

Study Questions for Music in Worship

Define “worship.”

Hebrew: Shachah (Strong’s #7812. TWOT #2360)

Greek: προσκυνέω / Proskuneō (Strong’s #G4352)

Read each of the following passages and describe the actions of worship of God that took place

Genesis 22:5-14

Genesis 24:1-27

Exodus 12:20-27

Exodus 33:7-10

Exodus 34:14,

Deuteronomy 17:3

Judges 7:15

1 Samuel 1:3

2 Samuel 12:20

Job 1:20-21

Matthew 4:9

Matthew 14:33

Matthew 28:9

Luke 4:7-8

John 4:20-24

Acts 18:13

1 Corinthians 14:25

Hebrews 9:6

Revelation 11:16-17

Is there any indication of music being involved in the acts of worship listed above?

Look up the following Scripture passages and describe the relationship of music / singing and worship

Exodus 15:1, 20-21

Judges 5

2 Samuel 22

1 Chronicles 15:16

Matthew 26:30

Romans 15:8-11

1 Corinthians 14:15

Ephesians 5:19

Colossians 3:16

The Psalms are songs of worship to Yahweh. What are common themes within them that are part of worship

What are some of the musical instruments used in the worship of God? See Psalm 150

What are the marks of true worship by the individual?

A Congregation?

What are the characteristics of each type of music listed in Ephesians 5:18-19?

Psalms

Hymns

Spiritual Songs

What are the basic reasons for conflict over music in worship?

What is the difference between form and content? How does form affect content?

Is there such a thing as a “devil’s chord,” “devil’s beat” or an evil musical instrument? Why or why not?

What determines the value of music used in worship?

What is the balance between being separate from the world (2 Cor. 6; 1 Thess. 5:22; 3 John 11) and using a secular / pagan style to bring praise to God (Psalm 93)?

How would you Philippians 4:8 as a grid to determine whether a piece of music is good or not?

What criteria would you use to determine if a particular style or piece of music is appropriate for each of the following:

Congregational worship?

Small group worship?

Evangelistic outreach?

Personal worship?

Personal enjoyment?

How can music be used to:

Enhance your knowledge of God?

Encourage you in your walk with the Lord?

Express joy / thanksgiving / praise for what God is doing / allowing in your life?

Comfort you when dealing with difficult issues?

Express sorrow and repentance?

Be used in prayer and petition to God?

How can music be detrimental to:

Knowledge of God?

Your walk with the Lord?

Bring about negative emotions detrimental to your spiritual health?

Foster pride and selfishness?

Aggravate existing sin or encourage additional sinfulness?

What cautions should be exercised about use of music / lyrics written by someone who later became heretical or which is published by or copyright held by a company that also puts out many songs that are heretical? Can a song that is good other than one or more of the situations described still be used? What dangers exist in using such a song?

This is a modified version of the questionnaire I used to send to visitors.

Rate in order of priority the factors you consider important for choosing a church home. Please number them 1-9 on the left side in how you view their importance (1=high priority, 9=low priority)

- ___ The music program (congregational singing, special music)
My preference is: ___ Hymns. ___ CCM. ___ Classical. ___ Gospel. ___ A mix
- ___ A children's or youth ministry to meet the needs of your children.
- ___ The clear teaching of the Word of God being authoritative and central to church life.
- ___ The appearance of the grounds, decor, and the physical building.
- ___ The incorporation of liturgy into the worship service.
- ___ The warmth, friendliness and genuine sincerity of the people worshipping.
- ___ The spiritual quality of the leadership of the church.
- ___ Opportunities to use my spiritual gifts in serving the Lord
- ___ Opportunities for personal or small group discipleship to help me in my spiritual growth

Case Scenarios

- 1) You are in a small church and currently only have one musician that is willing to play for Sunday worship, and though he has a good demeanor and attitude, is not very good with his instrument. What can you do to improve the situation?
- 2) Your church has a few musicians that can play decently for congregational worship, but they have very different preferences in musical styles and they do not get along with each others. What can you do to improve the situation?
- 3) Your church has a couple of decent musicians (stringed instruments) and one musician that is an excellent pianist but who has a very proud attitude that demands music in the church is done her way because she knows best. This has caused the other musicians to begin to refrain from working with her. How will you handle the situation?

- 3) You have a praise team that leads the congregational music at least once a month which provides a very good variation in musical styles for the congregation. It has come to your attention that the leader of the team is not walking with the Lord properly and has entered into an inappropriate relationship. How will you handle the situation?
- 4) Your church is starting to grow as new families move into your area. Your church has been very traditional in its style and forms of worship. As you interview the new families who are coming you find that they are attracted to the church because of its high commitment to the Scriptures as the Word of God and ability to explain the Bible so that they are encouraged to live according to it. However, you also find that many are having a hard time connecting emotionally in worship because the hymns being used are not just unfamiliar to them, but contain a lot of archaic words they do not understand and are sung in ways that seem almost depressing. Some of the newcomers do have musical ability and have offered to get involved to help improve the congregational music. How would you respond to them? What options are available to you to make changes? What might you say to the current musicians and potential new ones about the criteria that would be used for picking psalms, hymns and spiritual songs for congregational worship?
- 5) As #4 above, but the new family expresses that they are considering looking for a new church because they are finding it so hard to worship in your church? How will you respond?
- 6) As #4 above, but older musicians express that they refuse to play any of the newer songs being produced. The hymns they are using were good enough for their parents and grandparents, so it is good enough for them and their children. How will you respond?
- 7) A newer musician wants to introduce a new song to the congregation. Upon review you find that it has one line of lyrics that borders on being heretical and another that is simply confusing about what it means. The tune is very singable and the rest of the song is theological sound. How will you respond, what are your options?
- 8) You have someone complain to you that a new song that was used in congregational worship was written by someone who was now theologically aberrant if not heretical and is also concerned that the copyright information published would encourage the young people to go to those publishers to get more similar types of songs. You had reviewed the song and found it to be very theologically sound and fit well its purpose for being used in congregational worship. How will you respond? How can you help alleviate the concerns and also express any validity to the concerns?