

# Ward Music Leader: Sacrifice vs. Consecration

*CJ Madsen – May 18, 2020, rev. Jan 12, 2022*

<b>The Law of Sacrifice</b>	<b>The Law of Consecration</b>
I am the ward chorister – that’s how I’ve always heard it called, so it works for me.	I am the ward music leader – that’s what the handbook says, and like President Nelson has taught us, using correct names matter.
My purpose is to fill a calling and wave my arm.	My purpose is to bring souls to Christ in a skilled, musical way.
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 actually a bit hard, and I want to improve, so I’ll swallow my fear and pride and find a mentor (maybe my ward music chairman) who can give me weekly feedback.
I just need to look over the hymns a few minutes before church starts, and I’ll be good.	I’m going to spend at least an hour during the week practicing these hymns so I feel confident and know the words really well.
I’ve figured out the beat pattern for these hymns – that should be good enough.	I’ve figured out the beat pattern for these hymns, but I need to practice being very clear and very HUGE in my gesture so people in the whole chapel can see me clearly.
I get to sacrament meeting 10 minutes early so I can put up the hymn numbers.	I get to sacrament meeting 20 minutes early so I can practice the hymns with the organist and put up the hymn numbers.
I follow the organist, who sets the tempo. Hopefully they won’t go too slow, because I hate how tired that makes my arm. I never really want to say anything about it.	I am the one who sets the tempo, and I help the organist go my speed if they’re pushing or dragging. If I help them stretch a little, then they’ll respond.

Sometimes I get good organists who follow me, but most of the time I get organists who make mistakes all over the place and have struggles. They're so frustrating.	We're all here to learn new skills and give our best offering to the Lord. I want to know where my organists are with their comfort zone as is, so what I ask of them doesn't stretch them too uncomfortably. If mistakes happen – aren't we all sinners? I'll be patient.
I just look down and follow along with the words as I conduct. It's so nice to not have to look out at the congregation – that's a scary sight.	I work on memorizing at least some of the hymn verses during the week so I can look up and out with confidence at the congregation and testify of the message while I conduct.
In the end, let's face it: the organist never watches me, and the congregation just follows the tempo of the organist and never watches me, so who cares what I do or how I treat this calling?	If I keep up these patterns, the organist will be watching me to follow my tempo and be unified, and the congregation will see my smiling, happy face and be strengthened by my testimony, which will encourage them to look up more. And even if they don't, power will come as I sing my testimony, and Heavenly Father will be pleased with my efforts.
Being in this calling is nice – it's a small sacrifice of time, but it's right in my comfort zone. I'll keep waving my arm for this.	I love consecrating myself to this calling! It's hard work, and it's 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. And the gospel of Christ is joyful, so of course I'll keep singing with joy!

*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.*