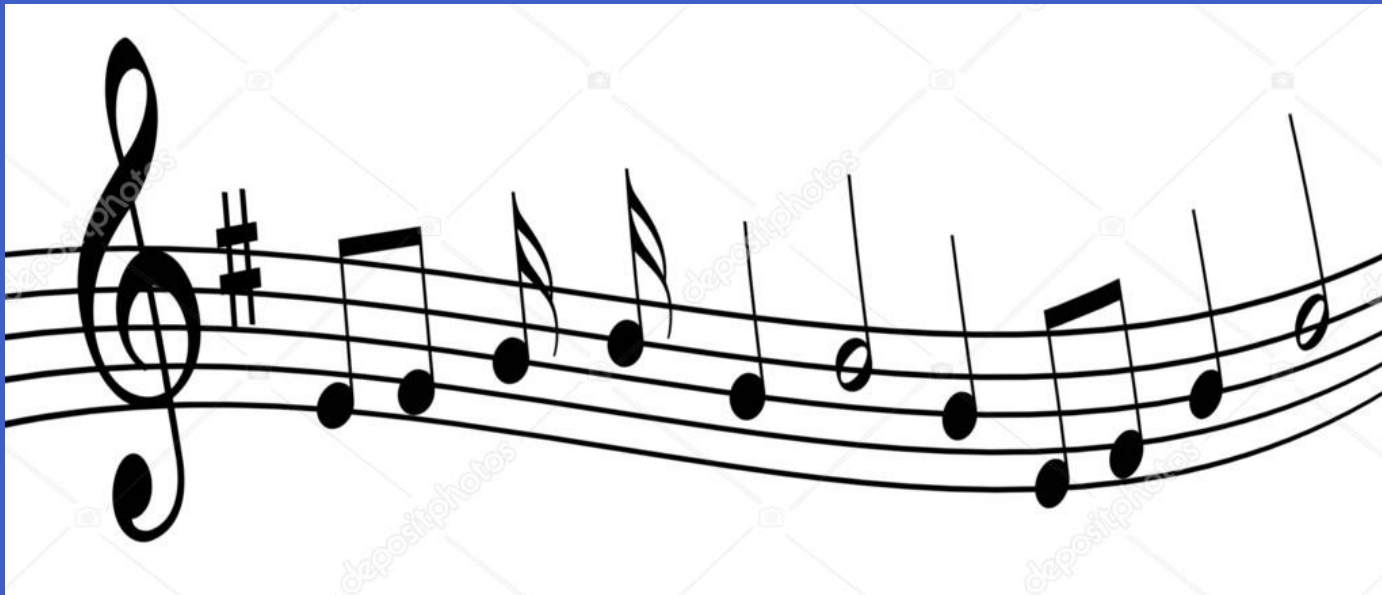


Let's Dismiss our Kids!



***Lets Take A Time Out
To Focus on the Topic
of Music!***



Our Text:

Psalm 150!

Our Title:

How to Praise the Lord!



The Bible Has Much To Say About Music

Psalm 150

We are to Praise God with various instruments.



The Bible Has Much To Say About Music

Psalm 33

We are commanded to Sing unto the Lord.



The Bible Has Much To Say About Music

Psalm 100

We are Called to Make a joyful noise unto the Lord.



The Bible Has Much To Say About Music

Colossians 3

The purpose of Music is Teaching & Admonishing.



The Bible Has Much To Say About Music

Ephesians 5

We are to Sing Making Melody in our hearts.



The Bible Has Much To Say About Music

Revelation 14

When We Sing, We Sing before God's Throne.



The Problem in the Church Today!

In today's contemporary society perhaps no other issue in the church is more hotly debated than the topic of music. The song considered to be spiritual by one, is often considered to be sacrilegious to another. And because music speaks directly to the emotions, often by-passing reason, personal tastes vary. The result? A conflict of opinion becomes unavoidable when individual preferences are given too much authority in selecting music. It also breaks down when allowed to be applied to a variety of personal situations, cultural environments, fads and personalities.



Music and the Contemporary Church Today!



The Question!

So what kind of music is appropriate for worship in today's local church? Does the Bible have anything to say about what kind of music is to be selected when the body comes together to worship? And can the conflict taking place in today's church be defused despite the endless parade of new music? With the hope of answering questions like these, let's do our best to try and understand why we have music in church.

The Answer!

Contrary to popular thought, music is not to provide a change of pace in the service. Nor is it to prepare the heart for the message or to get more people involved in the service. Neither is it to be used as a means of getting people to stand up before the sermon to help wake them up.



The Answer!

In today's user-friendly and seeker oriented church culture, contemporary sounds are often promoted to help the unsaved visitor feel more at home when visiting. But this, too, is not the role of music in the church. It should be noted that the biblical calling of the church when gathered is edification, not evangelism. And once dismissed it is evangelism and not edification. While it is true that the occasional unsaved visitor does need to hear a clear presentation of the Gospel, it should not be at the expense of the believer who faithfully attends hoping to learn how to apply God's truth to his life.

What Causes The Conflict?

Most often it is the introducing of secular contemporary sounds that cause the confusion and rejection that leads to division. This division occurs because many believers believe that there should be a clear distinction between the emotional beat of the world and the spiritual beat of the church.

So what is required of a music ministry to be successful? The answer is simple. A willingness on the part of the individual to submit his tastes and preferences to a God who defines Himself as the Master Musician in His Word.

The Question that must be answered in order to end the seemingly endless debate over music in today's church!

What kind of qualities characterize the kind of music ministry that is pleasing to God? Perhaps the answer is found in one word – **balance!**

A biblical music ministry will show balance in several areas of worship. **Let's look at a few.**

1. There must be balance in MOTIVATION!

***This characteristic helps answer the question,
“Why do we sing?”***

The Bible teaches us that whatever we do in word and deed must be done to glorify God (Col.3:17; I Cor.10:13). This includes music! As was true with the Old Testament priests, glorifying God involves praise and thanksgiving. Of course, we must be careful that in striving to glorify God we do not forget the individual in the congregation. We sing unto God with the hope of edifying and building up the believer and thereby the church. A balanced ministry of music will consider the needs of the growing Christian, whether a recent convert or a saint who has walked a lifetime with his Savior.

2. There must be balance in DIRECTION!

***This characteristic helps answer the question,
“To whom do we sing?”***

In the Scripture we are told that we are to direct our music to three audiences: God, one another, and ourselves. We are encouraged to be “speaking to one another in psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in our hearts to the Lord (Eph.5:18-19; Col.3:16-17). When the church sings, it sings best by focusing on God, then others, and last of all ourselves. Whenever we find ourselves facing conflict it is imperative that we start all over again beginning with God. Then others before ourselves.

3. There must be balance in STYLE!

***This characteristic answers the question,
“What do we sing?”***

The apostle Paul tells us to sing “psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs.” Because some theologians have had difficulty interpreting these terms, a division in today’s church has taken place. Yet, with these three words, it is self-evident that Paul is pointing out three distinct groups or kinds of music, even though there is some over-lap in the meaning of the three different Greek terms used here.

Let’s look at the three words used here!

Psalms (psalmos)

This term originally pointed to the Old Testament book of Psalms. One such indication of this is found in Luke 20:42 – “The Lord Himself says in the book of Psalms.”

In today’s church we consider any singing of Scripture as a psalm in affect. A good example of this is Psalm 75:5-11 – “Jesus Shall Reign.” If you are unfamiliar with this psalm it is because very few settings of Scripture are sung in the church today. But when they are sung, a correct understanding of the context is imperative. The purpose of singing any psalm is to communicate God’s truth. Not to promote a particular theology of the church or Christian organization.

Hymns (hoomnos)

These are most often of human authority, although they may be grounded in the Word.

The content, however, should always be comparable to that of the inspired writings. While no new psalms have appeared since the canon of Scripture was closed, we constantly have new hymns added to the church's heritage. "The Church's One Foundation" is a good example of a hymn which, although full of Scriptural truth, is not built upon any single passage of Scripture.

Spiritual Songs

(Epistles-pneumatikais / Revelation-oday)

This group is the most difficult category of songs to define.

The word “spiritual songs” appears both in the epistles (Eph.5:19; Col.3:16) and in the book of Revelation (Rev.5:9; 14:3; 15:3) where it refers to a “new song” that is sung. In the early church it was linked with such words as “Alleluia” and “Praise the Lord.” Note: Today this concept is often used by charismatics to defend the practice of speaking in tongues. But when the context of the passage is studied, it does not imply unintelligible singing by the singer. Nor is it linked to any language of the Holy Spirit (note the small “s” in the word “spiritual”).

4. There must be balance in FUNCTION!

***This characteristic answers the question,
“What is music to do to us?”***

In Ephesians 5:18-20 and in Colossians 3:16-17 Paul mentions several different functions of music.

First, to help us admonish one another!

That means we are to encourage each other in how to live daily for Christ. We are to remind ourselves to pray, to be on guard against the evil one, to spend time in communion with God, and to daily seek His will.

4. There must be balance in FUNCTION!

***This characteristic answers the question,
“What is music to do to us?”***

First, to help us admonish one another!

Second, to help us thank God!

The truth is we often forget to thank God for His faithfulness, for his love, for His work in conforming us to the image of His Son. While we are quick to present our requests, all too often we forget to thank Him when He responds to our petitions.

4. There must be balance in FUNCTION!

First, to help us admonish one another!

Second, to help us thank God!

Third, to help us to learn!

Especially when it is used to teach doctrine. Martin Luther, a trained musician and theologian, urged that truth be sung so that it permits doctrine to enter into the heart. He declared it his purpose to give the German people the Bible and the hymn book in their own language. Through His Word, God could speak directly to them; through their songs they could answer directly to Him. Luther's opponents realized the power of his approach. "Luther has damned more souls with his music," they said, "than with his sermons."

4. There must be balance in FUNCTION!

First, to help us admonish one another!

Second, to help us thank God!

Third, to help us to learn!

Fourth, to help us praise God!

Music is one of the most effective means we have of expressing our adoration and devotion. Music enables us to intensify our worship beyond the level of words.

4. There must be balance in FUNCTION!

First, to help us admonish one another!

Second, to help us thank God!

Third, to help us to learn!

Forth, to help us praise God!

Fifth, to help teach us how to pray!

In fact music can often be prayer. When we find it difficult to pray, singing can express the thoughts we have that we find difficult to put into words. It is an excellent way to approach God with a contrite and repentant heart. Luther considered the hymn book to be second in importance only to the Bible. It was, in his opinion, to be used along with the Bible.

5. We must be particularly careful to preserve a balance between Emotion and Intellect!

In I Corinthians 14:15, Paul ties together the idea of praying with the spirit and the mind and singing with the spirit and the mind (note the small “s” / human spirit). Being made in the image of God we must balance the emotion and the intellect if we are to properly motivate the will. To deny the mind in our music ministry is to insult both the Creator, who gave us the mind, and the creature made in the image of that Creator. We must be challenged to think when singing. Our emotions must not eliminate our understanding of content and context.

6. Finally, there must be balance in Performance!

The music leader and the leadership team must never be allowed to turn the church's focus from the worship of God and the maturing of His people, to themselves. God takes no pleasure in this.

It is my belief that we also must work within the framework that God has given to each church – bigger is not better! God expects perfection. Thus, the small church must be willing to offer a perfect “turtledove” and forget about competing with the mega-church. It is not honoring to offer God a “shabby sheep.”

The Conclusion!

Because the cultivation of good taste in music is a lifelong occupation, we have a serious responsibility to observe and practice these balances. We must strive to remember that God wants all things – even music – to be done “decently and in an orderly fashion” (I Corinthians 14:40).

The Challenge!

In many of today’s congregations the practice of singing hymns has disappeared. Because of this, let’s take a few minutes to see some of the differences between the old hymns and today’s spiritual songs!

The Effects of Narcissism In Today's World!

Do you know the story of Narcissus?



Narcissus was a very handsome fellow, who because of his indifference and disdain towards others, was punished by the gods by falling in love with his own image. He was so enraptured by his beauty that he was unable to pull himself away from his own reflection, and he wasted away and died.

The Effects of Narcissism In Today's World!

Today Narcissus has spawned many offspring in our current generation. And the self-absorption, egocentrism, and overestimation of one's own importance and abilities continue to grow in today's world.

Yet, the Effects Often Go Unnoticed:

- 1. Effect on individual ... Homosexuality!***
- 2. Effect on couples ... Divorce / Sensuality!***
- 3. Effects on the church ... Division / Loss of Doctrine!***
- 4. Effects on society ... Technology / Social Skills Lost!
... Laws Rejected for Preferences!
... Authority Protested Against!
... Media and Fake News!
... Sexual Abuse of Kids and Teens!
... Anger and Road Rage!***

The Clash Between Emotion & Reason In Today's Church Music!

Personal Feelings and Emotion have Replaced Truth!

Spiritual Songs: You're A Good Good Father!

Verse 1 – Oh, I've heard a thousand stories of what they think you're like

***But I've heard the tender whisper of love in the dead of night
And you tell me that you're pleased
And that I'm never alone***

Chorus 1 – You're a Good, Good Father

***It's who you are, it's who you are, it's who you are
And I'm loved by you
It's who I am, it's who I am, It's who I am***

***Verse 2 – Oh, and I've seen many searching for answers far and wide
But I know we're all searching for answers only you provide
Cause you know just what we need before we say a word***

Chorus 2 – You are perfect in all of your ways

***You are perfect in all of your ways
You are perfect in all of your ways to us***

The Clash Between Emotion & Reason In Today's Church Music!

Personal Feelings and Emotion have Replaced Truth!

Hymn: The Church's One Foundation!

***The Church's one foundation / Is Jesus Christ her Lord
She is His new creation / By water and the Word
From heaven He came and sought her / To be His holy bride
With His own blood He bought her / And for her life He died***

***She is from every nation / Yet one o'er all the earth
Her charter of salvation / One Lord, one faith, one birth
One holy Name she blesses / Partakes one holy food
And to one hope she presses / With every grace endued***

The Effects of Narcissism In Today's Church Music!

Personal Feelings and Emotion have Replaced Truth!

Hymn: The Church's One Foundation!

***The Church shall never perish / Her dear Lord to defend
To guide, sustain, and cherish / Is with her to the end
Though there be those who hate her / and false sons in
her pale
Against both foe and traitor / She ever shall prevail***

***Mid toil and tribulation / And tumult of her war
She waits the consummation / of peace forevermore
Till, with the vision glorious / Her longing eyes are blest
And the great Church victorious / Shall be the Church at rest***

THE KEY TO SUCCESS IN MUSIC: BALANCE!

In *Motivation* ... Why do we sing?

In *Direction* ... To whom do we sing?

In *Style* ... What do we sing?

In *Function* ... What is music to do to us?

Between *Emotion* and *Intellect* ... What is the danger?

In *Performance* ... Is it worshipful or just entertaining?

