

SINGING AS WORSHIP

1Cor.14:15

INTRODUCTION:

- A. The mechanics of singing, that is, the "four part harmony" that we use is not essential for our singing to be worship. Was not used in N T days, although it's evident there was arrangements for playing instruments of music as far back as David maybe before.
- B. What is important is that we sing, because it is commanded by God and that we sing in an acceptable manner. 1Cor 14:15
- C. Purpose of this 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. Means to twitch, twang, to play a stringed instrument with the fingers, and hence, in the Sept., to sing with a harp, sing psalms, denotes, in the N. T., to sing a hymn, sing praise; in Eph.5:19, "making melody" (Vine's)
 2. It is from this word that instrumental music is defended
 3. But notice the passage tells us what is to be plucked or twanged. It is the heart "strings" that are to be tugged
- B. Our singing must touch our heart (mind). Col.3:16 says "singing with grace in your hearts"
- C. This word in no way justifies the use of instrumental music in our worship to God. If it did each person would have to play their own instrument

II. OUR SINGING IS DIRECTED TO DEITY AND ONE ANOTHER

- A. Praises to God Acts16:25; Heb.2:12
 1. Even though they were in prison, falsely accused, having been beaten they could still praise God in song
 - a. (NOTE: This was at a time other than assembly)
 - b. Is any merry let him sing Jas.5:13
 2. Eph.5:19 and Col.3:16 show singing is "to the Lord"
 3. So, 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 AND UNDERSTANDING 1Cor.14:15

- A. Singing with the "spirit" involves:
 1. Vine's dict. (f) the sentient (experiencing sensation and feeling) element in man, that by which he perceives, reflects, feels, desires.
 2. The 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. This word also translated "mind" and means the seat of reflective consciousness, comprising the faculties of perception and understanding, (a) the faculty of knowing, the seat of the understanding.
2. Involves a different part of the mind in each instance. This involves rationality and our feelings and emotions.
3. "Understanding" suggest we know meaning of words we sing, but just because one does not know the exact meaning of a word in a song, does not mean it would be wrong for them to sing that song, if they understood the general meaning behind the words of the song

IV. THE PURPOSE FOR WHICH WE SING, THE 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 the "mechanics" of the music.
- D. Song leaders should give due consideration to the songs they chose to lead as to their value in praising God and teaching other Christians and not just leading his favorite songs.

V. WHAT KINDS OF SONGS SHOULD WE SING?

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

CONCLUSION:

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