

Worship God

The Theology and Practice of Worship (Part 13)

Sing Praises to God

Ephesians 5:18-19

18) And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Holy Spirit,
19) speaking to one another *in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs*, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord;

Sing Praises to God

Ephesians 5:18-19

- “*psalms*” – sacred songs accompanied by musical instruments; likely the OT Psalms
- “*hymns*” – songs of praise that specifically exalt the Lord Jesus Christ
- “*spiritual songs*” – more spontaneous or personal expressions

Sing Praises to God

What do we sing?

1. The priority of congregational singing
 - it expresses our unity and harmony in the gospel
 - it serves to encourage one another in the truth
 - it highlights the participative nature of worship

Sing Praises to God

What do we sing?

2. The allowance of various styles/forms
 - The New Testament is mostly silent about outward forms of worship, including musical style
 - No single kind of music can adequately express the fulness of God's glory

Sing Praises to God

Digression: *The issue of musical style*

- Musical styles are inherently amoral and essentially neutral in their ability to express belief, creed or morality
 - there is no musical style that is inherently evil or ungodly
 - there is no musical style that is inherently godly or sacred

Sing Praises to God

What do we sing?

3. The need for historic and contemporary music

- The need for new expressions of God's unchanging truth in a style relevant for our generation
- The value of remembering our heritage and mining the time-tested riches of the past

Sing Praises to God

Conclusion

➤ *Concerning music, we must be diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit by preferring one another in love (Eph. 4:1-3)*