

# Worship...In The Word

## What The Bible Says About Corporate Worship

### Part 2 – Songs in the Bible

*~ Selected Scriptures ~*



# Worship Wars

47% of evangelical churches now offer a traditional service and a contemporary service.

- *George Barna*

*Worship wars exist because Christians ignore the Biblical teachings on corporate worship OR make personal preference equal to scriptural mandate.*



# Ending Worship Wars

The remedy is not to get my way but to submit our personal preferences to clear directives of scriptures. And when our preferences are not met, *and the musical worship is within biblical bounds*, we must defer to the preference of others. I believe it is only then that we will be able to worship God as HE desires in a way that is wholly pleasing to Him.



# A Biblical Definition of Worship

Worship is ascribing to God the value or worth that is due Him.

## Musical Worship

The act of worshipping, glorifying or extolling God with our hearts, through our voices, often with musical accompaniment, as an assembled expression of the Body of Christ (*corporate*).



# Does God Care How We Worship Him?

## Regulative Principle:

- Worship of God (corporate emphasis) is governed by what is expressly commanded or can be drawn from good and necessary consequences in the Bible.

## Normative Principle:

- We are free to do what we please in corporate worship as long as the Bible does not forbid it.



# Is Music Inherently Moral or Amoral?

“Is Music purely a matter of taste? Absolutely not! (p.7)...Music has the ‘power to form character’” (p.9). In fact, “the right kind of music, in the character of its sound alone, has the ability to teach you about the Lord” (p.21).

- *Garlock & Woetzel: Music in the Balance*



# What is Morality (Moral)?

**Morality:** is particular moral principles or rules of conduct;

**Moral:** Is right or wrong behavior.

- *Webster's Dictionary*

Biblically speaking, when something is immoral, it means it is sinful in the eyes of a holy and righteous God.



# Does the Bible Endorse Genres of Music?

Song Genres (*style*) in the Old Testament



# Hebrew Words for Song in the O.T.

Main Hebrew word is *shir*. It is used 189 times, 52 in the Psalms. It is a song of any sort.

- Majority of the uses are in 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Chronicles in the practices of Temple worship

The other Hebrew word is *mizmor* which literally means melody.



*שיר* [*shir* - *song*] was originally and predominantly used to designate the vocal performance of a Psalm...whereas *מִצְמוֹר* [*mitzmor* - *psalm*] primarily indicated a song performed with instrumental accompaniment.

- HALOT



# Does the Bible Endorse Genres of Music?

## Song Genres (*style*) in the Old Testament

- Songs of Lament – Ps 12
  - Maskils (13 Total)
  - Ascents (15 Total)
- Songs of Thanksgiving – Ps 18
- Songs of Praise (Hymns) – Ps 113
- New Songs – 7x



The basic acts of worship [corporate] we perform because they are clearly commanded in Scripture [*Regulative Principle*]. The ways and means of doing them we try to order according to scriptural principle.

- *Hughes Oliphant Olds*

There will be, of necessity, some human discretion exercised in these matters.

- *Ligon Duncan*

