

(cont. from previous) worship changed from physical/mechanical to spiritual? If so, what is the ONLY instrument of music that is described as spiritual? The heart! Ephesians 5:19b *"....making melody in your heart to the Lord"*. What is the one way the heart expresses itself? The mouth! Matthew 12:34b *"..... For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks."*

There is no justification found for Christians in the Old Testament, as Paul said to those who looked into the Old Testament for authority *".....you could not be justified by the law of Moses."* Acts 13:39. Attempting to do so represents our seeking to be justified without Grace (Galatians 5:4), which is not possible.

**Some Say:** *"Instrumental Music sounds better"*. The question is, to whom? To you or to God? We have already seen that God has said what sounds best to Him, through the Bible. He desires the sacrifice of the fruit of our lips. If we change worship to what "sounds better" to us, who are we really worshipping?

**Some Say:** *"There cannot be anything wrong with using instrumental music to worship God"*. Such a statement ignores the entirety of the Bible, from

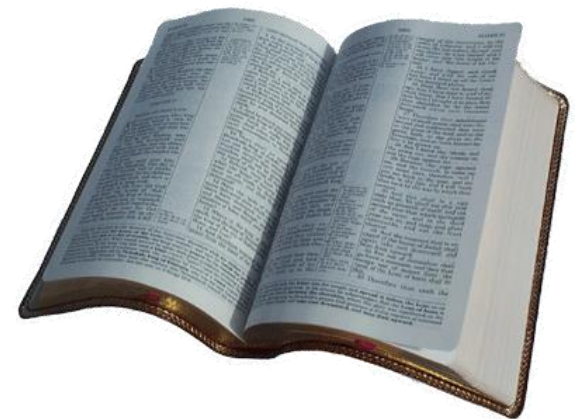
Cain and Able on, which relates that GOD ALONE has the right to dictate what is acceptable worship. Worshipping God as we think is "right" or "wrong" has NEVER been acceptable to God.

In the Church of Christ, we sing not because we think it sounds better, or we like it best. We have searched the Scriptures, and concluded that God desires us to worship this way. We invite anyone to look and see if we have mistaken God's will; if so, we will change. But if not, will you change yours to be pleasing to God?

To become a child of God:

1. Have Faith in Jesus Christ, by hearing and believing (Romans 10:17)
2. Repent/turn away from sin and sinful behavior (Acts 2:38)
3. Confess with the mouth that Jesus Christ is Lord (Romans 10:9)
4. Be Baptized for the removal of these sins and to be born again (Acts 22:16)

# Why We Sing



A Bible study into why singing is only the music of the church that Jesus built

**Many times** we are blessed to have visitors join us from other churches. They will often ask us why it is that in our worship services the whole congregation sings, and why we refuse to use musical instruments (such as a piano, guitar, etc.). The answer is quite simple: we sing because God has asked us to sing.

Colossians 3:6 *Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.*

Ephesians 5:19 *speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord*

There are no Bible verses that suggest, indicate or even hint that the church of the New Testament ever used musical instruments, or was authorized to do so by God. The church of the New Testament was to praise God with their voices.

Hebrews 13:15 *Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name.*

Not only does the Bible record that the church that Jesus built praised God with their voices only, but secular (non-church) historians agree this was the practice of early Christians too!

*"All our sources deal amply with vocal music of the church, but they are chary with mention of any other manifestations of musical art... The development of Western music was decisively influenced by the exclusion of musical instruments from the early Christian Church."*

Paul Henry Lang, MUSIC IN WESTERN CIVILIZATION, pp. 53,54

*"Only singing, however, and no playing of instruments, was permitted in the early Christian Church."*

Hugo Leichtentritt, MUSIC, HISTORY AND IDEAS, p. 34

*"There can be no doubt that originally the music of the divine service was everywhere entirely of a vocal nature."*

Emil Nauman, THE HISTORY OF MUSIC, Vol. 1, p. 177

*"We have no real knowledge of the exact character of the music which formed a part of the religious devotion of the first Christian congregations. It was, however, purely vocal."*

Dr. Frederick Louis Ritter, HISTORY OF

## MUSIC FROM THE CHRISTIAN ERA TO THE PRESENT TIME, p. 28

Since it is clear from both the Bible and from historical sources that the earliest record of music in the church was *acappella* (ironically, *acappella* is the word used in music theory for voice only music, but the Latin word means "in the manner of the church"), it should follow that those who seek to please God should make their utmost effort to make the music that He has said He is pleased with.

However, most denominations today use mechanical instruments to make their music. If you were to ask why this is, you might here many different reasons.

**Some Say:** "People used instruments for music in the Old Testament". This is a true statement, but fails to also observe that under the Old Testament people also offered physical sacrifices at a physical temple by a physical priesthood. Today, under the New Testament, God's people are commanded to offer spiritual sacrifices (Romans 12:1-2) in a spiritual temple (I Peter 2:5) by a spiritual priesthood (I Peter 2:9). Is it not logical to see that (cont.)