

Why We Sing

John 4:19-24

- “The woman said to Him, Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet. 20 Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, and you Jews say that in Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship. 21 Jesus said to her, Woman, believe Me, the hour is coming when you will neither on this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, worship the Father. 22 You worship what you do not know; we know what we worship, for salvation is of the Jews. 23 But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. 24 God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”

2Peter 1:12-16

- “For this reason I will not be negligent to remind you always of these things, though you know and are established in the present truth. 13 Yes, I think it is right, as long as I am in this tent, to stir you up by reminding you, 14 knowing that shortly I must put off my tent, just as our Lord Jesus Christ showed me. 15 Moreover I will be careful to ensure that you always have a reminder of these things after my decease. 16 For we did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty.”

God Has Revealed What Kind Of Worship He Wants

- He told Cain and Abel
 - Heb. 11:4; Rom. 10:17; Gen. 4:4-5
- He told Nadab & Abihu
- He told the Jews
 - Matt. 15:8-9 - “These people draw near to Me with their mouth, And honor Me with their lips, But their heart is far from Me. 9 And in vain they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.”
- Doctrines of men, when added to God’s instructions for worship, make worship vain

God Has Revealed What Kind Of Worship He Wants

- He has told us
 - John 4:24 - “God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth”
 - John 17:17 - “Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.”

Reasons The Uninformed Often Give For Our Refusal To Use Mechanical Instruments In Worship To God

- We don't like mechanical instruments in music.
- We think vocal music is better than accompanied music.
- Our objection is cultural
- We cannot afford a piano.
- We don't have anyone qualified to play.

The Real Reasons Why We Sing In Worship To God

- Jesus Christ did not teach the use of instruments of music in worship.
 - Matt. 28:20 - “teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you”
 - John 14:26 - “But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.”

The Real Reasons Why We Sing In Worship To God

- The Holy Spirit never authorized the use of instruments of music in worship.
 - 2Peter 1:3 - “as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness”
 - 2Tim. 3:16-17 - “All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.”
 - 2John 9 - “Whoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God. He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son.”

Jesus Christ, The Holy Spirit, And The Apostles All Taught Us To Sing

- Command
 - Eph. 5:19 - “speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord”
 - Col. 3:16-17 - “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. 17 And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.”

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- Command

- Heb. 13:15 - “Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name.”
- James 5:13 - “Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing psalms.”

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- Examples

- Matt. 26:30 - “And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.”
- Mark 14:26 - “And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.”
- Acts 16:25 - “But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them.”

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- Examples

- Rom. 15:9 - “and that the Gentiles might glorify God for His mercy, as it is written: For this reason I will confess to You among the Gentiles, And sing to Your name.”
- 1Cor. 14:15 - “What is the conclusion then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will also pray with the understanding. I will sing with the spirit, and I will also sing with the understanding.”
- Heb. 2:12 - “saying: I will declare Your name to My brethren; In the midst of the assembly I will sing praise to You.”

Jesus Christ, The Holy Spirit, And The Apostles All Taught Us To Sing

- The New Testament teaches us that musical worship to God was:
 - Congregational - no special singers, choirs, duets, solos
 - Vocal - no mechanical instruments of music
- To worship with the human doctrine based addition of instruments would make our worship vain and unacceptable to God.
 - Matt. 15:8-9 - “These people draw near to Me with their mouth, And honor Me with their lips, But their heart is far from Me. 9 And in vain they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.”

Denominational History Of Mechanical Instruments Of Music In Worship

- First ascribed to pope Vitalian in 665 AD
- Not in general use in Catholic churches until 14th century.
- Denounced by most of the prominent denominational scholars upon its introduction

Denominational History Of Mechanical Instruments Of Music In Worship

- Thomas Aquinas (Catholic, 13th century scholar) “Our church does not use mechanical instruments that she may not seem to Judaize.”
- John Calvin (founder of Presbyterianism) “It would be no more suitable than the burning of incense, lighting of lamps, or restorations of other shadows of the old law. The papists have foolishly borrowed this from the Jews. Men who are fond of outward pomp may delight in that noise, but the simplicity which God recommends to us is far more pleasing to Him.”

Denominational History Of Mechanical Instruments Of Music In Worship

- John Girardeau (Presbyterian author) “It has been proved that the church, although lapsing more into defection from the truth had no instrumental music for 1200 years. The Calvinist Reformed Church has ejected it from its worship as an element of Popery. It is heresy to the sphere of worship.”
- John Wesley (founder of Methodism) “I have no objection to instruments of music in our chapels, provided they are neither heard nor seen.”

Denominational Attempts To Justify Use Of Mechanical Instruments Of Music In Worship

- “It was practiced under the law of Moses.”
 - That law is no longer binding
 - Col. 2:14; Gal. 5:4
 - Nor would such advocates be willing to be bound by it
 - James 2:10 - animal sacrifices, priesthood, etc.
 - That which proves too much, proves nothing

Denominational Attempts To Justify Use Of Mechanical Instruments Of Music In Worship

- “There are harps in heaven.”
 - IF that is justification, then it would only authorize harps in worship... also horses, incense, wild beasts, thrones, lamps, jewels, etc.
 - Heaven is one realm; the church is another

Denominational Attempts To Justify Use Of Mechanical Instruments Of Music In Worship

- “If it is permitted at home, why not in the church?”
 - We also bathe, sleep, cook, watch TV, clip our toe nails, and procreate in the home; are those activities acceptable in worship?
- “We must use our God given talents.”
 - Hog callers, belch contest winners, boxing, bull fighting, cow chip tossing, WV liars contest winners, etc?

Denominational Attempts To Justify Use Of Mechanical Instruments Of Music In Worship

- “We are not specifically forbidden to use instruments in worship.”
 - Not forbidden to make mud pies and throw them around, either
- The New Testament does not forbid everything that might be done
 - The positive command to sing eliminates other activities; including hog calls, bull fighting, and instruments of music.
 - The Lord’s Supper specifies unleavened bread and fruit of vine; that eliminates bagels, buttermilk biscuits, apple juice, V8, roast beef, and mushrooms
- The Law of Exclusion states that an expressly specific instruction eliminates all other alternatives, however reasonable they may seem.

Denominational Attempts To Justify Use Of Mechanical Instruments Of Music In Worship

- “Psallo means to play an instrument.”
- Reasons why this is a flawed defense: IF instruments of music in worship are required...
 - Then for 1200 years, Christians worshipped vainly.
 - The Church in the New Testament worshipped incorrectly
 - None of the 25 most accepted translations of the Bible are correct

Denominational Attempts To Justify Use Of Mechanical Instruments Of Music In Worship

- “The piano is just an aid to our worship, like songbooks and pitch pipes.”
 - It is an addition to what God has said
 - Rev. 22:18-19
 - An aid does not change what God has said or require a different action
 - An instrument changes singing to playing
 - Gal. 1:6-9
 - Common lament of denominationalists, “No one sings anymore.”

Abuses Traceable To Use Of Mechanical Instruments Of Music In Worship

- Violation of the command to sing by those who just listen to another play.
- Increased tendency to squabble over virtuosity.
- Second and third generation introducing more exotic instruments.
- Encourages alterations in other parts of worship.

Lessons

- We are not being divisive in proclaiming the truth on this subject.
 - Those who change God's requirements for worship by adding the instrument have caused the division.
 - 1Kings 18:17-18
- As churches have moved further away from demanding book, chapter, and verse for what is practiced in religion, the worship changes from praise and reverence for God to what is pleasing and agreeable to men.
 - Gal. 1:10-12
 - If we desire to please God, then let us worship God's way.