

Liberalism in the Church (Instruments part 2)

I. Quick Review

A. 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)

B. Singing –with understanding -- is included in the public worship (vs. 14-15)

- i. The Lord commands His children to teach and admonish one another in psalms, hymns and spiritual songs (Colossians 3:16)
- ii. Ephesians 5:19 commands us to address one another in psalms, hymns and spiritual songs, making the melody with our hearts to God.

II. Some have asked, "What's the difference between psalms, hymns and spiritual songs?"

A. The simplest answer would be:

i. Psalms:

1. These are songs based on the book of Psalms

- a. Songs like "*Give Thanks to the Lord*," "*As the Deer*" and "*The Law of the Lord*" are songs based on the book of Psalms.

b. Exception:

- i. In the Christian age, animal sacrifices are no longer offered, since Christ is the final sacrifice.
- ii. Therefore, Psalm 66:15 would be inapplicable to sing as a congregational song...

1. Psalm 66:15 (ESV), "*I will offer to you burnt offerings of fattened animals, with the smoke of the sacrifice of rams; I will make an offering of bulls and goats.*"

iii. Same goes with Psalm 20:3...

1. Psalm 20:3 (ESV), "*May He remember all your sacrifices and accept your burnt offerings.*"

ii. Hymns:

1. These are songs of praise

2. The standard hymns we've come to know have lyrics that are designed to teach, admonish and console...

- a. "*What a Friend We Have in Jesus*" is a hymn written to encourage Christians to take their troubles to the Lord in prayer.
- b. "*Just as I Am*" is a hymn written to console those who are repenting.
- c. "*There's a Great Day Coming*" is a hymn written to admonish.
- d. "*Hold to God's Unchanging Hand*," is a hymn written to encourage the Christian to focus on Heaven and never give up faith in God.

iii. Spiritual songs:

1. Any sacred song that contains spiritual matters and topics

- a. "*Jordan River*" is a spiritual song about crossing over from this life to the next.

- III. What about clapping or listening to instrumental music with Christian lyrics?**
- A. To some, clapping is viewed as a type of instrument, and therefore, inappropriate; yet others view clapping as a way of keeping rhythm or expressing joy.**
 - B. Then there are those who believe one should only listen to a cappella, while others believe listening to instrumental Christian music at home is OK.**
 - C. These issues have divided the brotherhood. Such issues are deemed as disputable matters.**
 - D. What does the Bible say about such matters?**
 - E. Read Romans 14 (ESV)**
 - i. Verses 1-12**
 - 1. Do not pass judgment on one another over opinions (disputable matters)**
 - 2. Keep in mind that we all shall stand before God to give an account for our conduct, words and actions (cf. vs. 12, Mt. 12:36).**
 - ii. Verse 13-19**
 - 1. Never to do anything that may cause others to stumble.**
 - 2. Those who cause God's people to stumble are not acting in love (vs. 15).**
 - 3. The Church is all about righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit (vs. 17)**
 - a. Therefore, as verse 19 says, do that which leads to peace and edification (cf. 1Corinthians 14:3, 26).**
 - iii. Verses 20-23**
 - 1. Do not do anything (like eating certain foods, drinking *wine, clapping, playing instrumental Christian music, etc.) that will cause your brothers and sisters to stumble (vs. 21).**
 - 2. Whatever you believe in these matters, keep them between you and God.**
- IV. As we learned in 1John, a Christian is known by his love for the brethren**
- A. 1John 2:10 (ESV) says, “*Whoever loves his brother abides in the light, and in him there is no cause for stumbling.*”**
 - i. Love doesn't cause others in the Church to stumble.**
 - ii. Instead, love builds up, seeks peace, mutually builds up others, seeks peace**
 - iii. Love is not self-seeking**
 - iv. It humbles itself before the feet of others**
- V. Conclusion**
- A. It's best not to clap when singing with your brothers and sisters. This will certainly promote peace and edification across the board.**
 - B. It's best not to play instrumental music with Christian lyrics when you are with other Christians. Playing a cappella music in the presence of your brothers and sisters will also certainly promote peace and edification across the board.**
 - C. Remember what Romans 14:13b says, “*...make up your mind not to put any stumbling block or obstacle in your brother's way.*”**
 - D. Make sure you are keeping the unity of the Spirit and the bond of peace!**