

Singing – an Act of Worship

Scripture Text: Matthew 26:30

This has always been one of my favorite parts of worship. Humans, in general, love to sing. We sing all the time! Singing is vital to our worship, too.

We are commanded to sing *a cappella*. This phrase now means “without instrumental accompaniment” originally means “as in church.”

A brief history of instrumental music in the worship and quotes from leading false teachers:

- Over 600 years passed from the beginning of the church (Ac. 2) before it was introduced by Pope Vitalian in 666 AD. *Chambers Encyclopedia*
- At first, the organ was only played before and after the worship service. 1054 split of the Catholic and Eastern Orthodox churches over this.
- Martin Luther (Lutheran Church) called it “an ensign of Baal.”
- John Calvin (Presbyterian) wrote: “Musical instruments in celebrating the praises of God would be no more suitable than the burning of incense, the lighting up of lamps, and the restoration of the other shadows of the law.” (*Comments on Psalm 33*)
- John Welsey (Methodist) was quoted by Albert Clarke as saying: “I have no objection to instruments of music, in our chapels, provided they are neither heard nor seen” (*Commentary, Vol. IV, p. 686*)
- Adam Clarke himself wrote: “Music as a science, I esteem and admire: but instruments of music in the house of God I abominate and abhor.” (*Comments on Amos 6*)
- Charles Spurgeon (Baptist) wrote: “We might as well pray by machinery as praise by it.” (*Treasury of David, Volume 1, 272*)

1. Biblical Examples of Singing

- A. Matthew 26:30 – the Savior of mankind sang a hymn with His Disciples after partaking of the Lord’s Supper. I wonder which *psalm* He sang.
- B. Acts 16:25 – Paul & Silas singing at midnight **in prison**.
- C. 1 Corinthians 14:15 – sing with the understanding; implies we can do it wrong. Take heed.
- D. Hebrews 13:15 – offer praise to God with our lips!
- E. John 4:24 – worship in spirit (proper attitude, Heb. 13:15) and in truth (according to His Word, John 17:17)

2. Why Do We Sing? (Aside from the commandment)

- A. James 5:13 – singing is the natural response of a happy heart!

- B. 1 Samuel 16:7 – God listens to the heart
- C. “I sing because I’m happy, ... because I’m free! His Eye is on the sparrow, and I **know** He watches me.”
- D. “Marching to Zion” (emphasis added)

“Come, we that **love the Lord**,/ and let our joys be known,/ Join in a **song** with sweet accord,/ join in a song with sweet accord,/ And thus surround the throne,/ and thus surround the throne.

“Let those **refuse to sing/ who never knew our God**;/ But children of the heavenly King,/ but children of the heavenly King/ May **speak** their joys abroad,/ may speak their joys abroad.

“We’re marching to Zion,/ beautiful, beautiful Zion./ We’re marching upward to Zion,/ the beautiful city of God.”

3. How Are We to Sing?

- A. Ephesians 5:19 – early Christians sang in worship
- B. Colossians 3:16 – Psalms, Hymns, and Spiritual Songs
- C. Psallo in Greek means to pluck or play. We pluck or play our vocal cords and offer that music to God in Heaven.
- D. We are not singing to impress the people we sit beside; we sing to God’s praises making a “joyful noise.” Psalm 100

We are commanded Biblically in book, chapter, and verse to sing *a cappella* to God in worship. The goal of this lesson has been to increase our singing and continue to strive to live faithful to God.

© 2021 Justin D. Reed
 P. O. Box 292 · Woodbury TN 37190
 justinreedbible.com · thejustinreedshow.com/bibleresources
 PowerPoint № 184 accompanies this lesson

Quotes taken from *House to House Heart to Heart* article: <https://housetohouse.com/why-do-churches-of-christ-not-use-instrumental-music/>

October 24, 2021 AM Arlington Church of Christ