PROTECTING OUR WORSHIP VALUES: AN EDITORIAL

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IW: What do you think is the main area of concern for churches today seeking to care for their most treasured values in worship?

Charlie: Thirty years ago, worship music did not exist on the radio. Worship music was certainly not a viable concert ministry, and contemporary worship services were not the norm. Today however, we have young worship leaders taking jobs at churches – and viewing those church roles as stepping-stones to a broader concert ministry.

Because opportunities like this did not exist in the past for worship leaders, these issues of motivation were not a larger issue. Today, these issues of motivation not only exist, but are challenging the worship value systems of churches around the world.

I liken the situation to the use of steroids. When professional athletes started using steroids, college athletes started using steroids to compete in the camps after college. When the college athletes started using steroids, the high school athletes started using them in order to get to the same weight and performance of the college athletes they were going up against after high school.

As churches modernize their worship expression, we must continue to protect our worship values. Younger, less-experienced worship leaders may come into the ranks who are not ready to navigate the emotions of large crowds, a good band, and the movement of the Holy Spirit. Mistaking the Holy Spirit for a good crowd interaction will prove lethal to our values in worship if left unchecked.

Find ways to both protect and invest your worship values in your church community – for the sake of our long-term health as the Church.



MISTAKING THE HOLY SPIRIT FOR A GOOD CROWD INTERACTION