

Worship Matters Video Intensive with Bob Kauflin
Session 10: Healthy Tensions, Part 2
(From Chapters 23-27 of *Worship Matters*)¹
Outline & Discussion Questions

I. Planned & Spontaneous

A. Planned

B. Spontaneous

“A man ought not to be so confined by any premeditated form as to neglect any special infusion, he should so prepare himself as if he expected no assistance, and he should so depend upon divine assistance as if he had made no preparation.” - Isaac Watts²

C. Growing in Spontaneity

1. Approach it theologically, not simply to be creative.
2. Don't plan too much.
3. Practice spontaneity alone.
4. Practice spontaneity with your team.
5. For churches that aren't used to any flexibility, start slow and explain what you're doing.

II. Rootedness and Relevance

“Tradition means giving votes to the most obscure of all classes, our ancestors. It is the democracy of the dead. Tradition refuses to submit to the small and arrogant oligarchy of those who merely happen to be walking about. All democrats object to men being disqualified by the accident of birth; tradition objects to their being disqualified by the accident of death.” - G.K. Chesterton³

A. Rootedness

B. Relevance

C. Some Downfalls to Relevance

“The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.” - 1 Corinthians 2:14⁴

“If we become exclusively preoccupied with answering the questions people are asking, we may overlook the fact that they often ask the wrong questions and need to be helped to ask the right ones.” - John Stott⁵

D. A Visual Culture

III. Skill and Authenticity

A. Skill is too important to us when:

- We value musical preparation but not spiritual preparation.
- We're more affected by musical chops than godly character.
- We look down on those who don't play or sing as well as we do.
- We don't think about the lyrics we're singing or the congregation we're serving.

B. On the other hand, authenticity is too important and skill not important enough when:

- We use our "love for Jesus" as an excuse for regularly messing up or not being prepared.
- We downplay preparing for a meeting and people can tell.
- We assume any band that's really good is probably theologically shallow or they probably live ungodly lives.
- We never improve and it doesn't bother us.
- We think the leader or pastor should just be grateful we're showing up.

IV. For the Church and Unbelievers

A. For the Church

We are, "a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for [God's] own possession."

And for to what end are we different? "That we may proclaim the excellencies of him who called us out of darkness into his marvelous light." - 1 Peter 2:9

B. For Unbelievers

"I will give thanks to you, O Lord, among the peoples; I will sing praises to you among the nations." - Psalm 57:9

“He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God. Many will see and fear, and put their trust in the Lord.” - Psalm 40:3

V. Event and Everyday

A. The Church Gathered

B. The Church Scattered

C. Gathered and Scattered Together

“Whatever we do, in word or deed, we will do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.” - Colossians 3:17

Session 10 Discussion Questions:

1. How does planning serve others? How can spontaneity be used to serve others?

2. What are some of the weaknesses of planning at the cost of spontaneity? Of spontaneity at the cost of planning?

3. What are some practical steps you can take to grow in planning? In spontaneity?

4. Do you gravitate more towards rootedness or relevance? Why?

5. What are some signs that skill is more important to you than authenticity? What are some signs that authenticity is more important than skill?

6. What are some steps you can take so that your leadership serves unbelievers more effectively?

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⁵ Taken from *Between Two Worlds* by John Stott.