

For this cause I will confess to thee among the Gentiles, and **sing** unto thy name” (Rom. 15:9); “What is it then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also: I will **sing** with the spirit, and I will **sing** with the understanding also” (1 Cor. 14:15); “Saying, I will declare thy name unto my brethren, in the midst of the church will I **sing** praise unto thee” (Heb. 2:12); “Is any among you afflicted? let him pray. Is any merry? let him **sing** psalms” (James 5:13); “And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and **sang** praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them” (Acts 16:25).

Is The Practice Of Using MIM In Worship From God Or Man?

If one says it is from God, then we ask in all kindness and love for souls: Where is the New Testament command or example for it? There is none!

The command and example for God’s church is to **sing** in worship to Him. The New Testament church to this day understands Christ’s teaching on this matter and therefore does not use MIM in worship. However, the churches of men add (Rev. 22:18,19) the MIM in their worship, but such is “vain.” Please hear Jesus: “But in **vain** they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the **commandments of men**” (Matt. 15:9). Are you truly following Jesus or are you following the damnable doctrines of men (v.14)? Why not wholly respect, love and follow the Savior in all things?

I Ask For Your Input Or Questions Concerning This Matter

1. Where is the New Testament command or example for using MIM in worship to God? If you think there is a command or example, please send it in to us. We will honestly consider it in light of God’s Word.
2. What is the purpose of using the MIM in worship?
3. What does MIM in worship accomplish that God requires?
4. Personally, why do you use MIM in worship? Please provide book, chapter, and verse if applicable.

We look forward to hearing from you. May God bless you in your studies of His saving truth. ♥



“Holding forth the word of life”

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(Phil 2:16 cp. John 6:63, 68)

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Why The Church Of Christ Does Not Use Mechanical Instruments Of Music In Worship (part 1)

by Perry Sexton

Often times we are asked why we do not use mechanical instruments of music [MIM] in worship to God. This is a good question and deserves a biblical answer (1 Peter 3:15). We are always happy to answer any sincere religious question and do so publicly. It is our desire to follow nothing but the truth in all things. If you believe that we are wrong in a matter we would appreciate you pointing that out to us and we will honestly consider the matter and search the Scriptures (Acts 17:11) to see whether it is true (1 Thess. 5:21).

In This Study Let Us First Look At Reasons That Do Not Apply

1. It is not because of preference: IF it were just a matter of preference then I am sure some congregations would use MIM and perhaps some would not.
2. It is not that we do not like MIM, we do.
3. It is not because of lack of talents because there is plenty of talent in the church and some are even professional musicians.
4. It is not because of lack of finances. Some well-meaning visitors have even offered to donate or buy us instruments of music and others have offered to play for us. We appreciate their concern and desire to help, but the reason we do not use MIM in worship to God is far more serious than these things mentioned in this list and other such things that may be said.

The Reason The Church Of Christ Does Not Use MIM In Worship

It is for the same reason that Noah did not use pine or oak in building the ark. One might ask the good question, “How do you

know Noah did not use pine or oak?” We know that because God instructed Noah, “Make thee an ark of gopher wood” (Gen. 6:14) and Noah did exactly what God told him to do (Gen. 6:22), “Thus did Noah; according to all that God commanded him, so did he.” Of course this account is given to us “for our learning” (Rom. 15:4) and all would do very well to learn from it! Noah was told to use “gopher wood” and the inspired record states that Noah obeyed God.

So what kind of wood did Noah use? Gopher wood. Did he use any other kind of wood? No. God only authorized “gopher wood” in the construction of the ark. We will look more at authorization later on in this study. Today the church sings because this is the only kind of music authorized in New Testament worship (Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16). MIM used in worship would be an addition just like pine or oak would have been an addition to the ark. Man is specifically warned not to add to the Word of God (Rev. 22:18,19).

The church does not use MIM in worship for the same reason Abel did not do as Cain did. It is clear from the information given that both boys were instructed in the sacrifice (Gen. 4:1-7). Hebrews 11:4 makes it clear that they were instructed concerning the sacrifice: “By faith Abel offered ...” and we know that faith comes by hearing God’s Word (Rom. 10:17). Cain and Abel were likely instructed by their father Adam by words and example. Remember, they lived during the Patriarchal times. God accepted Abel’s offering because it was “by faith” (Abel heard and obeyed the instructions), but God did not accept Cain’s offering. Why? It is clear, Cain did not do what God said to do; Cain did his own thing like Nadab and Abihu did in Leviticus 10:1,2. We will look at more on all of these later.

Why The Church Of Christ Sings Without The Use Of Instrumental Music In Worship

Since the New Testament came into force (Heb. 9:14-17) all men everywhere are under it. Two testaments or wills cannot be in force at the same time. The Old Testament has been taken away (2 Cor. Chapter 3 cp. Rom. 7:6,7; Col. 2:14; Eph. 5:19) and replaced by the far superior New Testament (again 2 Cor. Chapter 3; Heb. 7:22; 8:6-9,13, read chapters 7-10).

Jesus is the mediator of the New Testament (Heb. 9:15; 8:6). The New Testament is also referred to as “the law of Christ” (Gal. 6:2), “the law of faith” (Rom. 3:27), “the law of the Spirit” (8:2), “the law of liberty” (James 2:12), “the doctrine of Christ” (2 John 9), etc. We are **warned** not to add to or take away from God’s Word, the law of

Christ (Rev. 22:18,19). God has told us plainly **the kind of music** He wants in worship, and it is **singing** (Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16). There is no honest way of getting MIM in worship to God out of the New Testament! If you think there is, please tell us how.

To love and respect God is to obey His Word. If we reject the Word of God, we reject Him. Jesus said: “He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day” (John 12:48). If we have true respect for God, we will be very careful to understand and obey His Word in **all** things.

The New Testament Command Is to Sing

Listen to Ephesians 5:19, “Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, **singing** and making melody in your heart to the Lord;” and Colossians 3:16, “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.” These verses and all others on the subject are easy to understand. The **command** is to **sing** the “psalms and hymns and spiritual songs.” Not “sing and play an instrument of music.” If one **adds** (Rev. 22:18,19) the MIM to worship he is **not** obeying God! The consequence of not obeying is very serious.

Remember the command to Noah? God specified the kind of wood to be used and Noah obeyed. In Christian worship God has specified the kind of music He wants in worship to Him. Will we obey God or will we have the mindset of Cain, Nadab, and Abihu? One cannot, in truth, deny the plainness of God’s will concerning the kind of music God wants in worship to Him no more than one can deny the plainness of God’s instructions to Noah concerning the type of wood to be used in building the ark. Neither can one deny that in the New Testament there is no record of the church ever using MIM in worship. Isn’t it obvious they understood and obeyed the plainness of the Word concerning the type of music to be used in worship? We must do the same if we are going to be acceptable to God!

The New Testament Example Is to Sing

In the First Century the New Testament church understood the teaching on this matter and therefore did not use MIM in worship. Please consider these examples: “And when they had **sung** an hymn, they went out into the mount of Olives” (Matt. 26:30 and Mark 14:26); “And that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy; as it is written,