Five Considerations for Choosing Appropriate Worship Music
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1. **What is the objective of this song?**
   - Based on the text alone, what is it trying to express?
   - What is the song’s purpose?
   - What “voice” is being expressed?

2. **Does the text have theological merit/integrity?**
   - Does the text use explicit and biblical names/titles for God?
   - Is the text utterly true?
   - Is it true for my theological tradition?
   - Does it represent biblical ideas of Christian experience?
   - Does it represent a fair picture of biblical teaching?
   - Does it recognize the Triune nature of God?
   - Does it represent a fully developed theological idea or does it only provide “thought bytes” of theological ideas?
   - Does it tell the Story of God?

3. **Is the text constructed well?**
   - Does the song text use complete sentences?
   - Does it use comprehensible words?
   - Does it make use of rhyme? Metaphor?
   - Will the poetry connect with the congregation’s imagination?*
   - Is there a logical flow of thought?
   - Do the words fit the music?

4. **Is the music written well?**
   - Are the musical phrases well constructed?
   - Is the melody line memorable?
   - Is the tune accessible to the average singer?
   - Is the tune interesting enough to sustain the participation of the singers?
   - Does the tune fit the text?

5. **Does the text speak to the experience of our congregation?**
   - How is the cultural suitability for our people?
   - Is this a song our congregation can sing well?
   - Does it represent the perspective of my worshiping community?
   - Can my people relate to the imagery, ideas, etc.?
   - Is it inclusive to all groups within my congregation?

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1 Constance M. Cherry, *The Worship Architect: A Blueprint for Designing Culturally Relevant and Biblically Faithful Services* (Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2010), 203. This page may not be reproduced or distributed without the written consent of the publisher.