

SERMON NOTES

Congregational Singing!
Ephesians 5:18-20; Colossians 3:16

In his book “*Sing*”, Keith Getty said:

“Though maybe misunderstood, regularly a bone of contention, and often under-practiced, congregational singing is one of the greatest and most beautiful tools we have been given to declare God’s ‘excellences,’ strengthening His Church and sharing His glory with the world.”

Goals for this message:

1. To establish a biblical foundation for congregational singing.
2. To encourage a love for singing personally as you pursue Christ and conform to Him.
3. To cultivate and strengthen a culture of singing as a community of believers.

“Worship is the central focus of a vital Christian faith, and the most distinctive activity of the church of Jesus Christ. The biblical words translated ‘worship’ (Hebrew *shachah*, Greek *proskuneo*) mean, literally, to bow down or bend the knee. Such was the ancient gesture of honor to a sovereign and superior authority. To worship is to offer the oath of covenant loyalty to the Great King, and to affirm our faithfulness as his servants. For this reason, the worship of God through Jesus Christ lies at the heart of all Christian expression.” *Richard Leonard* ^[1]

Congregational Singing is a response to the revelation of God in Scripture. (Vertical)

Congregational Singing is a witness to the world. (Horizontal)

Congregational Singing is an encouragement to fellow believers. (Edification)

The Biblical Foundation for Congregational Singing!

Modeled throughout the Bible

“Let God speak directly to His people through the Scriptures, and let His people respond with grateful songs of praise.” *Martin Luther*

Mandated in the Bible

“Praise the Lord! Sing to the Lord a new song, And His praise in the congregation of the godly ones.”
Psalms 149:1 (NASB95)

“Repeatedly and throughout Scripture, we are commanded to be a singing people. There are more than four hundred references to singing in the Bible and at least fifty direct commands. We are not to disregard the command because we don’t like the music or the personnel or are not in the mood. The command in Psalm 149:1 contains no caveats or conditions. It should go without saying that the leadership of a church should be facilitating congregational singing so that we can all honor the Lord in this together. We are told to sing—and the Scripture is not only concerned that we sing but also with where, what, and how we sing.” *Keith Getty*

Embrace the Value of Singing and Its Impact on Your Life Personally!

“Speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord; always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father.”
Ephesians 5:19-20 (NASB95)

“Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.” *Colossians 3:16 (NASB95)*

“Worship isn’t primarily about music, techniques, songs or methodologies. It’s about our hearts.” *Bob Kauflin*

Cultivate and Strengthen a Culture of Congregational Singing in Our Church Family!

And they sang the song of Moses, the bond-servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, “Great and marvelous are Your works, O Lord God, the Almighty; Righteous and true are Your ways, King of the nations! “Who will not fear, O Lord, and glorify Your name? For You alone are holy; For all the nations will come and worship before You, For Your righteous acts have been revealed.” *Revelation 15:3-4 (NASB95)*

^[1] <http://www.laudemont.org/a-witec.htm>