

TRUE WORSHIP INCLUDES SINGING.

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INTRODUCTION:

A. Read the text: Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16.

B. Regarding the text:

1. In **John 4:23** Jesus said that God seeks “true worshippers” to worship Him.
2. The Lord's statement indicates that God does not accept all worship.
3. Jesus identified true worshippers as those who worship God “in spirit and in truth.”

I. THE NEW TESTAMENT AUTHORIZES SINGING IN WORSHIP.

A. This is where we need to begin because we are to only say and do those things that Christ has authorized us to say and do (Colossians 3:17-16).

As we examine the Bible in general, we see that God's people have sung praises to Him for many centuries.

1. **Exodus 15:1** Israelites sang “unto the Lord” after passing through the Red Sea.
2. **Judges 5:1-3** A song of praise to God after Israel defeated the Canaanites.
3. **Matthew 26:30** At the institution of the Lord's Supper.

B. The New Testament specifically teaches Christians to “sing” in worship.

1. **1 Corinthians 14:15.**
2. **Ephesians 5:19.**
3. **Colossians 3:16.**

C. These verses relate to the worship assemblies.

1. The context of **1 Corinthians 14:15** shows that Paul was dealing with activities and conduct in “the church” (**vs.12, 19, 23, 26, 34-35**).
2. In **Ephesians 5:19** and **Colossians 3:16**. Note “one another.”

D. The New Testament clearly teaches that “true worship includes singing.”

II. SINGING “IN SPIRIT” [FROM THE HEART, IN SINCERITY, HAVING THE PROPER ATTITUDE AND DISPOSITION].

A. Our hearts must be involved in our singing.

1. **Ephesians 5:19** We are to sing and make melody “*in the heart*.”
2. **Colossians 3:16** We are to sing with grace “*in our hearts*.”

B. We must also sing “with the understanding” (1 Corinthians 14:15).

1. We must concentrate on the words of the songs we sing.
2. We must mean what we sing.

C. To motivate us to sing as the Lord desires, let us remember that He is present.

III. SINGING “IN TRUTH” [ACCORDING TO GOD'S REVEALED WILL IN THE NEW TESTAMENT]

A. We must sing the proper kinds of songs, including:

1. “psalms” [sacred songs, many of – “The Lord's My Shepherd”].
2. “hymns” [songs of praise to God – “We Praise Thee O God”].
3. “spiritual songs” [songs that promote devotion to God – “My Jesus, I Love Thee”].

B. We must sing the right kinds of songs to the proper individuals, including:

1. God -- we are to sing “to the Lord” and to others in the assembly.
2. (**Ephesians 5:19**) “Speaking to yourselves.”
3. (**Colossians 3:16**) “Teaching and admonishing one another.”

C. Since we teach others when we sing, we must sing songs that teach the truth.

D. We must sing in the manner prescribed in the New Testament.

1. There are 2 types of singing:
 - 1) “vocal” [a cappella voice only].
 - 2) “vocal accompanied by mechanical instruments.”
2. The New Testament authorizes “vocal” singing only!

- E. Some say instruments were used in the Old Testament. That covenant has been taken away and replaced by the new covenant (**Colossians 2:14**).
- F. Seeking justification from the law is a serious offense (**Galatians 5:4**).

IV. SINGING IS COMMANDED.

- A. **Ephesians 5:19-21** “*Speaking to yourselves,*” “*Submitting yourselves one to another* in the fear of God.”
- B. **Colossians 3:16** “... teaching and admonishing *one another* in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs...”
- C. **During the invitation song, sometimes I see those who are not singing.**
 1. We must understand that we are singing to encourage those who might need to respond.
 2. This is when everyone of us can be involved. We sing these songs to encourage those who need to respond to the Lord’s call.

V. CONCLUSION:

- A. In His Word God has revealed the way He wants us to worship Him.
- B. “Singing” is one of the authorized acts of Christian worship.
- C. Let us be sure that we follow these principles that relate to singing “in spirit and in truth.”