

WHAT THE NEW TESTAMENT SAYS ABOUT MUSIC IN THE CHURCH

Jesus promised that after His departure, the Holy Spirit would come upon his Apostles and that the Holy Spirit would give them correct recall of all the things He had told them (John 14: 16-17, 15:26-27, 16: 13). After His resurrection, He told his Apostles to go into all the world teaching those whom they baptized to obey all the things Jesus had taught the Apostles (Matt. 28: 18-20). The New Testament claims they did that (Acts 20:17-27, 1 Cor. 2:9-13, 2 Pet. 1:2-3, Jude 3, 2 Tim. 3:16-17, 1 Thes. 2:13, 1 Tim. 3:14-15). For that reason, it is prohibited to either add or take away from the inspired word given through the Apostles (1 Cor. 4:6, 2 John 9, Rev. 22:18-19). This complete message was to be accepted personally, and handed down from generation to generation (2 Tim. 2:2). Our option is to decide that it is either true or it is not true that all the teaching given by Christ to the Apostles which was intended for all mankind has been recorded in the New Testament and that we are told to not go beyond its content in binding any teaching on the Church. We believe it to be true. Therefore, if Christ inspired the Apostles to teach to all mankind all that He had taught them, and if that is what they did, then, as the following verses will show, instrumental music was not included. Therefore we must conclude that Christ did not intend for instruments to be part of the worship of His church

Singing is only mentioned a few times in the New Testament. Some of these times are not in the assembled church such as in Matt. 26:30 (after Christ instituted the Lord's Supper), Acts 16:25 (in prison), James 5:13 (when one is happy). Those that are include 1 Cor. 14:15 (not to sing in tongues, but rather with the spirit and with the mind), Heb. 13:15 (the fruit of the lips), Eph. 5:18-20 (melody in the heart), and Col. 3:15-16 (singing with thankfulness in our hearts). The first church was made up of Jews who in their former religion had instruments in the temple worship. However, even though they sometimes assembled in the temple courts (Acts 2:46), from the beginning, and for hundreds of years afterwards, the church used no instruments. In fact the term "a cappella" from the Latin "a cappella," "as in church," came to mean "without instrumental accompaniment" (Webster's II New College Dictionary). There are only two kinds of music; vocal and instrumental. Christ chose vocal. What will you choose?

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