

# Reason to Sing

## 1. What is worship? (Romans 12:1-2; Luke 1:46-47; Matt. 14:33; Heb. 12:28-29; James 4:8)

- “Worship is the proper response of all moral, sentient beings to God, ascribing all honor and worth to their Creator-God precisely because he is worthy, delightfully so.” – D. A. Carson (*Worship by the Book*, p. 26)
- “Worship means consciously knowing, treasuring, and showing the supreme worth and beauty of God.” – John Piper (*Expository Exultation*, p. 27)
- BIG IDEA: Worship is the conscious act of magnifying the Lord in response to His character and works, revealed in His Word.
  - Conscious act: All creation bears passive and constant witness to the Lord in its very existence, but it is not worship, as it is not consciously and actively done.
  - Magnifying the Lord: Not magnified as a microscope may make great something that is small, but magnified as a telescope displays the greatness of something that at first seems small.
  - In response to: “Worship is the heart’s response to the goodness of God in the breadth of human experience.” – Stuart Townend
  - Revealed in His Word: God makes Himself known through any means that He chooses. He has chosen to make Himself known to us through His Word.
    - » Word: His Son, Jesus
    - » Word: the Bible

## 2. What is the value of singing as an expression of worship?

- When we worship (*Systematic Theology, Grudem: p.1005-1009*):
  - We delight in God
    - » Psalm 27:4; 16:11; 73:25; 84:1-2, 4, 10; Acts 2:42-47; Luke 24:50-53
  - God delights in us
    - » Gen. 1:31; Isa. 62:3-5; Zeph. 3:17
  - We draw near to God
    - » Heb. 9:1-14; 10:19-22; 12:18-24, 28-29
  - God draws near to us
    - » James 4:8; 2 Chron. 5:13-14; Psalm 22:3
  - God ministers to us
    - » 1 Pet. 2:5; Heb. 4:16; 2 Cor. 3:18; 1 Cor. 14:26; Col. 3:16; Eph. 5:19; Heb. 10:24
  - The Lord’s enemies flee
    - » 2 Chron. 20:21-22
  - Unbelievers know they are in God’s presence
    - » 1 Cor. 14:23-25; Acts 2:11
- Why do people sing?
  - To engage others
  - To celebrate or honor someone
  - To communicate something within us
  - To give expression to the soul
  - To stir emotion and affection within ourselves or others
  - To remember or to teach
  - To inspire joy in others
- Why does the church sing?
  - To engage others – with the truth of the gospel
  - To celebrate and honor the Triune God
  - To communicate something within us, our brokenness and need for a Savior; our faith and hope in Jesus as Lord and Savior; gratitude and joy of salvation
  - To give expression to the soul through lament, confession, affection, celebration, etc.
  - To stir emotion and affection within ourselves or others in response to what God has done and who He is
  - To remember or to teach good theology; the gospel
  - To inspire joy in others by the witness of singing the story of the gospel

## 3. What is it that makes our worship acceptable?

- Jesus (Ephesians 2:8-10; Romans 12:1-2; Hebrews 4:14-16; 7:18-22; 9:15; 13:20-21)

#### 4. What makes a song acceptable for corporate worship?

- Theological accuracy
  - The singing of scripture
  - Not in conflict with scripture
  - Not additional content to scripture
- Doctrinal clarity and agreement
  - Song leader, when selecting songs for the liturgy (the prepared order of the worship service) ask:
    - » Do we (the church) know what we're singing?
    - » Do we believe what we're singing?

#### 5. What are some common misconceptions regarding worship music?

- It's a tactic to make church enjoyable for "seekers"
- It gets us in the mood for the preaching – it serves to make us feel good
- It's just what we do because we've done it that way for a long time
- It's the "pre-game" entertainment

#### 6. What are some misconceptions about the role of the worship leader?

- The worship leader ushers us to the throne room of God
- The worship leader invites the presence of the Holy Spirit
- The worship leader is necessary for good worship

#### 7. What is the role of the worship leader?

- Plan the order of service
- Select God-honoring, true, clear, and fitting songs for the worship gathering
- Equip the musicians and vocalists to do their part – to prompt the congregation to sing.
- "A faithful worship leader magnifies the greatness of God in Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit skillfully combining God's Word with music, thereby motivating the gathered church to proclaim the gospel, to cherish God's presence, and to live for God's glory." – Bob Kauflin (*Worship Matters*, p. 55)

#### 8. What role do we (the church) play in corporate worship?

- We are the collective instrument and voice proclaiming God's worthiness to be praised.
- The church sings the story of the Gospel for the sake of God's glory (Psalm 115:1), the equipping and leading of the saints (Col. 3:16; Eph. 5:19), and as a witness to the lost (1 Cor. 14:24-25).

#### 9. What do we sing?

- The story of the gospel (Is. 6:1-8)

#### 10. To whom do we sing?

- Most often to God (Examples: Psalm 8, 13, 18, 26, 51, 63... and many more)
  - Worshipping Him for His deeds, word, and character
- Oftentimes to each other, heavenly beings, or any listening ear (Examples: Psalm 23, 27, 29, 33, 47, 66, 98, and many more)
  - Exhorting one another to delight in the Lord
  - Confronting/admonishing
  - Blessing and teaching/proclaiming truth into each other's lives
- Sometimes even to ourselves (Examples: Psalm 103, 104)
  - Calling ourselves to give all glory to God
  - Reminding ourselves of the grace and sovereignty of our Lord

#### 11. How many times are we commanded to sing?

- At least 50
  - At times, these are commands to sing a new song (Ex. Psalm 33, 96, 98, 149; Isa. 42:10)

#### 12. How many times is singing referenced?

- More than 400

#### 13. Where did music come from?

- God created music
- The gifts that God has given in creation are for our blessing and for His glory. (James 1:16-18; Isa. 43:1-7; 1 Cor. 10:31; Isa 44:23)

#### 14. Why does doctrine/good theology matter in worship?

- Because we must sing truth to (or about) God!
- We are singing theology – don't sing bad theology!
- What we sing, we remember
- When we sing, we teach