

Ward Choir Director

Part I: Overview—Sacrifice vs. Consecration

CJ Madsen – May 25, 2020

(This is “Ward Choir Director According to CJ”, not doctrine.)

The Law of Sacrifice (Good)	The Law of Consecration (Better)
My purpose is to fill a calling OR to have a awesome-sounding choir OR to provide music for sacrament meeting once a month.	My purpose is to bring souls to Christ in a skilled, musical way. (Note that this is the same exact purpose as ward music director.)
This calling is a piece of cake, so no help needed OR This calling terrifies me, but I’m not going to ask anyone for help, because I can do this.	This calling is hard, and I want to improve, so I’ll swallow my fear and pride and find a mentor (ideally music chairman/former choir director) who can give me weekly feedback.
It’s time to whip this ward into shape – the choir has sounded awful before, so we need to run all rehearsals focused on getting the best technique and musicianship as possible.	Our musical skills in the ward have a ways to go, but the most important thing in rehearsal is to make sure the choir members testify of the message of the songs, to testify of Christ.
Ward choir is for people who sing, so I want all the best singers to come to ward choir.	Ward choir is for disciples who believe and love the hymns, so I will take anyone and everyone, regardless of musical skill level.
My ward choir isn’t that good musically, and they don’t sound too great, but as long as we’re focused on the message of the hymns in each rehearsal, we’ll be fine and don’t need to get better-sounding or better musicians.	When we’re keeping the physical laws of good singing and musical technique (as well as the spiritual laws of faith in Christ), then the Spirit will work in our performance all the more! So not only will I make sure we have the message, but I will work to improve the choir’s sound and musicianship, starting at whatever level they’re at.

I just need to look over the songs a few minutes before rehearsal starts, and I'll be good.	Ward choir conductor requires several hours of work on Sunday and time spent at least one day a week to give an honest offering.
The ward is made for ward choir – I know how to bring the Spirit best in ward choir, and the ward better go along with my ideas.	The ward choir is made for the ward. I should go out to people in the ward and ask them for advice / things they'd love to see.
Being in this calling is tough – I'll be really glad when it's over.	I love consecrating myself to this calling! It's hard work and stretched me a bit out of my comfort zone, but I feel closer to Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ, and I feel a vital part of the ward's efforts to come unto Christ.

*If you live the law of sacrifice, you'll fulfill your duty to Christ.
If you live the law of consecration, Christ will change your heart and your life.*