

WHY CHURCHES OF
CHRIST DO NOT USE
INSTRUMENTS OF MUSIC

EPHESIANS 5:19

COLOSSIANS 3:16

WHY WE DO NOT USE INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC?

- Is It Just Because We Want To Be Different or Cantankerous?
- Is It Because We Cannot Afford An Instrument, or Cannot Find Someone With The Talent To Play It For Us?
- No! It Is An Authority Issue!

IT IS NOT

JUST A

CHURCH OF CHRIST

ISSUE

- **There were many who opposed instruments of music in worship to God who were not members of the New Testament church.**

- Erasmus, a Catholic, in writing on I Cor. 14:19, said:
- We have brought into our churches certain operatic and theatrical music; such a confused, disorderly chattering of some words as I hardly think was ever in any of the Grecian or Roman theatres. The church rings with the noise of trumpets, pipes, and dulcimers; and human voices strive to bear their part with them. *Continued*

- Continued:
- Men run to church as to a theatre, to have their ears tickled. And for this end organ makers are hired with great salaries, and a company of boys, who waste all their time learning these whining tones. (Girardeau, Instrumental Music, p. 166).

- Thomas Aquinas, a Catholic scholar of the 13th century, said:
- Our church does not use musical instruments, as harps and psalteries, to praise God withal, that she may not seem to Judaize. (Bingham's Antiquities, Vol. II p. 483, London Edition).

- John Calvin, the Presbyterian founder, said:
- Musical instruments in celebrating the praises of God would be no more suitable than the burning of incense, the lighting up of lamps, and the restoration of the other shadows of the law. The papists, therefore, have foolishly borrowed this, as well as many other things, from the Jews. Continued

- Continued:
- Men who are fond of outward pomp may delight in that noise; but the simplicity which God recommends to us by the apostle is far more pleasing to Him. (Calvin, Commentary on Ps. 33 and I Sam. 18:1-9).

- Charles Spurgeon, a Baptist preacher, wrote:
- David appears to have had a peculiarly tender remembrance of the singing of the pilgrims, and assuredly it is the most delightful part of worship and that which comes nearest to the adoration of heaven. Continued

- Continued:
- What a degradation to supplant the intelligent song of the whole congregation by the theatrical prettiness of a quartet, bellows, and pipes! We might as well pray by machinery as praise by it. (Spurgeon, Commentary on Ps. 42).

- David Benedict, a Baptist historian, said:
- In my earliest intercourse among this people, congregational singing generally prevailed among them. . . . The introduction of the organ among the Baptists. . . . Continued

- Continued:
- This instrument, which from time immemorial has been associated with cathedral pomp and prelatical power, and has always been the peculiar favorite of great national churches, at length found its way into Baptist sanctuaries...Continued

- Continued:
- ...Staunch old Baptists in former times would as soon tolerated the Pope of Rome in their pulpits as an organ in their galleries, and yet the instrument has gradually found its way among them. Continued:

- Continued:
- How far this modern organ fever will extend among our people, and whether it will on the whole work a RE-formation or DE-formation in their singing service, time will more fully develop. (Benedict, Fifty Years Among Baptists, pp. 204- 207).

- **John Wesley, the founder of the Methodist Church, said:**
- **I have no objection to instruments of music in our chapels, provided they are neither heard nor seen. (Cited by Clark's Commentary, Vol. 4, p. 684.)**

- Adam Clarke, a Methodist Commentator, wrote:
- I am an old man, and an old minister; and I here declare that I never knew them productive of any good in the worship of God; and have had reason to believe that they were productive of much evil. Continued:

- Continued:
- Music, AS A SCIENCE, I esteem and admire: but instruments of music in the house of God I abominate and abhor. This is the abuse of music; and here I register my protest against all such corruptions in the worship of the Author of Christianity.

- In Questions on the Confession of Faith and Form of Government of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, published by the Presbyterian Board of Publications, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 1942, p. 55. the following question is asked: Continued

- Continued
- Question 6. Is there any authority for instrumental music in the worship of God under the present dispensation? Continued

- Answer. Not in the least; only the singing of psalms and hymns and spiritual songs was appointed by the apostles; not a syllable is said in the New Testament in favor of instrumental music nor was it ever introduced into the Church until after the eighth century, after the Catholics had corrupted the simplicity of the gospel by their carnal inventions. Continued:

- Continued:
- It was not allowed in the Synagogues, the parish churches of the Jews; but was confined to the Temple service and was abolished with the rites of that dispensation.

- Martin Luther: “The organ in the worship of God is an ensign of Baal.”

WHY WE DO NOT USE INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC?

Specific Authority

- We use it daily.
 - Prescriptions.
 - Doesn't have to say "Thou shalt not".
- Employees only.
- Rest rooms.

Generic Authority

- We use it daily.
 - Put in bottle, bottle in bag, and even deliver it.
 - When a Doctor specifies, a Pharmacist cannot generalize.

WHY WE DO NOT USE... INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC?

Specific Authority

Generic Authority

- #1 (Gen. 6:14).
 - Gopher wood.
 - Size and rooms etc.
 - What would have happened to that ark if Noah had generalized?

- Build ark of wood.
 - Tools.
 - Employees.
 - God did not have to say, “Thou shalt not use Pine, Oak, Cedar...”

WHY WE DO NOT USE INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC?

Specific Authority

- #2 (Ex. 12:3-6).
 - Lamb.
 - Male. 1st Year.
 - Without spot etc.
- When God specifies...
- What if they had offered some other animal?

Generic Authority

- Kill an animal.
 - Knife.
 - Sheep or goats.
- God didn't have to say, "Thou shalt not offer a dog, cat..."
- (Jn. 12:48).

WHY WE DO NOT USE INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC?

Specific Authority

Generic Authority

- #3 (Mt. 26:26-28).
 - Bread.
 - Fruit of vine.
 - What would happen if we used cake and ice cream on the table?

- Have food.
 - Multiple cups.
 - Building and lights etc.
 - God didn't have to say, "Thou shalt not have burgers etc."

WHY WE DO NOT USE INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC?

Specific Authority

Generic Authority

- #4 (Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16)

- Make music.

Playing is another kind of music; just as oak is a another kind of wood than Gopher; just as a dog is a another kind of animal than a lamb; just as cake and ice cream is a another kind of food than unleavened bread and fruit of the vine.

WHY WE DO NOT USE INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC?

- What happens when we substitute “playing for singing” or add “playing to our singing”?
- Our worship is not acceptable to God.

• **WE MUST NOT TAKE LIBERTY WITH GOD’S WORD (REV. 22:18-19; I COR. 4:6; JN. 12:48; 1:11-12; JERE. 22:29; I PET. 5:6).**

