

Workshop: Worship

Session: Worship with the Vietnamese Mindset

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Worship takes an important role in the life of the Vietnamese Christians. It reveals where they are in their journey of faith with God; therefore, serious Christians don't take it lightly. They never want to miss church, especially on Sundays. Usually the whole family - husband, wife and children - goes to church together and would wear their best outfits for church as a way to show respect to God.

In the Vietnamese church, there seems to be a distinctive role between church leaders and others. Church leaders, who are in some type of committees, usually lead the worship services, as they are acknowledged as having more ability and experience to lead than other attendees. For American church, everyone might have the same privilege in participating in worship.

Most Vietnamese churches, being influenced by the Christian and Missionary Alliance and Baptist tradition, are not in favor of having their infants or young children baptized. Unlike Methodists, who understand both sacraments, baptism and the communion, are God's grace, Vietnamese Christians expect the sacramental recipients to understand the meaning of regeneration and "the body and blood of the Lord" (1 Cor. 11:27-28); therefore, children must wait to be baptized or to receive the holy meal until they have a clear understanding of these sacraments. The Vietnamese churches also have the tradition of not letting non-baptizers to receive the Holy Communion. In other words, the Lord's Table is only for the baptized.

Vietnamese churches usually worship more than an hour. Their worship is more routine and traditional than spontaneous. They don't sing or pray too loud. Sermon is considered the most important part of the service. For American churches, a community service might be known as an outreach ministry. For the Vietnamese, they put more emphasize on evangelism to win the lost souls.

The above is a few distinctiveness of the Vietnamese church worldwide, including in the USA.

