Singing

Intro: People around the world enjoy singing. Singing is important. Singing is of great influence to all. One person said, “Let me write the songs of a nation, and I care not who writes its laws.” Thus, there is a need for emphasizing singing in worship to God.

I. SINGING IS A COMMAND OF GOD.
   A. It is an act of worship.
      1. Worship is: “adoration and praise offered to a higher being; devotion; prostrating oneself in subjection and submission.”
      2. God ordained worship, and our singing, for His glory and our strength and edification.
      3. We cannot please God without singing.
   B. We can only do what God has authorized.
      1. Col. 3:17 “And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.”
      2. Mat. 21:23-27 “And when he was come into the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came unto him as he was teaching, and said, By what authority doest thou these things? and who gave thee this authority? "And Jesus answered and said unto them, I also will ask you one thing, which if ye tell me, I in like wise will tell you by what authority I do these things. The baptism of John, whence was it? from heaven, or of men? And they reasoned with themselves, saying, If we shall say, From heaven; he will say unto us, Why did ye not then believe him? But if we shall say, Of men; we fear the people; for all hold John as a prophet. And they answered Jesus, and said, We cannot tell. And he said unto them, Neither tell I you by what authority I do these things.”
      3. There are three ways God authorizes:
         a. Direct statements
         b. Implications
         c. Examples
   C. God authorizes singing.
      1. Mat. 26:30 “And when they had sung an hymn, they went out into the mount of Olives.”
      2. Acts 16:25 “And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them.”
      3. Rom. 15:9 “And that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy; as it is written, For this cause I will confess to thee among the Gentiles, and sing unto thy name.”
      4. 1 Cor. 14:15 “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.”
      5. Eph. 5:19 “Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord;”
      6. Col. 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.”
      7. Heb. 2:12 “Saying, I will declare thy name unto my brethren, in the midst of the church will I sing praise unto thee.”
      8. Heb. 13:15 “By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name.”
   D. What we sing:
      1. We are to sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs; songs that are religious in nature.
      2. Songs of patriotism and nationalism (i.e., The Star Spangled Banner, America The Beautiful etc.), love ballads, country music, rock music, etc.
3. We must sing religious songs that teach the truth.
   a. It is just as wrong to sing error as it is to teach error.
   b. Songs such as: Jesus Is Coming Soon, and Just A Little Talk With Jesus, etc.

II. THE NEW TESTAMENT NOWHERE AUTHORIZES MECHANICAL INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC.
A. We cannot altar God’s Word.
      a. Deu. 4:2 “Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish ought from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you.”
      b. Pro. 30:6 “Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar.”
   2. Cannot add to God’s Word.
      a. 2 John 9-11 “Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son. 10If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed: 11For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds.”
      b. Rev. 22:18 “For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book:”
   3. Cannot take away or substitute for God’s Word.
      a. Rev. 22:19 “And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.”
      b. Gal. 1:6-9 “I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. 9But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. 9As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.”
      c. Mat. 15:3,9 “But he answered and said unto them, Why do ye also transgress the commandment of God by your tradition?... But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.”
   4. God tells us to sing, no where in the New Testament does God tell us to use mechanical instrumental music. To use mechanical instrumental music is to add to God’s Word.
B. We are under the New Testament for our authority today.
   1. Gal. 3:24-25 “Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith. 25But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster.”
   2. Eph. 2:15 “Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace;”
   3. Col. 2:14 “Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross;”
   4. Heb. 10:9 “Then said he, Lo, I come to do thy will, O God. He taketh away the first, that he may establish the second.”
   5. We must hear Christ.
      a. Mat. 17:5 “While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him.”
      b. John 12:48-50 “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. 49For I have not spoken of myself; but the Father which sent me, he gave me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should
“And I know that his commandment is life everlasting: whatsoever I speak therefore, even as the Father said unto me, so I speak.”

Conclusion: As we sing these religious songs, let us sing with the proper attitude, concentrate upon the words we sing and be honest when we sing, realizing that we are praising God and teaching and admonishing one another.