

Biblical Proofs against Contemporary “Praise Songs”

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Principle:

The song should clearly mention the God of the Bible in either name or concept (e.g. Lamb of God).

Texts:

- *That the Gentiles might glorify God for His mercy, as it is written: “For this reason I will confess to You among the Gentiles, and sing to Your name.”* Roman 15:9
- *Therefore I will give thanks to You, O Lord, among the Gentiles, and sing praises to Your name.* 2 Samuel 22:50
- *Therefore I will give thanks to You, O Lord, among the Gentiles, and sing praises to Your name.* Psalm 18:49
- *Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms, and hymns, and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.* Colossians 3:16-17
- *Speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.* Ephesians 5:19-20
- *And they sang a new song, saying: “You are worthy to take the scroll, and to open its seals; for You were slain, and have redeemed us to God by Your blood out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation.* Revelation 5:9

Application:

Whatever, we do in word or deed, needs to be done to give thanks and glory to God. In order to glorify God before the Gentiles (unbelievers) we must boldly and clearly confess and sing His name and no other. We must make it clear that the One we are singing about is the LORD God of the Bible: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Principle:

The song should educate the hearers about the God of the Bible, and the doctrines expressed with the Holy Scriptures.

Texts:

- *Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms, and hymns, and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.* Colossians 3:16-17

Application:

Hymnody and songs are valuable tools for teaching and admonishing those both inside and outside the Church, therefore, we must make sure that our songs educate the hearers about the LORD God and all His works.

Principle:

The song should clearly express the doctrines being mentioned and the points being made.

Texts:

- *Even things without life, whether flute or harp, when they make a sound, unless they make a distinction in the sounds, how will it be known what is piped or played? For if the trumpet makes an uncertain sound, who will prepare for battle? So likewise you, unless you utter by the tongue words easy to understand, how will it be known what is spoken? For you will be speaking into the air. There are, it may be, so many kinds of languages in the world, and none of them is without significance. Therefore, if I do not know the meaning of the language, I shall be a foreigner to him who speaks, and he who speaks will be a foreigner to me. Even so you, since you are zealous for spiritual gifts, let it be for the edification of the Church that you seek to excel. 1 Corinthians 14:7-12*
- *Even though I am untrained in speech, yet I am not in knowledge. But we have been thoroughly made clear among you in all things. 2 Corinthians 11:6*

Application:

We need to be able to speak and communicate clearly, so that, the hearer is able to properly understand what is being taught and expressed in the song.

We should avoid vague language and unclear sentences or sentence fragments.

Our speech should be edifying to the Church and Her members, but if Her members do not understand clearly what is being song, then this will not be edifying, instead we will create confusion and division within the Church, and our brothers and sisters in the faith shall be as foreigners to us.

Principle:

The song should focus on the objective unchanging work of God and not on the subjective ever-changing feelings and experiences of man.

Texts:

- See: Psalms 95-106
- *Oh sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the Earth! Sing to the LORD, bless His name; tell of His salvation from day to day. Declare His glory among the nations, His marvellous works among all the peoples! Psalm 96:1-3*
- *Oh sing to the LORD a new song! For He has done marvellous things; His right hand and His holy arm have gained Him the victory. Psalm 98:1*
- *Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the Earth! Serve the LORD with gladness! Come into His presence with singing! Know that the LORD, He is God! It is He who made us, and we are His; we are His people, and the sheep of His pasture. Psalm 100:1-3*
- *Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits, who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy, who satisfies you with good so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's. Psalm 103:2-5*

Application:

Our feelings and experience change from day to day and cannot form a firm foundation to base our songs upon. While God is unchanging, the same yesterday, today and tomorrow, and thus should form the firm foundation of our songs.

Song may speak of our feelings and experience, but they are not to serve the foundation of the song. The foundation and bulk of the song should emphasize the work of God. Our feelings and experience should be reserved for a minor or ministerial role in the song.

Principle:

The song should avoid vain repetition.

Texts:

- *When you pray, do not use vain repetition as the heathens do. For they think that they will be heard for their many words. Matthew 6:7*

Application:

Vain repetition and pointless babbling is the mark of heathen worship.

Repetition is not bad in and of itself, see Psalms 136, 148, 150. However, any repetition used in the song should be worthwhile and edifying, used for education and admonishment.

We should avoid any repetition that seeks to prompt heathen paganistic hypnosis or feelings of ecstasy.

Principle:

The song should not contain any false teachings.

Texts:

- *Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves. Matthew 7:15*
- *Now I urge you, brothers, mark and avoid those who cause divisions and offenses, contrary to the doctrine which you learned. Romans 16:17*

Application:

Songs are a valuable tool for teaching the Word of God. This means that they can also become a dangerous weapon when used by false teachers to spread false doctrines.

We must be careful and discerning when choosing songs to sing in the Church, for many will use the songs of the Church to sneak in false doctrine, like a wolf hidden in sheep's clothing.

We must take note and mark those songs which could be used to spread false teachings and avoid singing them.