

Singing – A Way to Love

Ephesians 5:19-20

Singing – A Way to Love

“By this all people will know that you are my disciples: if you have love for one another.”

- John 13:35



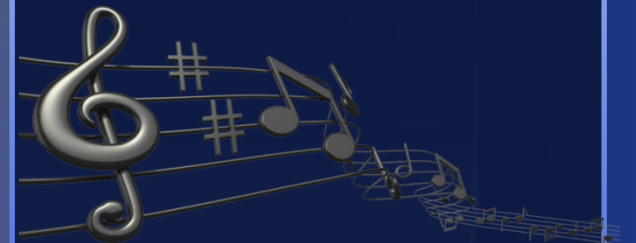
Music – A Gift From God... and a tool of the Devil

“I acquired male and female singers...the delights of man’s heart.”

- Ecclesiastes 2:8

The Lord your God in your midst,
The Mighty One, will save;
He will rejoice over you with gladness,
He will quiet you with His love,
He will rejoice over you with singing.”

- Zephaniah 3:17



Singing Throughout Time

- ♪ Exodus 15:1 – Deliverance from the Egyptians: “I will sing to the Lord...”
- ♪ Judges 5:3 – Deliverance from Sisera: “I will sing praise to the Lord”
- ♪ II Samuel 22:50 – Deliverance from enemies: “I will sing praises to Your name”
- ♪ I Chronicles 16 – Ark of the Covenant to the city of David: “Sing praise to Him...”
- ♪ II Chronicles 29:25-30 – Restoration of worship to Israel by Hezekiah
 - ♪ Almost 70 times in the book of Psalms
 - Deliverance/Protection from evil, sin and guilt
 - For joy and thankfulness
 - Declaring the deeds of God
 - ♪ Prophets – Isaiah, Jeremiah, Hosea, Zephaniah, Zachariah

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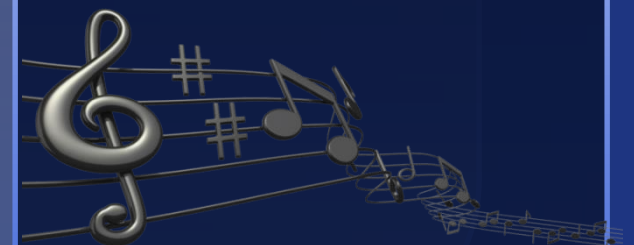
What Our Singing is Not

Singing is not intended to inspire worship

- “The music just doesn’t do anything for me. It doesn’t make me want to worship.”
- Our singing is intended to put voice and words to the emotion that is already there!

Singing is not intended to be evangelistic

- Non-believers will be “bored.”
- Singing is a pouring out of joy, thankfulness, and praise for God’s love and power, and what He has done in our lives.



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What Our Singing Is





- ♪ It is a “new” song
 - Mentioned 6 times in Psalms
 - Isaiah 42:9-10 (v.9 “Now I declare new things”)
 - Revelation 5:9; 14:3
- ♪ But, it is the same as it has always been
 - It comes from the heart
 - It is full of joy and praise
 - It is individual – James 5:13 “Let him sing praises”
 - It is corporate (part of our worship together)
 - Hebrews 2:12 – “In the midst of the congregation I will sing your praise”
 - Ephesians 5:19-20 – “speaking to one another”
 - Colossians 3:16-17 – “teaching and admonishing one another”

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What Singing Together Does For Us

- ♪ Physiological and Psychological Effects
 - People who sing together bond more quickly and deeply than in any other activity
 - Releases “happy” hormones – Oxytocin, Dopamine
 - Synchronizes heartbeats
- ♪ Spiritual Effects
 - Fellowship
 - A shared goal
 - Aligning inner self with others
 - A feeling of connectedness
 - A sharing of experience which is impossible individually

Paul's Instruction (Ephesians 5:19, Colossians 3:16):

-  Do not get drunk with wine...but be filled with the Holy Spirit
 - Drunkenness a staple of pagan worship
 - Filled with the Spirit
 - Colossians 3:16 – “Let the Word of Christ richly dwell in you”
 - What fills you...controls you!
 - If we truly understand what God has done for us through Jesus Christ, and are filled with those words, the result will be evident
-  Speaking to one another / Teaching and Admonishing
 - We are singing to God, but we are speaking to one another
 - What are we saying to one another?
-  Giving Thanks
-  Being in subjection to one another – doing what others need