

THE BELLEVILLE MESSENGER

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Why I Sing In Worship

Many religious folks are perplexed as to why certain churches of Christ do not use instruments in their worship services. In fact, some would claim that we do not believe in music. Of course, we believe in music, but only the KIND of music that the law of Christ authorizes, vocal/acapella not instrumental. So, let me share with you why I sing in worship.

1) I sing because the New Testament commands me to sing. “speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs” (Ephesians 5:19). If I love the Lord, then I will keep His commandments (John 15:4; I John 5:3). I sing and do NOT play because: (a) doing so would be adding to the New Testament pattern of worship (John 4:24; I Cor. 4:6; Rev. 22:18-19); (b) doing so would be following the Law of Moses, which was nailed to the cross (Col. 2:14).

2) I sing because God is most deserving of my praise. David declared: “Sing praise to the LORD, You saints of His, and give thanks at the remembrance of His holy name” (Psalm 30:4). “I will declare Your name to My brethren; in the midst of the assembly I will sing praise to You” (Hebrews 2:12).

3) I sing because my Lord set the example for me to follow. “And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives” (Matthew 26:30; cf. I Peter 2:21).

4) I sing because I am happy. “Shout joyfully to the LORD, all the earth; break forth in song, rejoice, and sing praises” (Psalm 98:4). “Serve the LORD with gladness; come before His presence with singing” (Psalm 100:2). “Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing psalms” (James 5:13).

5) I sing because I want to make melody in my heart to the Lord. The apostle Paul wrote: “singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord” (Ephesians 5:19; cf. Col. 3:16).

6) I sing because I am to teach and admonish my brethren. To the saints in Colosse, Paul penned: “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” (Col.3:16).

Dear friends, when you assemble to worship God do you sing or do you sing and play? The Lord and His apostles only give us authority to sing (Matt. 28:18-20; Acts 2:42). Let us be sure to worship God “in spirit” AND “truth” (John 4:24). Let us remember and apply the inspired words of the apostle Paul: “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 3:17). Even more impactful when you include verse 16 with it, wouldn't you agree?

✍️ Jesse Flowers

“Do Not Let The Sun Go Down On Your Wrath”

In Ephesians 4:26-27, the apostle Paul penned, “*Be angry, and do not sin: do not let the sun go down on your wrath, nor give place to the devil.*” You see, it is not a sin to be angry, for even Jesus looked upon the Pharisees with anger (Mark 3:5). However, the sin consist in what one allows his or her anger to lead them into doing. Therefore, Paul warns, “do not let the sun go down on your wrath.” Simply meaning, do not harbor angry thoughts, but rather banish them before a day comes to a close, lest they tempt you into committing a sin, and giving place to the devil.

So, with this thought in mind, lets look at some other examples for why we should not let the sun go down on our wrath. Beginning with, we must...

Know That The Wrath of Man Does Not Produce The Righteousness of God.

In James 1:19-20, James advised, “*...let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath; for the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God.*” May we all take heed to those words of James, and let’s all strive to control our emotions in times of anger. For, as James said, the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God. Therefore, be swift to hear, slow to speak, and slow to wrath.

Keep In Mind Wrath Only Causes Harm.

The wise man revealed, “*A quick-tempered man acts foolishly, And a man of wicked intentions is hated*” (Proverbs 14:17). Friends, when one possess a quick-temper, or as some say “a short fuse” they will more than likely be provoked to act foolishly, which can lead to causing harm to others or themselves. Therefore, keep these instructive words of David in mind, “*Cease from anger, and forsake wrath; Do not fret-it only causes harm*” (Psalm 37:8).

Know That Christians Are Instructed To Put Away Wrath.

In Ephesians 4:31, Paul instructed the saints in Ephesus to, “*Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice.*” The inspired apostle also commanded the faithful brethren in Colosse to, “*...put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth*” (Colossians 3:8). You see, my friends, Christians are instructed to put away wrath. Therefore, my beloved brethren, may we all put away wrath.

Know He Who Is Slow To Wrath Has Great Understanding.

Solomon wrote, “*He who is slow to wrath has great understanding, But he who is impulsive exalts folly*” (Proverbs 14:29). Unfortunately, too many times people are impulsive, rather than slow to wrath, with their emotions. However, as the wise man informed, those who are slow to wrath, rather than impulsive, have a great understanding. Therefore, be one who is slow to wrath, and keep these words of wisdom in mind, “*...wise men turn away wrath*” (Proverbs 29:8).

These are just a few reasons for why we should not let the sun go down on our wrath. I hope you take these thoughts to heart, and always remember to put away your wrath before the day comes to a close.

✍️ Brad Phillips

Belleville church of Christ

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Schedule of Services

Sunday Bible Study	9:30 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship	10:30 a.m.
Sunday Evening Worship	5:00 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study	7:00 p.m.

Evangelist

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