



Worship in Song Ephesians 5:17-21

The music of the church provides a great _____, but it also has challenges. Many focus on what they _____ in songs and lose sight of what the Lord desires. Others go _____ what the Lord asks. Since the Lord seeks for those who worship Him, to worship Him in _____ and _____, it's needful for us to ask what is the will of the Lord. What is the Lord's _____ for us to worship Him in song?

To learn the _____ about Christian worship in song, we must go to the New Testament. Let's review the relevant passages pertaining to _____ worship among Christians. The first mention of singing a _____ in the New Testament is found in Matthew 26:30 and Mark 14:26; two passages very much alike. In Acts 16:25 Paul and Silas were beaten and thrown into _____ with their feet in stocks and were "praying and singing hymns of praise to God." In Romans 15:9 Paul speaks of the Gentiles _____ God. This quotation emphasizes how a congregation in one _____ and with one voice should glorify God (Romans 15:6). Later in 1 Corinthians 14 there are _____ references to singing. The emphasis in singing is on the _____ and the spirit (verse 15). The early church _____ each other by teaching songs (verse 26). The emphasis in Ephesians 5:18-19 is on _____ to one another and in making melody with the _____ to the Lord. The idea of having concerts or of playing instruments in worship is _____. There were no choirs, because _____ was to sing. Colossians 3:16 is a _____ passage. The emphasis again is on singing _____ that teach and admonish. These were activities that _____ the heart, the mind, and the lips. There are additional references to singing in Hebrews 2:12; 13:15 and James 5:13.

In each and every instance, the _____ described in Christian worship emphasizes verbal communication; singing, speaking, teaching, admonishing, making melody with your hearts, confessing, giving thanks, proclaiming, and the fruit of lips. Instruments of music _____ speak, teach, admonish, give thanks, praise, proclaim, confess, or make melody in your heart. Instruments of music _____ to do any of these. This is why they become _____; they go beyond the instructions of the New Testament. Neither Jesus nor the apostles _____ them. The New Testament gives no _____ of churches using them in worship. God _____ the music of the mind and the spirit. God purposely did not _____ them.

Most people think churches have _____ used instruments of music in worship, and they're surprised to find out that some churches today have never used instruments of music. Churches didn't always use instruments; and some churches, like the Orthodox churches, have _____ used instruments. The word a cappella is a reference to singing unaccompanied and what it means in Latin is "in the manner of the church."

Read the quotations from Dr. Everett Ferguson and Thomas Aquinas.

Early Christians actually _____ the use of instruments in worship. In fact, for several centuries they were adamantly _____ to using instruments of music in worship. Not until the thirteenth century did churches _____ begin using instruments of music.

God has _____ to us in His Word. The Lord promised the Holy Spirit would _____ the apostles into all the truth (John 16:13). "All the truth" means the New Testament teaches us _____ God wanted us to know to have eternal life and to live the Christian life; nothing is missing. When God revealed all the truth, He intentionally _____. To add more or to pursue additional practices says to God that His teaching was not sufficient. To start _____ practices, going beyond God's teaching, is presumptuous.



Read John 8:31-32

Christ here reveals one of the marks of a _____ disciple. A true disciple _____ in the Word. He _____ add to it, take away from it, reinvent it, or change it. He _____ in the boundaries of the teaching and instructions of the Word. The person who stays with the Word will know the _____, and the truth will set him _____.

Someone says, "Phil, don't you _____ that David played the harp?" Yes, I am _____ of passages like Psalm 150 and 2 Chronicles 29:25. I also know that David lived a thousand years _____ Jesus Christ. David was not a _____, and we are exploring how Christians worshiped, not how the Israelites a thousand years before Jesus worshiped. We don't _____ animal sacrifices as David did. David lived under the _____ covenant, while we live under the _____ covenant. According to 2 Chronicles 29:25, God approved of harps in the worship of the _____ under the old covenant; but the New Testament never speaks of the use of instruments of music in Christian worship.

Others ask, "Well, aren't people _____ harps in heaven?" Yes, John's _____ found in the highly figurative book of Revelation speak of harps in heaven. Saints in heaven also wear _____ and cast them before the throne of God. Angels and people in heaven say many things in heaven that we're not _____ to say on earth (2 Corinthians 12:4). Heaven and earth are _____. Our task is not to imitate what's done in heaven but to be _____ to Jesus and His teachings in the New Testament.

Someone says, "The Bible doesn't condemn playing an _____!" Neither does the Bible specifically _____ burning incense, or praying to Mary, or using roast lamb in the Lord's Supper, or offering animal sacrifices today, or substituting sprinkling for immersion in baptism, or baptizing infants. Just because the Bible doesn't specifically condemn something doesn't mean that God _____ of it. The _____ question is not "Where does the Bible condemn an instrument in worship?" but "Where does the Word of God authorize using instruments of music in Christian worship?" If the Bible were to include everything that God condemned, it would be too _____ to carry. When God instructs us through His Word, He _____ us what He wants. We shouldn't _____ God to exclude all other possibilities with a series of "don'ts."

Read the end of the Sermon on the Mount, Matthew 7:24-27. Wisdom is hearing God's Word and _____ it. Foolishness is hearing God's Word but doing something else that you _____ to do. I can _____ clearly in the New Testament the Lord's instructions about singing in worship. Not _____ word is said about using instruments of music in worship. Put singing in worship on one side and singing with instruments on the other; they're _____ aren't they? Which one is _____ and follows the Lord's teaching and which one is _____? Which does the Lord's will and which is an innovation of _____?