



# Kronicle

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## A GREAT CHOIR THEME: "GOD-ESTEEM"

It's that time of year again! The beautiful colors of autumn are appearing. And... call me crazy... I love shopping for school supplies. Bouquets of newly sharpened pencils, complete with that great sawdust smell, and fresh notebooks, just waiting to be cracked open and filled with essays, algebra equations and doodles in the margins. Autumn!

This is from a poem, inspired by a Nichole Nordeman song a few years back:

*The ever-changing trees will soon surrender to the shortened days of harvest time  
Dropping all their leaves in late September as colder weather makes us stay inside*

*The yellow buses start to run their daily route, whisking all the children off to school  
We put away our shorts and our swim suits, as we can feel the weather getting cool*

*And I can see God's love when change begins, when golden leaves blow in the wind  
I will offer thanks, for what has been and what will come... I can feel God's love in autumn*



But what's my favorite thing about autumn? Children's choir starts again! After the much-needed summer break, the madness begins again, and I can't wait! God has definitely instilled this passion, because, left to my own devices, fear and trepidation would be all-consuming: Will enough kids sign up, or will sports take over everyone's schedule? What if only 2nd graders show up? Will there be any major discipline issues? What if the kids don't like me? Will there be enough parent volunteers to help? What if lots of kids show up, but they don't want to sing? What if they hate the music selections? What about the poor girl who lost her voice during her solo last year? Will she come back or give up?

A lot of silly things to worry about, huh? God has been faithful every year! Especially since we started building bridges between our town's three main churches, combining three choirs into one mega-choir with 100+ kids. It has grown steadily every year, and we've learned that God uses the kids that He brings for HIS glory, not ours. We have also learned to delegate responsibilities, requiring volunteer hours from parents (hey, they do it for soccer, right?), and the parents benefit from being involved as well. And it doesn't hurt that we have a cookie potluck at our first rehearsal of the season... who could ask for anything more?

So here's the thing. Each year, we try to present a different theme to focus on during our rehearsal devotional time (yes, we do a "devo" in the middle of each rehearsal). Last year we talked about how everything we say and do can be an act of worship. This year's theme has been a matter for prayer all summer, and the decision has finally been made: Our theme is "God-Esteem." There's so much talk these days about "self-esteem," which seems like a good thing, except for this: We are **NOT PERFECT!** It's easy to "believe in yourself" and "feel good about yourself" when everything is going right... until you let yourself down, or let someone else down. And as human beings, IT WILL HAPPEN.

This idea came with a lot of brain-racking (ouch) about the worries mentioned above. Which kids, how many, kids acting out, kids giving up, what if, what if, what if? It all comes down to this: We need to view ourselves through God's lens, which puts EVERYTHING in perspective. If all our ESTEEM is dependent on SELF, it will not work. Esteem must depend on God Almighty, Who is perfect, sovereign, and not dependent on anyone or anything. Looking through His eyes, every child can know:

- **I am loved** (John 3:16 "For God so loved the world...")
- **I am worth dying for** (Romans 8:5 "While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us...")
- **I am wanted in a relationship** (Leviticus 26:12 "I will walk among you and be your God...")
- **My life has a divine purpose** (Jeremiah 29:11 "For I know the plans I have for you...")
- **I am never alone** (Deuteronomy 31:6 "...God will be with you...")
- **I am uniquely gifted by God** (I Corinthians 12:12-15 "Each of us is a part of the one Body of Christ...")

This list could go on and on. And here's a news flash for you: this goes for not just the kids, but for us directors too! If we realize that we can have God-Esteem, and this ministry is for the glory of our audience of ONE, the Almighty, Trustworthy, Unfailing, Perfect, Unfathomably Wonderful God, then worrying is just silly. God will be glorified through our efforts, and that, my friends, is something to get excited about! Freshly sharpened pencils, anyone?

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