

Lecture 17- Worship & Music (I)

*Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.
Ephesians 5:19-20*

Key Concepts

- Understand working relationship between pastors and musicians
- Music as creational gift
- Music as powerful

Lecture Objectives

- Begin discussion of music in worship
- Examine music in general within creation and specifically in the church

Preliminary Questions

- Does your church's music engage emotions properly?
- Does your church work to further the goodness of music in all of life? What might that mean?
- Why is it that certain kinds of music are powerful emotionally for some but not others?
- Why kinds of emotions (if any) would not be appropriate within a worship service to be shown through music?

Worship & Music (I)

Introduction – Pastor and Musician Working Together – (see Appendix F)

I. The Christian Faith is a Singing Faith

A. Ephesians 5:19-20

“Ours is a singing faith. At every turn, on every occasion, and in every age the Christian church has been marked by a prolific love of music. Wherever the Gospel has been preached, it has simultaneously been sung. Wherever the praises of our God have been expressed in words, they have simultaneously been expressed in melodies. As a result, some of the most glorious music ever produced has been the fruit of faithful worship ... According to Martin Luther, ‘Next to the Word of God, the noble art of music is the greatest treasure in this world.’”

George Grant, *World*, 11/22/97

II. Music is a Creational Gift from God

A. Music is cultural activity ordered by God

1. Creational mandate – vocal and instrumental music
2. Offered to God in corporate worship and all of life
3. Serves various purposes in various areas of life

B. Music is a heightened expression of the spoken word:

“Music is closely related to the spoken word. Human speech has a kind of natural music about it: rhythm, timbre, and pitch play important roles in verbal communication, and not only in tonal languages. In one sense, then, all language is musical. When we enhance that natural music with well-crafted melodies, harmonies, and instruments, our words often take on a new kind of vitality.”

John Frame, *Worship in Spirit and Truth*, 111.

III. The Power of Music

A. Calvin's view of the place of music applied today

“The psalms could incite us to raise our hearts to God and to move us with such ardor that we exalt through praises the glory of his name ... And truly, we know through experience that song has great force and vigor to move and enflame hearts to invoke and to praise God with a amore lively and ardent zeal.”

B. (Roff, *Let Us Sing*, pp.24-25) Music has power to:

1. Create and intensify emotions
2. Engage the memory
3. Activate imagination
4. Comfort the soul

C. We are to harness the power of music to the glory of God and the Gospel

1. Two extremes: emotionalism vs. emotionless
2. True emotions engaged in worship

D. Excellence in music carries the message in a powerful way

E. Alaska story – excellence includes the heart!

IV. Music has a role to play in our sanctification (Steven Guthrie, *JETS*, 12/2003, 633-46)

A. Eph. 5:19-20: in context of concern for sensuality and drunkenness: SING!

B. Music has role in God’s design to make us more like Christ

“Music makes its own distinctive contribution to Christian life and worship. Whatever support music may offer words, however it may highlight, reinforce or enhance the text, music itself - the music of music - is used in the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit.”

Guthrie, p.646