

**Why We Do What We Do**  
**Singing**  
**Col. 3:16-17**

Introduction:

Singing is a key part of our worship. Why do we sing like we do? What makes our singing different from that of others? What does God say about our singing?

The subject of singing cannot come up without talking about instrumental music. This is widely accepted as being what God wants.

- I. The Bible commands us to sing (16).
  - A. Singing has always been a part of worship to God.
    1. Ex. 15:1-18 – Crossing over the Red Sea.
    2. Ps. 9:1-2 - I will praise You, O LORD, with my whole heart; I will tell of all Your marvelous works. {2} I will be glad and rejoice in You; I will sing praise to Your name, O Most High.
    3. Ps. 100:1-4
    4. Ps. 147:1 – Praise the LORD! For it is good to sing praises to our God; for it is pleasant, and praise is beautiful.
  - B. Today, singing is a part of our worship and praise to God.
    1. Mt. 26:30 - And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.
    2. Acts 16:25 - But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them.
    3. Eph. 5:19 - speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord,
    4. 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.
  - C. In our singing, we are to do several things (16).
    1. Teaching
      - a. Literally means “to give instructions” or “impart knowledge.”
      - b. Our singing should be used as a method to teach others about Christ.
    2. Admonishing
      - a. Literally means “to warn.”
      - b. Our singing will warn others of the dangers of not following after Christ.
    3. We are to teach and admonish each other by using “psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs.”
- II. We are told how to sing (16).
  - A. We are to make melody in our hearts.
    1. Attitude is the key.
    2. We need to concentrate on the words that we are singing.

3. We need to understand the words that we are singing.
    - a. **I Cor. 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.
    - b. **Ps. 47:7** - For God is the King of all the earth; sing praises with understanding.
  - B. We are to sing to the Lord, and not to man.
    1. Notice the Old Testament examples that are mentioned above.
      - a. **Col. 3:16**
      - b. **Eph. 5:19** - speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord,
    2. Certainly we will benefit in our singing by encouraging each other and ourselves, but our main purpose is to sing to the Lord.
- III. We do all things in the name of the Lord Jesus (**17**).
- A. There is an authority that we must follow in our worship to God.
    1. We do all things (word or deed) “in the name of the Lord Jesus.”
    2. To do something in worship, we must have His authority.
  - B. The question always comes up about instrumental music in worship.
    1. Notice what the Bible says about playing instruments in worship.
      - a. There is nothing said about instruments being used in worship in the New Testament.
      - b. Instruments were popular in that day; so if it is appropriate to use them, the apostles would have mentioned them.
    2. Because we do not have the authority to use the instrument, we cannot use it and be faithful to God.
  - C. God has told us how He wants us to worship Him: by singing.
    1. This eliminates using a mechanical instrument.
    2. When we add instruments, we add to the commandments of God.
      1. **I Cor 4:6** - Now these things, brethren, I have figuratively transferred to myself and Apollos for your sakes, that you may learn in us not to think beyond what is written, that none of you may be puffed up on behalf of one against the other.
      2. Example of a pizza
  - D. The argument is also made that the instrument will add to our worship.
    1. Remember, we sing to God, not man.
    2. God has told us what He wants and we cannot improve on it.

Conclusion:

Attitude is the key to singing and it is the key to our salvation. What is our attitude towards the authority of God? Is our attitude one of obedience? God tells us that if we follow His authority, we can have eternal life. Do you have that eternal life? We must do what God tells us to do.