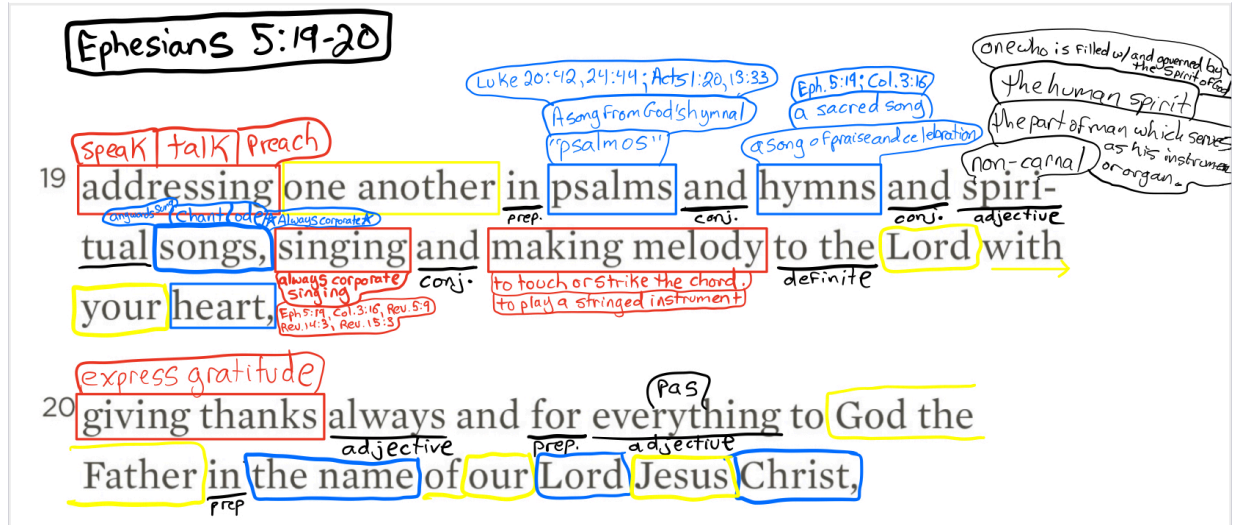


WHY, WHAT, AND HOW WE SING: Ephesians 5:19-20



Q1. What do you look for in a local church meeting for worship? What do you want to see in a local body of believers, especially on the Lord's Day when they gather to praise God together?

Better question:

Q2. What does God want to see? That is to ask, how does God want to be worshipped?

BIG IDEA: Why we sing; what we are to sing; and how we are to sing!

I. WHY SHOULD WE SING?

I) We sing because the great example laid out to us in the Scriptures is that the people of God are singing people (Exodus 15 through Revelation 15)

- **Exodus 15:1** "Then Moses and the people of Israel sang this song to the Lord, saying, "I will sing to the Lord, for he has triumphed gloriously; the horse and his rider he has thrown into the sea."
- **Judges 5:3** "Hear, O kings; give ear, O princes; to the Lord I will sing; I will make melody to the Lord, the God of Israel."
- **1 Chronicles 16:9** "Sing to him, sing praises to him; tell of all his wondrous works!"
- **2 Chronicles 29:30** "And Hezekiah the king and the officials

commanded the Levites to sing praises to the Lord with the words of David and of Asaph the seer. And they sang praises with gladness, and they bowed down and worshiped."

- **Matthew 26:30** "And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives."
- **Acts 16:25** "About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them,"
- **Colossians 3:16** says we are to be, "singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God."
- **Revelation 5:9** says that redeemed saints in heaven are singing! "And they sang a new song, saying, "Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation,"
- **Revelation 15:3** "And they sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, "Great and amazing are your deeds, O Lord God the Almighty! Just and true are your ways, O King of the nations!"
- **CHILDREN:** Do you love to sing? Jesus loves to sing and His people do as well!

II) We sing because God commands it and therefore it glorifies Him (vv. 19-20).

II. WHAT SHOULD WE SING?

I) We are commanded to sing *Psalms* (v. 19b)

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II) We are commanded to sing *Hymns* (v. 19b)

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III) We are commanded to sing *Spiritual Songs* (v. 19b)

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CHILDREN: God cares about what songs we sing!

Dr. Joel Beeke, in his pamphlet titled *Why Should We Sing Psalms*, gives nine further reasons we should sing from the songbook of the Bible. I commend these also to you:

1. [God Gave the Psalms for Israel and All Nations to Sing](#)
2. [The Psalms Reveal Christ in His Sufferings and Glory](#)
3. [Christ and the New Testament Church Sang the Psalms](#)
4. [Singing the Psalms Causes the Word of Christ to Dwell in Us Richly](#)

5. Singing the Psalms Helps Us to Be Filled with God's Spirit
6. Singing the Psalms Enables Us to Worship God in Every Experience
7. The Psalms Unite Us with Believers of All Times
8. The Psalms Lift Up Our Eyes to the Hope of Glory
9. The Psalms Keep God Supreme in Our Worship

III. HOW SHOULD WE SING?

I) We must sing, addressing one another and so admonish and encourage fellow saints (v. 19a)

- **Colossians 3:16** "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God."
- **Hebrews 10:24-25** "And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near."
- **CHILDREN:** It is a good thing to sing loudly for everyone to hear, because we make other people happy when they can hear our voices!

II) We must sing, making melody to the LORD each with our individual hearts (v. 19c)

- **JOHN WELLS:** "Augustine complained of some in his time, that 'they minded more the tune than the truth; more the manner than the matter; more the governing of the voice, than the raisedness of the mind;' and this was a great offense to him."

III) We must sing, giving thanks always for everything (v. 20a)

- **Q.** What do you have to give thanks to God for, beloved?
 - **I. Think of the Pardon Christ gives you at His bloody expense!**
(Priest)
 - **II. Think on the Promises Jesus has given you in His word!**
(Prophet)
 - **III. Oh think of the Provision, Protection, and Perfection that the Lord Jesus Christ has guaranteed to all who belong to Him!** (King)
- Q. Do you belong to Jesus?** Do you give thanks from the heart and through the lips continually both in the home and in the assembly of the saints?
- Q. Do you still belong to Adam?** Then repent at once and entrust yourself to Jesus Christ!

IV) We must sing to God the Father through Jesus our High Priest (v. 20b)

- [[[**C.F. Colossians 3:16-17** "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him."]]

CONCLUSION: You are much like Christ when you are singing to the one you love!

- **Zephaniah 3:17** "The Lord your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing."