

## **SINGING AS WORSHIP**

1Cor 14:15

### **INTRODUCTION:**

- A. Mechanics of singing: "four part harmony" used is not essential for worship. Not used in N T but arrangements for playing instruments go back to David maybe before.
- B. Singing is important, because it is commanded by God and that we sing in an acceptable manner. 1Cor 14:15
- C. Purpose of lesson to determine the kind of singing that pleases God, so that we can worship Him acceptably.

### **DISCUSSION:**

#### **I. THE "MELODY" IS FROM THE HEART Eph 5:19**

- A. "Melody" is translated from Greek word "Psallo"
  - 1. Twitch, twang, to play a stringed instrument with fingers, and hence, in Sept., to sing with a harp, sing psalms, denotes, in N. T., to sing a hymn, sing praise; in Eph 5:19, "making melody" (Vine's)
  - 2. From this word instrumental music is defended
  - 3. Passage tells what is to be plucked or twanged. It is the heart "strings" that are to be tugged
- B. Singing must touch our heart (mind). Col 3:16 says "singing with grace in your hearts"
- C. This word in no way justifies instrumental music in our worship to God. If it did each person would have to play their own instrument

#### **II. SINGING IS DIRECTED TO DEITY AND EACH OTHER**

- A. Praises to God Acts 16:25; Heb 2:12
  - 1. Even though in prison, falsely accused, been beaten they could still praise God in song
    - a. This was at a time other than assembly
    - b. Is any merry let him sing Jas 5:13
  - 2. Eph 5:19; Col 3:16 show singing is "to the Lord"
  - 3. It is God we are striving to please and not man.
- B. We are to teach and admonish one another in singing
  - 1. "Speaking to yourselves" Eph 5:19
  - 2. "Teaching and admonishing one another" Col 3:16
  - 3. In Acts 16:25 the prisoners heard Paul and Silas

#### **III. SINGING WITH SPIRIT & UNDERSTANDING 1Cor 14:15**

- A. Singing with the "spirit" involves:
  - 1. Vine's (f) the sentient (experiencing sensation and feeling) element in man, by which he perceives, reflects, feels, desires.
  - 2. Idea of spirit in this passage is dealing with that part of the mind that controls our feelings
- B. Singing with the understanding involves:

- 1. Word also translated "mind" and means seat of reflective consciousness, comprising faculties of perception and understanding, (a) the faculty of knowing, the seat of the understanding.
- 2. Involves a different part of mind in each instance. Involves rationality and our feelings and emotions.
- 3. "Understanding" suggest we know meaning of words we sing, but just because one does not know exact meaning of word in a song, does not mean it would be wrong for them to sing that song, if they understood general meaning behind words

#### **IV. PURPOSE FOR SINGING, MEANING OF WORDS WE SING, AND FEELINGS FROM THE HEART THAT MAKES OUR SINGING WORSHIP TO GOD.**

- A. Regardless of how well we sing or how poorly we sing it may or may not be worship to God.
- B. Regardless of how well we sing or how poorly we sing it may or may not be acceptable to God
- C. Singing is an important part of our worship and a child of God should do their best, but that "best" is not altogether concerned with "mechanics" of the music.
- D. Song leaders should give consideration to songs they lead as to value in praising God and teaching other Christians and not just leading favorite songs.

#### **V. WHAT KINDS OF SONGS SHOULD WE SING?**

- A. "Psalms" Eph 5:19; Col 3:16; Jas 5:13 same word as "melody" denotes a striking or twitching with fingers (on musical strings), but instrument is specified and word is also used to denote words are set to music such as the "Psalms" of David and others
- B. "Hymn" Jesus and disciples Matt 26:30 denotes a song of praise addressed to God
- C. "Spiritual Songs": word for song is generic, word spiritual qualifies type of songs; songs pertaining to things revealed by the Spirit. (Note 1Cor 9:11 for use of the word "spiritual")

### **CONCLUSION:**

- A. Singing no less important than any other act of worship in which we engage.
- B. Vital to service to God: taught and admonished by songs we sing and by this medium we are taught to praise God.
- C. Are we singing with spirit and understanding. If not, you are in error and need to repent, it is a command of God.
- D. If physically impossible for one to sing, God does not require it, but otherwise He does.