to God. My personal belief is that this value is not about musical style nor the volume of our music. We need to be careful, while we hold our values near and dear, that we do not export our ideas of what "intimacy" looks like to other cultures and generations. I'm a believer in "quiet intimacy" as well as "loud intimacy." I believe there is room for both at the heart of this value.

**Accessibility** – Worship leadership assumes that someone is following. The expression of this value involves restraint on the behalf of the worship leader and team, in order to provide access to those who are attempting to worship with us. It is a pastoral approach that is concerned more about the needs of the gathered congregation than with our own personal desire to express ourselves creatively. We lead worship from a position of humility and servanthood.

**Authenticity** – John 4:24 states that the Father is looking for worshipers who will worship Him in spirit and truth. This value states that our lives and our expression of worship ought to be in line with one another. Our corporate worship expression is the overflow of our individual lives, lived out minute by minute, in the presence of the Lord. This value asks us to bridge the chasm between the words of our worship and the actions of our daily lives.

As you read this "back to the basics" issue of ***Inside Worship***, our prayer is that we all would find a refreshing of heart and mind as we seek to press back into the heart of the gift called worship.

In His grip,

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