

Liberalism in the Church (Instruments in worship)

I. Quick Review

A. Major causes of liberalism in the Church

- i. Fear of man (Prov. 29:25)
- ii. Lack of knowledge (Hosea 4:6)

B. According to 1Corinthians 14, God's assembly is to be...

- i. A place where God's people are being built-up, encouraged and consoled through the teaching of God's Word (vv. 1-5, 12, 26)
- ii. A place that promotes understanding (vv. 14-17)
- iii. A place that convicts sinners of sin (vv. 24-25)
- iv. A place where things are done decently and in order (vs. 40)

C. We dealt with the role of women in the church, now we turn to instrumental music...

II. Culture vs. God's Word (part 2)

A. Musical instruments in worship:

i. A cappella:

1. **Definition:** without instrumental accompaniment
2. Literally, "a cappella" is Italian for "in chapel style"
3. Historically, the early church was known for it's a cappella style music.

ii. What does the Bible say about music in public worship?

1. 1Corinthians 14:15 (ESV), "*What am I to do? I will pray with my spirit, but I will pray with my mind also; I will sing praise with my spirit, but I will sing with my mind also.*"

- a. The Lord, through Paul's instruction, desires that His people sing – with understanding.
- b. Why with understanding? So that the Church may be built up, encouraged and consoled (vv. 3, 26).

2. 1Corinthians 14:26 (ESV), "*What then, brothers? When you come together, each one has a hymn, a lesson, a revelation, a tongue, or an interpretation. Let all things be done for building up.*"

- a. Again, Paul establishes the pattern as to how God's people are to be built up, encouraged and consoled:

i. By way of hymns (implies singing, vs. 15)

1. Singing hymns is a form of teaching as per Col. 3:16

ii. By way of a lesson

iii. By way of a revelation

iv. By way of a tongue and interpretation of that tongue.

3. Colossians 3:16 (ESV), "*Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.*"

- a. Here, the Lord commands each of us to...

i. Let the word of Christ richly dwell with them (so that we may teach and admonish each other in all wisdom)

ii. Sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs (so that you may teach and admonish one another in all wisdom)

iii. These things are to be done with an attitude of thanks to God

4. Ephesians 5:19 (ESV), “*addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing [Grk., ado] and making melody[Grk. psallo] to the Lord with your heart.*”
- a. Similar to Colossians 3:16, each of us are commanded to address (that is, teach and admonish) one another in psalms, hymns and spiritual songs.
 - b. Singing Christian songs is a manifestation of being filled with the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 5:18).
 - c. Some argue that the term “making melody” is a bad translation
 - i. The reason:
 1. The Greek word “psallo” means “to twitch or twang” as in plucking a string on an stringed instrument
 - ii. Rebuttal:
 1. According to Thayer’s Greek-English lexicon of the NT, “*psallo*,” in the NT times, meant to sing a hymn
 2. Vine’s Expository of NT words concurs with this as a well.
 3. Though in classical Greek, psallo was defined as plucking a string like in an instrument, the NT translators of KJV, NASB, NIV, & ESV do not translate “psallo” as “play a stringed instrument.”
 4. The Amplified Bible perversion of the passage:
 - a. Ephesians 5:19 in the Amplified Bible says:

“Speak out to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, offering praise with voices [and instruments] and making melody with all your heart to the Lord”
 - b. The Amplified Bible actually adds the word “instrument” in the passage (brackets signifies an addition).
 - c. By the way, notice how the Amplified Bible doesn’t translate “psallo” as “to pluck a stringed instrument?”
 - d. By the way, God condemns the adding to His word (Proverbs 30:6)!
 5. It is also good to note that the verse tells us where the melody (or “*psallo*”) is to be done: with the heart, not with the harp!
 6. Also, if psallo is to be defined by its classical definition, then each Christian is commanded to pluck strings of some stringed instrument (by the way, this excludes flutes, trumpets, clarinets, saxophones, drums, etc.)