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# THE UNDERVALUED ART OF LYRIC PROJECTION

## I. Introduction

“Let the word of Christ dwell in [us] richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in [our] hearts to God.”

*Colossians 3:16*

We don't want creativity or deficiency to distract from the message of the gospel being proclaimed in the lyrics we project, the sound we mix, or the lights we design.

## II. The Priority of the Lyric Projectionist

### 1. Make sure the lyrics are SEEN clearly.

Hindrances to the legibility of lyrics:

- Dull projection on a bright wall makes it hard to read lyrics
- Intricate/detailed backgrounds that make it harder to read the lyrics
- Moving backgrounds that draw attention to themselves

“Why are we implementing this creative element?”

### 2. Make sure the lyrics are UNDERSTOOD clearly.

We want to do all we can to encourage clear thought not only in the songs we sing, but also in the way we project the lyrics of those songs.

Practical ways to do that:

- Seek to display complete thoughts on each slide

- Use a clear font:

Helvetica / Arial  
Raleway  
Century Gothic  
Myriad Pro  
Lucida Grande  
Gotham Pro  
Tahoma

- Project more than 2 lines and less than 7 at a time, if possible.
- Break up the lines according to the pauses in the melody.
- Use punctuation to make the meaning of the lyrics clear.

The Tension: Too much punctuation can be distracting, while too little can be confusing.

*Possible Solution: At our church, we tend to include punctuation within a line, as it helps clarify, but we don't include punctuation at the end of lines, unless it's needed to clarify (like question marks and exclamation points).*

3. Make sure the lyrics are RUN clearly.

**Most Important:** Bring up each slide early enough that the congregation can read the first line before they sing it.

It's better to be early every time and put up the wrong slide occasionally, than to be late every time.

*David Wilcox*

### III. The Practice of a Lyric Projectionist

#### Helpful Practices:

- Run lyric projection during the band rehearsal.

- Have a master folder of all songs.
- Foster good communication with the worship leader.
- Always be training other volunteers.
- Pursue volunteers who are skilled technically *and* musically.
- Display copyright info for songs.

#### IV. **The Heart of a Lyric Projectionist**

“Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.”

*Colossians 3:23-24*