



# WHY DO WE SING?



# **“Church of Christ? Aren’t you the church that doesn’t like music?”**

**There is perhaps nothing more obviously unique about the Lord’s church than its *acapella* worship. The irony is that worship music without manmade instruments was the way that Christians worshiped from the very beginning.**



**Instrumental accompaniment was considered a Catholic innovation, and the first recorded example was a pipe organ introduced by Pope Vitalian into a cathedral in Rome around 670.**

**Noted Reformers Martin Luther, Ulrich Zwingli, John Calvin, and John Wesley all opposed the use of musical instruments in worship, and it wasn't adopted across the broader denominational landscape until the 18<sup>th</sup> Century.**

# SO, WHY DO WE SING?

When we don't understand WHY we do something, then it is only natural for us to wonder how we can improve it or add to it. Inserting your own meaning into a command opens up the door for your own preferences.

The background of the image is an open book with musical notation and lyrics. The pages are yellowed with age, and the text is in a serif font. The lyrics are partially obscured by a dark blue horizontal band that contains the main title. The visible lyrics include "Praise the LORD:", "Ye heavens Adore Him", "do re Him; Praise Him, an", "spo - ken; Worlds His", "glo - rious; Nev - er", "a - tion; Hosts on high, His", "1. Pa", "2. The earth", "3. From day to day".

# EPHESIANS 5:18-21

# FIVE PARTICIPLES

- Speaking to one another in psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs
- Singing
- Making melody in your hearts
- Always giving thanks
- Submitting to one another in the fear of Christ


# COLOSSIANS 3:16

The parallel to “filled with the Spirit” is letting the “Word of Christ richly dwell within you.” Singing from the heart accomplishes both (if it can even be argued that they are fundamentally different things).

# EDUCATIONAL & RECIPROCAL

- “One another” in both passages means this is not an optional activity. Singing is not a spectator sport or entertainment.
- Being filled by the Holy Spirit is communal, and takes place in the Temple of God, which is the body of Christ – His church (1 Cor. 3:16–17).
- “Teaching” means there must be substance and mental stimulation in what we are singing. The words mean more than the superficial quality of the sound or the feelings generated.





**“But what if I’m not  
talented? What if I feel  
embarrassed, like  
everybody will know I  
can’t sing?”**

# WORSHIPING IN SPIRIT

- When Jesus spoke of worship that was spiritual in John 4:24, that was in contrast to the physical mode of thinking that dominated both Jewish and heathen worship. Similarly, if our goal is a worldly one (satisfying emotions, personal preference, prestige or image) we will be as far from true worship as they were. Our worship has a spiritual focus, not physical (1 Peter 2:4-5).
- Every main feature of the Temple/tabernacle worship finds its ultimate spiritual counterpart in some aspect of Christian worship. The incense (Revelation 5:8), the free will sacrifices (Romans 12:1), the altar of sacrifice (Hebrew 12:10), breaking of bread and fellowship (1 Cor. 10:16-18), the washing of water (Hebrews 10:22), and temple musical instruments (Psalm 150). We are all priests now, and we all offer the music of praise, adoration, and thanksgiving.