

# WORSHIP!

By,  
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WORSHIP CONCEPT #1: **To Worship is to participate.** (Based on Kierkegaard's Model for True Worship)

The People are the Actors.  
The Leaders are the Prompters.  
God is the Audience.

WORSHIP CONCEPT #2: **Worship is the expression of a love relationship.** If one does not love God, it is impossible to worship Him.

WORSHIP CONCEPT #3: **Familiarity and mindless repetition can lead to apathy in Worship.** Apathy discourages participation, which prevents true worship.

PERFORMANCE TIME: Approximately 9.5621 minutes

PERFORMANCE NOTES: Great care must be taken to develop the preachers as being positive, likeable, and full of enthusiastic passion for the Lord. They must not come across as negative or making fun of the ministry in any way! This may be performed effectively with older teens or college age ... as well as an adult cast. (A multi-generational cast is a lot of fun!) Requires strong actors who have a well-developed sense of comedic timing and are capable of turning the corner from hilarity to heart-felt sincerity.

CAST:  
*(In order of appearance)*

BETTY LOU: Reverend Calhoun's loyal, but somewhat frazzled wife - middle-aged. Wears scarf tied tightly around her hair and a frumpy coat or sweater. Sweetly supportive of her husband.

REVEREND LEROY BILLY-BOB CALHOUN: Energetic preacher with a strong southern accent and exaggerated mannerisms. Cousin to Leroy Billy Joe Jackson. Exudes a child-like delight over his call to preach; has a joyous, infectious laugh which he uses frequently ... sometimes directed at himself! Wears an old-fashioned preacher's suit-coat ... preferably with tails; carries a white handkerchief in his pocket.

KRISTINA: A sincere member of the Worship Team

REVEREND LEROY BILLY-JOE JACKSON: A cousin to Rev. Calhoun, Rev. Jackson is also an energetic preacher with a strong southern accent and exaggerated mannerisms. Like his cousin, he has a simple, child-like personality and a strong, positive love for the Lord. His enthusiasm and energy are boundless ... but he's also capable of deep sensitivity. Wears an old-fashioned preacher's suit-coat ... preferably with tails; carries a white handkerchief in his pocket.

DONI: Female: Another sincere member of the Worship Team. Teenager recommended.

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*(Congregation sings a worship song of some sort.)*

WORSHIP LEADER: It was the great Danish philosopher Kierkegaard who said, "In true worship, the people are the actors, the leaders are the prompters, and God is the audience." Join us as we continue to *worship* together in spirit and in truth. <sup>1</sup>

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*(BETTY LOU enters, talking over her shoulder to REV. CALHOUN – who is still offstage. They may enter from offstage right or left; or they may enter from the back of the Sanctuary ... walking directly to the platform while speaking.)*

BETTY LOU (*worried*): Now, Leroy; I don't know if you should say anything or not.

CALHOUN (*begins speaking backstage, then enters S.L.*): Well, of course I should say something, Betty Lou; I'm a preacher, ain't I? (*big grin*) A preacher's **always** got to say something!

BETTY LOU: Well, I know that's true, but ...

CALHOUN (*turns and notices audience; delighted*): Oh, look; here we are!

BETTY LOU (*see audience and gasps*): Oh, Leroy; you're right. And there's people, too; sittin' right there in the pews. Heh. (*smiles*) Hi, y'all. (*wiggles fingers at audience in little wave*)

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<sup>1</sup> Optional segue for Worship Leader.

(REV. CALHOUN *clears throat and solemnly addresses audience*)

CALHOUN (*to audience*): Folks, standing before you is the right Reverend Leroy Billy-Bob **Calhoun**, and I want to compliment you on the way you've been participating in yer singin' here, because, as you probably know, participation is a prerequisite of true worship! (*aside to BETTY LOU*) I got me a little sermon on that they might want to hear some time.

BETTY LOU: Leroy, I hear tell your cousin Leroy Billy-Joe **Jackson's** been preachin' that one 'round town a bit.

CALHOUN: That's okay, Betty Lou. Like I always say, if it needed to be preached the first time ... probably most folks didn't bother to listen! (*joyful laugh*)

BETTY LOU (*smiles sweetly*): Yes, Leroy, you always say that ... 'cause sure enough, most the time they're not. (*beat*) Listenin', I mean.

CALHOUN: Yes; well, be that as it may ...

(*clears throat, turns towards audience abruptly, big smile*)

I perceive that you been participatin' in this here worship service because you got the love of the Lord in your hearts. And that does **my** heart good because worship has got to be ... first and foremost ... the expression of a love relationship!

BETTY LOU (*in awe*): Oh, Leroy; that was profound. I believe you feel a sermon comin' on, don't you?

CALHOUN (*delighted*): Yes, I do; I do, my little Sweet Potato! You best be gettin' out your hankie, Betty Lou, 'cause I'm gonna be preachin' on love!

(REV. CALHOUN *moves eagerly to pulpit*)

BETTY LOU (*ecstatic*): Oh ...be still my soul!!

(BETTY LOU *rushes offstage and pulls DONI back onto the stage with her – may be a teen sitting in the audience.*)

CALHOUN: That's right, folks, (*spells*) L - O - V - E ... the most powerful force in the universe!

(BETTY LOU *arranges DONI's arms in a large "L" and points to it – ala Vanna White as REV. CALHOUN continues.*)

You take the "L" off of Love and that spells, "O-V-E ... Ove." And brothers and sisters, I tell you this mornin' that worship is a matter OF relation-ship!

BETTY LOU: That's right, Leroy; it's "of" relationship!

CALHOUN: If you don't have the relationship,

CALHOUN / BETTY LOU: ... you can't relay the message!

(BETTY LOU *changes DONI'S arms to an "O."*)

CALHOUN: You take the "O" off of Ove and that spells "V-E ...Ve" which comes after "U" and before "W."

BETTY LOU: (*explains to audience*) You know, like: (*spells*) U – V – W ... X-Y-Z.

CALHOUN: Now, hear me when I tell you: you were created to worship the Lord your God. If you're not filled with the joy of worshipping Him; if your spiritual life is in the **pits**;

(BETTY LOU *points to DONI'S arm pit and giggles*)

BETTY LOU: You know, like an arm pit? Not very nice to look at; sometimes kinda stinky.

(DONI *quickly puts her arm down, looks horrified*)

CALHOUN: ... then you better start working on the relationship and stop thinking about you, you, and double you!

(REV. CALHOUN *points to Congregation on 'you, you' and throws hands into air to form giant "W" on 'double you.' Upstage, BETTY LOU joins hands with DONI to make a giant "W" in synchronized motions with Leroy.*)

(BETTY LOU *steps away, leaving DONI'S arms in the "V" position, changing to a combined effort to make the "E" as Leroy says it.*)

CALHOUN: You take the "V" off of V-E and that spells "E," the fifth letter of the alpha-**bet**.

BETTY LOU (*spells while counting letters on her fingers*): A-B-C-D-E: that's five. (*shows audience*)

CALHOUN: Which reminds me of the fifth book of the New Testa-**ment**.

BETTY LOU (*recites, still counting on her fingers*): Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, the Acts. (*conversationally to audience*) It's the fifth book; the Acts of the Apostles.

CALHOUN: And dearly beloved, I tell you truly, the only reason the Apostles were able to carry out their *glorious* Acts of worship was because they had an on-fire, up-to-

date, living-it-out sort of love relationship with the Almighty LORD God Himself! *(he looks at BETTY LOU and DONI)* Can I get me an, 'Amen?'

BETTY LOU/DONI: Amen!

CALHOUN *(to congregation)*: Can I get me an "Amen!" out here?

*(REV. JACKSON shouts over the top of the Congregation from offstage.)*

CONG/JACKSON: AMEN!!

CALHOUN *(laughs, delighted)*: Why, I believe that's the voice of my beloved Cousin Leroy Billy-Joe **Jackson!**

*(REV. JACKSON enters S.L., KRISTINA worriedly follows him)*

Cousin Leroy! What are you doin' here?

JACKSON *(distressed)*: Ohhhh, Cousin Leroy, I'm afraid these folks here got themselves a big problem!

CALHOUN: Do tell?

JACKSON: Do tell! I was standing in the fellowship hall, havin' a doughnut and a little "gettin'-acquainted conversation" with this young lady here, when she started talkin' to me about the "**temporary**" worship services they been havin' in some of the churches 'round here.

KRISTINA: No, Reverend; what I said was ...

CALHOUN *(shocked)*: 'Temporary' worship?

JACKSON: That's what I heard: temp- o- rary. *(deeply concerned, almost tearful)*  
Acting like it was somethin' to be proud of!

KRISTINA: Sir, if you'd just listen ...

JACKSON: Now, Cousin Leroy, you know as well as I do that worship's not something that ought to be done on a temporary basis.

CALHOUN: That's right; it's not!

*(KRISTINA pulls REV. CALHOUN aside and whispers in his ear. He gives an "Ah, I see" look to her.)*

JACKSON: You got to participate in it, regular-like!! Whether it's clapping your hands ...

CALHOUN (*interrupts*): Uh ...Cousin Leroy ...

JACKSON: ... moving your mouth, lifting your heart, passing a plate, wiping a tear ...

CALHOUN (*more insistent*): Cousin Leroy ...

JACKSON (*shoots hand out to silence CALHOUN, snapping his fingers shut like the closing of a mouth*): Hah! Hah!! (*continues after a dramatic pause*) There ain't no room for argument here, Cousin Leroy: if you don't love the Lord enough to **participate** in worship regular-like, you ain't got nothin' to be proud of! It's just that simple!

(BETTY LOU *pulls* KRISTINA to S.L. to join DONI.)

CALHOUN: Well, Cousin Leroy, I agree. But, I believe the buzz word around here ain't 'temporary.' It's "**contemporary**."

JACKSON: 'Contemporary?' Do tell?!

CALHOUN: Do tell. The word is: **Con** - temporary.

JACKSON (*pauses, light dawns*): Oh; **con** - found it! (*grins*) I done believe I misunderstood myself!

CALHOUN (*grins*): Yes, Cousin; I believe you done did! (*beat*) You ain't got no cause to go kickin' against **contemporary** worship seeing as it keeps folks out of the rut of familiarity. Why, you know as well as I do, "familiarity breeds apathy," <sup>2</sup> ...

JACKSON (*catching the vision*): ... and apathy is what the Devil uses most often to keep God's people from **participating** in worship!

(*look at each other, getting excited*)

BOTH (*together*): Ohhhh, Cousin Leroy ..... I think I feel a sermon comin' on!

(*Girls applaud upstage as Preachers move to preaching positions*)

JACKSON: That's right, folks,

CALHOUN: apathy is a tool ...

ALL: of the Devil!

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<sup>2</sup> Don McMinn, The Practice of Praise: A Handbook On Worship Renewal, WORD Music, 1992 .

JACKSON: A -

CALHOUN: P -

JACKSON: A-

CALHOUN: T -

JACKSON: H -

CALHOUN : Y.

*(BETTY LOU uses both girls to make letters illustrating the "Sermon." They quickly snap from one position to another.)*

JACKSON: You take the "A" off of apathy ...

CALHOUN: and that spells "P-A-T-H-Y:

JACKSON: Pathy!"

CALHOUN: And brothers and sisters, the path- ye choose will either take you up or down.

*(Girls point up and down from their upstage positions)*

You take the "P" off of Pathy ...

JACKSON: ... and that spells "A-T-H-Y: Athy" sometimes pronounce "Ay – thee" ...

CALHOUN: A-thee-ism ... refusal to worship the Lord your God ...

JACKSON: the curse of an unbelieving heart!

CALHOUN: You take the "A" off of Athy, and that spells "T-H-Y: Thy,"

JACKSON: *(searching for a connection)* ... which rhymes with "Fly."

*(The others look blank, not seeing the connection. JACKSON jerks his head towards CALHOUN with a "You take it from here" look.)*

CALHOUN *(hesitant at first, then gets an idea)*: And brothers and sisters, I tell you truly, when you stand at the Golden Gate, the religion of A-thee-ism ...

ALL: ... it ain't a-gonna fly!

BOTH: Amen?

GIRLS/CONG: Amen!

JACKSON: You take the "T" and the "H" out of Thy ...

CALHOUN: and that leaves "Y."

*(All shoot arms up over head to form big "Y.")*

You ask me, “**Why** ... must I participate?”

JACKSON: I'll tell you why ... it's because the Lord don't want no apathetic, luke-warm, spit-it-out-of-the-mouth sort of worship in His Church today!!

Can I get me an "Amen?"

GIRLS/CONG: Amen!

CALHOUN: Can I get me a participatin', wellin' up within ya, apathee-less "Amen?!"

GIRLS/CONG: Amen!!

*(Preachers throw an arm around each other's shoulder, delighted with themselves)*

BOTH: Ohhh, Cousin Leroy; that's some g-o-o-d preachin' we just done did!

*(Both mop brows with handkerchief, girls exit upstage.)*

*(Music underscores – setting a tender, serious tone)<sup>3</sup>*

CALHOUN: *(serious and tender)* Brothers and Sisters, hear me now: "worship **is** the expression of a love relationship." <sup>4</sup> If you don't love God, you can't worship Him. It's just that simple.

JACKSON: So, beloved, if you're feeling your worship has grown cold, renew the relationship through heartfelt participation. Make it personal, make it real; and make it happen. Because when you don't tend the fire, sooner or later, that fire is bound to go out.

CALHOUN: “Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the LORD our Maker; for he is our God and we are the people of his pasture, the flock under his care.

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<sup>3</sup> May use any appropriate music dealing with True Worship.

<sup>4</sup> Don McMinn, The Practice of Praise: A Handbook On Worship Renewal, WORD Music, 1992.



Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts.” <sup>5</sup> Instead, open them ... in worship.

*(Girls or Worship Leader begins singing Chorus on worship as actors drop comedic characters. They join in singing. After verse and chorus have been sung, instrumental interlude continues as KRISTINA moves downstage center and speaks as others listen. Mood is very worshipful and sincere.)*

KRISTINA: “Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth.” <sup>6</sup>

ALL: *(Continue singing Worship chorus as congregation joins in.)*

*(Instrumental underscore ends as all raise hands in praise)*

*LIGHTS OUT*

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<sup>5</sup> Psalms 95:6-8a

<sup>6</sup> John 4:23, 24