

MUSIC?...WHAT MUSIC?

9 April 2011

The views expressed in this article are those of the author: BNJ

Who wants it.... God or you? That's the REAL question!

It's becoming common these days for people in the church to say things like "I'm not really convinced about not having instrumental music in church worship", or "I don't find the arguments for not having instruments very convincing". It's become a very trendy and 'fashionably tolerant' thing to say.

First off, notice whose opinions are being put first....it's about "I". God doesn't seem to enter the conversation. It's very telling that people don't say something like "I'm still trying to figure out what God wants" (or something similar). Without hesitation we can very definitely say that God would know exactly what He wants in church music! In God's mind or opinion, there will be absolutely no doubt about the answer to the question "Lord, what music do you want us to offer to You?"

Let's admit one simple fact. The New Testament does not present to us any requirement from the Lord to offer Him instrumental style music. It just isn't there.

It's not hard or complicated. In the New Testament Scriptures, God asks for 'singing' style music. He doesn't ask for 'instruments' style music. He plainly states what He expects from the music being produced, namely: a melody from the hearts of Christians, and mutual edification. Singing style music completely meets what God expects, instrument style music just doesn't meet anything that God wants.

So, how come some people are not "convinced" regarding what God's taste in Christian worship music is? Where does the idea that we can throw instrumental music into our mix of worship activities come from? There is only one place.... It's our own desire. It's what we want.

After studying answers to the 'question of instrumental music in worship' we can say this. There are dozens of 'reasons' that have been put forward attempting to justify the practice of using instruments. Without exception, every single one of them will not stand the test of simple commonsense scrutiny. Every single 'reason' put forward is actually not a valid reason, it is just an excuse.

If every single 'argument' that has ever been put forward to justify using instrumental music in Christian worship is an excuse and not a valid reason, then they all amount to the same thing.... "We want it and therefore we will use it". What God actually wants, doesn't seem to matter to a lot of people.

It is a matter of historical record that instruments were only introduced into 'Christian' worship some hundreds of years after the New Testament was completed. The instruments were not introduced because someone eventually found a Scripture that required them. They were introduced primarily by the Roman Catholic church as a human addition. Obviously Roman Catholics will accept their own traditions, but why would anyone else? Saying something like "I don't see anything wrong with using instruments" is like saying "I don't see anything wrong with venerating Mary" or "I don't see anything wrong with baptizing infants" and so on. All these innovations have the same source.....and it isn't the Scriptures!

Offering the Creator and Lord of the Universe our worship is an important matter. You surely want Him to be pleased with your worship and accept it? God has asked us for a very specific sort of music in New Testament worship, namely singing style music. Singing style music is the music of faith; that is, we can be confident God is pleased with it because it is what He asks for (just like Abel's worship in Genesis 4 was accepted). Instrument style music can only be offered in some vague hope that God will like it or accept it (just like Cain in Genesis 4 whose offering was rejected).

God is fully convinced and confident about what He wants in our worship music and He has specifically told us what it is. How about becoming convinced about what God wants, rather than what you want?



Saying you're not convinced about acapella worship has become a trendy fashion statement!

Every single argument that has ever been put forward to justify using instrumental music in Christian worship amounts to the same thing.... "We want it and therefore we will use it".

What God wants, doesn't seem to matter to a lot of people!