Video and Image Media Sources

Video and media have become explosive new tools in the area of worship within the last 10 years. Finding good resources for video or images that can be used well in a local church can be difficult. This section helps with finding some top notch resources, both online and offline.

Online Media/Image Sites

Included here are some noted places along the Internet where one can acquire visual media resources for download online. Note that many places offer both downloadable items and also physical items on disk.

Worship House Media

★★★★★



Worship House Media has been *the online creative trust for church video resources* for the last 2 years. Before that, the online world of media was forming around this and two or three other top video resource sites. However, in the last couple of years, the quality of content, design of user interface, and organization of assets have lifted Worship House Media to the premier position as media provider for churches. Some top quality producers of media have stopped providing their content to multiple sites and focus on Worship House Media as their conduit to the church – and rightly so. Worship House Media, when taken as a complete solution, is clearly the preeminent site for worship media online. You won't have to wonder if the quality of media on this site will be professional or properly formatted for your computer. Worship House Media's quality control and meticulous care in providing excellent organization and search that churches can use make this site the safest and highest quality bet to find your top notch media quickly.

URL: http://www.worshiphousemedia.com
Review: **SM63**

The Work Of The People



The Work Of The People (TWOTP) is a producer of top notch worship media assets. Their work is particularly powerful and provocative. In the realm of media as a method of telling stories, there is none better than TWOTP. You won't find boring backgrounds or "hot and spicy" themes here, but you will find very real, human, authentic and sometimes provocative storytelling in film and image. Because of their focus, this site will not be the constant media filler that you could use every Sunday, week after week. But for specific projects and times when you want to say something with profound impact, if you have just one site to spend time on, this is one site you should check out.

What I love about TWOTP is their rooted focus on God and people. You won't be confused or drawn away by 3D outer space morphs or fractal graphs. TWOTP video stories are constantly contrasting the wonder and character of God with the reality of our humanity.

URL: http://www.theworkofthepeople.com
Review: **SM64**

WorshipVue.com

★★★★☆

WorshipVue.com is a new online media aggregator. Part of the PraiseCharts family of online sites, WorshipVue has a glitzy user interface with very good functionality. Two things stand out right away. First, the search functionality is strong as it returns results quickly in nice format for previewing and purchase. Second, the videos are clearly categorized – mini movies, motion loops, countdowns and song tracks. If you are a PraiseCharts fan, you will love WorshipVue, because you can purchase media on WorshipVue using PraiseCharts credits. Alternatively, you can purchase media directly with a credit card (without using PraiseCharts credits). WorshipVue is new, and this gives them the benefit of crafting a new site to the needs of today's users. However, it also means that they start off with a limited selection of content. Today, they have about 1000 videos online, a markedly smaller database than the main competitors in this area. Videos are available in MPEG or Quicktime formats. Be sure to check that the video you want is available in the format you need. That said, the media content is top notch, from some of the best producers in the fields. They are definitely starting off on the right foot. Check them out!

URL: http://www.worshipvue.com
Review: **SM65**

Phone: (800) 921-4724
Mailing address: WorshipVue
Suite 123 #505-8840 210th Street
Langley, BC V1M 2Y2 / Canada

Sermon Spice



Where Worship House Media excels as the quality aggregator in this category, and The Work of The People emphasizes artistic and provocative of storytelling, Sermon Spice has become the Wal-Mart super store of online media. With more media than any other site, Sermon Spice contains a diverse and inexhaustible collection for churches. Part of the reason that Sermon Spice has so much more content than other site is that they encourage private individuals to submit media to Sermon Spices's commercial user library. They have an entire area for creative producers to become working video moguls. If you create a video that others might use in church, Sermon Spice might be the portal for you to get that video to the masses. The result? Sermon Spice has a surprisingly well defined mechanism for letting you see the top notch videos that people purchase and like. It exposes the best videos in each area, allowing you to glean the cream of the crop. That said, it also contains a significant portion of videos that are home-made and of less interest to discriminating media purchasers. The point is – with Sermon Spice, you may end up spending a bit more time searching for the top notch, perfect video, because it contains so much more content, and some of it is user generated. If you have the time, you might find a gem that fits your needs perfectly.

URL: http://sermonspice.com
Review: **SM66**

Willow Arts – Toward Wonder/Pro Video



If you are looking to use the best selections of media from one of the top worship and arts ministries in the world, Willow Creek Arts has "Toward Wonder" videos. Quality will not be an issue on this site; everything is top notch. The selection and breadth of topic coverage is limited, as should be expected from a single producer. Still, their work is articulate, well-priced and like The Work of the People (another producer mentioned in this guide), is full of exceptional storytelling. All in all, it may be somewhat more palatable than The Work of the People for some churches as well. Toward Wonder/Pro Video has less of an artistic edge than The Work of the People, and is perhaps less gritty, but the site houses powerful and effective narratives in each video.

URL: http://www.towardwonder.com/prodvideo.asp
Review: **SM67**

New Worship Media



When I am looking for a site that just does excellent color washes /images of background motions for lyrics/notes, there is one site that comes to mind. It is New Worship Media. While their quality is similar to what you might find on Worship House Media or Sermon Spice, they stay narrowly focused on just creating great color and spatial image backgrounds. These motion backgrounds use primarily gradients, washes, color mats, light bursts and fractal generations. I love this focus. If I want a quality motion background, do not need a sermon illustration, and just want to be sure I get a good selection and a quality product, New Worship Media is my first stop.

URL: http://newworshipmedia.com
Review: **SM68**

Bluefish TV



Bluefish TV has both downloadable and physical DVD items. This is a good site of collections of images and backgrounds. Its primary strength, however, is a collection of several media-centric curriculum options (from known speakers), and turnkey topical vignettes.

URL: http://www.bluefishtv.com
Review: **SM69**

Forty One Twenty / Church Media



Forty One Twenty is a site that has a consistent, strong artistic inventory of custom images and videos. You can tell the site is made by a single group or producer, since it has the same nuanced (and well done) approach to all the content. Some quality work is here, and you will not find any duds on this site. The site hosts a small collection of media that is artistic and well thought out – it is worth a look.

URL: http://www.fortyonetwenty.com
(note: once at the URL, drill down to "Church Media")
Review: **SM70**

iStockphoto

★★★★☆



iStockphoto is one of the largest stock photo sites in the world for purchasing images. While it is not a Christian specific site, it contains hundreds of thousands of quality images. I use this site as my first option for good quality, low cost stock photos for print and web pieces. If I want premium images beyond iStockphoto's content, I try Corbis. iStockphoto is not useful as a Christian search engine for background worship stuff – the Christian themed material is fairly average and without much edge. Stick to the Christian sites for Christian themed media. But for high quality stock photos, check here.

URL: http://www.istockphoto.com
Review: **SM71**

Corbis Images



Corbis Images is perhaps the best professional image site online. Corbis is not a Christian site, but definitely a pro location for top quality images. Along with Getty Images, Corbis is considered one of the premier sources of top quality stock photo for professional marketing and image needs. You will pay more, but the quality of the image catalog is painstakingly culled to include only top notch media.

To be clear, Corbis is often used by producers themselves as source image and video for compositions. The same can be said of Getty Images and (to some degree) iStockphoto as well. These sites serve the professional designer and producer more than the niche church market, but in the purview of a seasoned media designer, this site can be a powerful asset.

URL: http://www.corbisimages.com
Review: **SM72**

Centerline New Media



Centerline New Media is a producer – making some of the best content appearing on other sites like Worship House Media. Their site warrants investigation. The site has a clean, crisp interface and nice options are available on each download. Notables: the site has theme packages such as their Easter package, and they have a collection of Spanish language media. Nice work, Centerline.

URL: http://centerlinenewmedia.com
Review: **SM73**

Beamer Films



Beamer Films is another producer whose acumen has made them one of the quality contributors to aggregators such as Worship House Media. What I love about Beamer is this – story telling. Each video is a focused illustration, meant to truly communicate something with visual power. They use imagery to make a compelling storyline come alive. Worth a look.

URL: http://www.beamerfilms.com
Review: **SM74**

Dan Stevers



There are a few sites that you can visit that have done everything perfectly. Dan Stevers is one of those. If you go to Dan's site you will find one of the premier producers of quality media for churches – anywhere in the world. Some of the pieces are CGI with a purpose and quality, others are motion stills. All of them contain perfect story, perfect images, perfect music, and perfect script. Go to his site and watch *God of the Broken*, *Voices of the Cross*, *Change the World*, and *We Give* or *Life With God*. Masterpiece works of media that are not over the top, but do not pull punches either, live here. Dan may be one of the best producers in the country, so he is not just pushing out a hundred new videos a year. There is a limited selection here, but every single piece is worth the money. Perfect. I do not hand out 5 stars for many resources, but Dan has earned it. Wow!

URL: http://www.danstevers.com
Review: **SM75**

Digital Stache



What if you do not want a movie or a sermon illustration? What if all you want are motion backdrops for songs or looped motion backgrounds? One of the best places to find top quality song and service video backgrounds is Digital Stache. You won't find anything else really, but these are top quality, HD and SD motions. Pristine effects and attention to detail are found in each media piece. Unfortunately this site has a limited selection, but it does punctuate the focused and very well done work that is part of their SongKit and Looped sections. These are the two sections of the site that seem most relevant.

URL: http://digitalstache.com
Review: **SM76**

Thr-Ve



Video needs vary greatly across churches. But there are times when you have a need for triple-wide video. If you run a 3 screen system for your projection (and many moderate/large churches are now doing this), it can be tough to find good content for standard motion on songs or script presentation. Thr-ve answers the call and produces one of the only solid collections of triple-wide video motions on the market. If you need triple-wide, you better check out this site. Obviously this is an extremely niche site (and Thr-ve does produce other content for general worship media use) but their offering of triple-wide content is notably what makes them stand out. Thr-ve does not conform to the hope of ubiquitous format offerings, though, as they present just Quicktime MOV files, which is notably under expectations. But again, if you need triple-wide media, they are your huckleberry.

URL: http://www.thr-ve.com
Review: **SM77**

Pixelgirl Media



If you are looking for a place with bright, light-filled motions, look no further than Pixelgirl Media. Basically, every single motion background video is laminated with scintillating colors. Infusing spectral tracks, fractal morphs and reflective glares with various nuances, Pixelgirl delivers a collection that fills your need for anything bright, hopeful and glimmering that you might need. The site has nothing else, but again, what it does, it does well.

URL: http://pixelgirlmedia.com
Review: **SM78**

WorshipFilms.com



WorshipFilms.com features motion backgrounds, countdowns, sermon illustrations and even collections of hymns. This site contains an exceptional range of video file format/sizes, and is one of the longest running worship media sites. WorshipFilms is reasonably priced, and offers great package deal pricing. However, the site layout and navigation is a bit dated.

URL: http://www.worshipfilms.com
Review: **SM79**

A Visual Planet



A Visual Planet positions itself as real artists making real art for your ministry. It has some well-thought-out concepts and media. The collection is not as vast as other sites, but is still focused on Christian ministry. It has the feel of a mini Christian iStockphoto to this reviewer. This site has very good pricing, coupled with a more focused selection.

URL: http://www.avisualplanet.com
Review: **SM80**

Shift Worship



Shift Worship is worship media site with strong website navigation and a good image and video catalog. There is nothing amazing at this site. However, it is a quality resource you can use for your media backgrounds, stills and motions. Shift Worship focuses on countdowns and mini-movies for themed needs. This is not a site for stock photo needs other than lyric/text backgrounds.

URL: http://www.shiftworship.com
Review: **SM81**

Kinetic Faith



Kinetic Faith is a good site with content developed from a single local church. This site is free; however, it offers a very limited selection and a mediocre site layout. Kinetic Faith is intended as a free resource from one local church and not as a full service media site.

URL: http://www.kineticfaith.com
Review: **SM82**

Motion Worship



Motion Worship is a basic stock site with a few hundred videos online. Lyric backgrounds are this site's main focus, save a few count-down videos as well. It is reasonable quality stuff, and the more recent entries seem to be getting increasingly better in quality as the site adds content. This is a decent site with good navigation and reasonable site content. No edgy or breath-taking concepts here; just core content.

URL: http://www.motionworship.com
Review: **SM83**

Visual Worship



A more conservative take on visual images, this site has some good basic collections of content, but nothing very innovative. Everything is clear and pricing is reasonable. If you think that Worship House Media is too progressive for your church tastes, then this site might be a good option to keep things fairly predictable.

URL: http://www.visualworship.com
Review: **SM84**

Sharefaith



Sharefaith.com is a reasonable image catalog, good for bulletin content and design. It is a concise and conservative collection of motion and background images. More of a themed stock photo site for designing church printed materials than an on-screen media source, this site has a specific use in my opinion.

URL: http://www.sharefaith.com
Review: **SM85**

Free Media Options



Sometimes it is required that you produce media on literally no budget. Below are some options. It will take you time to sift through the lousy images, but there is some gold in these sites for those who can take time to find it.

NOAA Photo Library (public domain) –
http://www.photolib.noaa.gov/index.html
Review: **SM86**

Bell's Christian Art Gallery –
http://www.jrbell.com/index.html
Review: **SM87**

Church Media Exchange Center –
http://www.churchmedia.net/MXC
Review: **SM88**

FreeFoto.com –
http://www.freefoto.com/index.jsp
Review: **SM89**