

## Why We Sing

### Introduction

We can find all different types of music from all around the world throughout history, thus it is with confidence we can say that music has played an integral part of human society throughout the ages. We actually see some really interesting uses of music throughout the Scriptures. Before we look at our main passages for today, I'd like to draw your attention to some of the overlooked passages that speak of music.

1 Samuel 16:23 (CSB): *Whenever the spirit from God came on Saul, David would pick up his lyre and play, and Saul would then be relieved, feel better, and the evil spirit would leave him.*

Zephaniah 3:17 (CSB): *The Lord your God is among you, a warrior who saves. He will rejoice over you with gladness. He will be quiet in his love. He will delight in you with singing.*

Matthew 26:26-30 (CSB): *<sup>26</sup> As they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it, gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take and eat it; this is my body." <sup>27</sup> Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks, he gave it to them and said, "Drink from it, all of you. <sup>28</sup> For this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>29</sup> But I tell you, I will not drink from this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom." <sup>30</sup> After singing a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.*

### Why We Sing

- (1) God is good and His faithful love endures forever. Psalm 100
- (2) Being filled by the Spirit causes us to Sing. Ephesians 5:15-21
- (3) We teach God's Word through Song. Colossians 3:12-17

### God is good and His faithful love endures forever.

Psalm 100 (CSB): *<sup>1</sup> Let the whole earth shout triumphantly to the Lord! <sup>2</sup> Serve the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs. <sup>3</sup> Acknowledge that the Lord is God. He made us, and we are his— his people, the sheep of his pasture. <sup>4</sup> Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise. Give thanks to him and bless his name. <sup>5</sup> For the Lord is good, and his faithful love endures forever; his faithfulness, through all generations.*

As the people of God, we are called to:

- Shout – triumphantly TO the Lord
- Serve – the Lord
- Acknowledge – the Lord is God...we are His people
- Enter – His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise
- Give Thanks – to Him
- Bless – His name

Why? *<sup>5</sup> For the Lord is good, and his faithful love endures forever; his faithfulness, through all generations.*

Psalm 98:4-6; Psalm 96:1-3; Psalm 47:5-7

## Being filled by the Spirit causes us to Sing.

Ephesians 5:15-21 (CSB): <sup>15</sup> *Pay careful attention, then, to how you walk—not as unwise people but as wise—* <sup>16</sup> *making the most of the time, because the days are evil.* <sup>17</sup> *So don't be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is.* <sup>18</sup> *And don't get drunk with wine, which leads to reckless living, but be filled by the Spirit:* <sup>19</sup> *speaking to one another in psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, singing and making music with your heart to the Lord,* <sup>20</sup> *giving thanks always for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,* <sup>21</sup> *submitting to one another in the fear of Christ.*

Self-awareness is a learned skill. If you watch little kids in the store, they wonder all over the place, often cutting in front of buggies. Why? Because self-awareness is a learned skill. Here in Ephesians, we are called to “pay careful attention”, so that, we can be wise in how we live. Wisdom, also, is a learned skill.

So, what does that wisdom look like? Glad you asked. Understanding the will of God. Which is living a life not described as reckless but a life described as being filled with the Spirit. What are some characteristics of being filled with the Spirit? Glad you asked? Verses 19-21: <sup>19</sup> *speaking to one another in psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, singing and making music with your heart to the Lord,* <sup>20</sup> *giving thanks always for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,* <sup>21</sup> *submitting to one another in the fear of Christ.*

## We teach God's Word through Song.

Colossians 3:12-17 (CSB): <sup>12</sup> *Therefore, as God's chosen ones, holy and dearly loved, put on compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience,* <sup>13</sup> *bearing with one another and forgiving one another if anyone has a grievance against another. Just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you are also to forgive.* <sup>14</sup> *Above all, put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity.* <sup>15</sup> *And let the peace of Christ, to which you were also called in one body, rule your hearts. And be thankful.* <sup>16</sup> *Let the word of Christ dwell richly among you, in all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another through psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts.* <sup>17</sup> *And whatever you do, in word or in deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.*

Who's we are actually matters. I remember growing up in the small town of Dayton. On my dad's side, my grandfather was the postmaster and upon retirement became a city councilman and my grandmother was the administrator at the hospital. On my mother's side, my grandfather was a mechanic at the shop in town for 48 years. Therefore, everyone who heard my last name, knew exactly who I was. The family I belonged to mattered to people.

As believers we must understand that we belong to God. We are, as verse 12 states, “God's chosen ones”. As God's people we are commanded in verse 16 to let the word of Christ richly dwell among us. We are then given two avenues in which to allow this to happen: (1) teaching and (2) singing.

The teaching of the Scriptures is valuable to the life of the believer and church. We need God's Word taught. Not man's opinions, preferences or desires...we need the Word of God.

The singing of Scripture is valuable as well. Through song we are able to memorize at an amazing pace. Just flipping through the radio it's amazing the songs you remember. I had no idea that I still knew Billy Ray Cyrus' Achy Breaky Heart. The early church would sing the Psalms and other portions of Scripture in order to encourage, memorize and spread the Word of God.

In 2009 Mac Powell, of Third Day, organized an album entitled: Glory Revealed: The Word of God in Worship. Mac Powell organized various musicians to put passages of Scripture to song. I'd encourage you to look up that particular album and take a listen.