

Why?

Why We Do Not Use Instrumental Music In Worship

Need For Study

- “The elders want to provide you with a statement about a question that may have been raised. That question has to do with the use of musical instruments in our worship. After many months of careful study and consideration, the elders unanimously concluded that there is no Biblical prohibition of the use of mechanical instruments in worship.

Need For Study

- “We recognize the issue as a matter of diverse opinion and feel that any discussion in the future should be conducted in a manner that avoids division. We merely want to state that consensus to you today without any prediction of what that mean to our worship services. Our worship style may or may not change, but we are in no hurry to change.

Need For Study

- “We are highly sensitive to your feelings, and we want to hear your thoughts and wishes. Talk to your elders about it. Your feedback will help us as we intend to offer teaching on this matter. We are insistent on allowing God, through our prayers, to lead us in all aspects of our church family.” (The Elders of Oak Hills Church of Christ, San Antonio, TX)
- Appeared in Oak Hills Bulletin, September 5, 1999

Need For Study

- “Most Churches of Christ feature only a cappella singing, a tradition King said (*Vic King, minister of missions and outreach, mg*) is based on the absence of the use of instruments in the N.T. churches. But for the first time, Oak Hills will add instruments to a new Sunday evening service, which will be geared toward young adults and will begin early next year.” (San Antonio Express-News, Saturday, September 6, 2003)

It Is Not Because:

- **We don't like it**
- **We can't afford it**
- **We've never had it**

Why We Do Not Use Instrumental Music In Worship

I. It Is Not Authorized

Kinds Of Music

- **Vocal Music**
 - Singing
 - Humming
 - Yodeling
- **Mechanical Instrumental Music**
 - String
 - Wind
 - Reed, Brass, Percussion

Kinds Of Music

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vocal Music • Singing • Humming • Yodeling 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vocal Music • Singing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Psalms • Hymns • Spiritual Songs • Teaching & Admonishing (Col. 3:16) • Speaking... (Eph. 5:19)
--	--

It Is Not Authorized

Must Have Bible Authority- Mt. 21:23-27

- God, because He is God - has authority over man (Gen. 1:1)
- He speaks to us through His Son. (Heb. 1:1-2)
- Must abide by His authority

Col. 3:17-18

2 John 9

Heb. 8:5

How To Determine What Is Authorized

<p>Acts 15 <i>Circumcision</i></p> <div style="background-color: black; color: yellow; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 10px;">vv. 13-21</div> <div style="background-color: black; color: yellow; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 10px;">v. 12</div> <div style="background-color: black; color: yellow; padding: 5px;">vv. 7-11</div>	<p>Command/ Direct Statement</p> <p>Necessary Inference</p> <p>Approved Example</p>	<p>Illustrated <i>Lord's Supper</i></p> <div style="background-color: black; color: yellow; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 10px;">1 Cor. 11:23-24</div> <div style="background-color: black; color: yellow; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 10px;">Acts 20:7</div> <div style="background-color: black; color: yellow; padding: 5px;">Acts 20:7</div>
---	---	---

It Is Not Authorized

Must Have Bible Authority

Silence of God Prohibitive

God's Silence Is Not Authority

Two Mindsets

Permissive
At liberty to do what is not condemned

Prohibitive
Forbidden to act Without authority

Heb. 7:14 "For it is evident that our Lord hath sprung out of Judah, as to which tribe Moses spoke nothing concerning priests"

It Is Not Authorized

Must Have Bible Authority

Silence of God Prohibitive

Heb. 7:14	God Did Not Say:
Moses spake NOTHING about tribe of JUDAH	Not to use strange fire (Lev.10) Not to use oak wood (Gen. 6)

It Is Not Authorized

Must Have Bible Authority

Silence of God Prohibitive

God only Authorized Singing

Singing Is All That God Has Authorized

It Is All He Has Spoken

- ✓ Matt. 26:30 - "sung"
- ✓ Mark 14:26 - "sung"
- ✓ Acts 16:25 - "sang"
- ✓ Rom. 15:9 - "sing"
- ✓ 1 Cor. 14:15 - "sing"
- ✓ Eph. 5:19 - "singing"
- ✓ Col. 3:16 - "singing"
- ✓ Heb. 2:12 - "sing"
- ✓ Heb. 13:15 - "fruit of lips"
- ✓ Jas. 5:13 - "sing"

It Is Not Authorized

Must Have Bible Authority

Silence of God Prohibitive

God only Authorized Singing

No Passage Authorizes Inst. Music

Why We Do Not Use Instrumental Music In Worship

I. It Is Not Authorized

II. God Has Specified Singing

Singing Is All That God Has Authorized

- ✓ Matt. 26:30 - “**sung**”
- ✓ Mark 14:26 - “**sung**”
- ✓ Acts 16:25 - “**sang**”
- ✓ Rom. 15:9 - “**sing**”
- ✓ 1 Cor. 14:15 - “**sing**”
- ✓ Eph. 5:19 - “**singing**”
- ✓ Col. 3:16 - “**singing**”
- ✓ Heb. 2:12 - “**sing**”
- ✓ Heb. 13:15 - “**fruit of lips**”
- ✓ Jas. 5:13 - “**sing**”

Singing Is All That God Has Authorized

- *Definition: “psallo” (make melody)*
- “a. to pluck off, pull out: b. to cause to vibrate by touching, to twang: to touch or strike the chord, to twang the strings of a musical instrument so that they gently vibrate ... in the New Testament to sing a hymn, to celebrate the praises of God in song” (Thayer, p. 675).

Instrument is the heart!

Generic & Specific Authority

Command	Generic	Specific
Build ark - Gen. 6:14	Wood	Gopher
Wash 7 Times - 2 Kings 5	River	Jordan
Offer – Lev. 14:12-13	Animal	Lamb
Praise – Eph. 5:19	Music	Sing
<i>Buy me a canned drink</i>	<i>Cola</i>	<i>Pepsi</i>

Why We Do Not Use Instrumental Music In Worship

- I. It Is Not Authorized**
- II. God Has Specified Singing**
- III. It Is An Addition To God's Word**

Must Not Add To Or Take From The Word of God



- Deut. 4:2**
- Num. 22:18**
- Prov. 30:5-7**
- Rev. 22:18-19**

Aids Are Authorized, Additions Are Not

An Addition Involves Another Element Being Added!

Command	Aid	Addition
Eat Bread – 1 Cor. 11	Table, plates ...	Jam, beef, cola
Baptize – Matt. 28:19	Baptistry, heater	Sprinkling
Build an ark – Gen. 6:14	Tool, Animal	Oak, Cedar
Sing – Eph. 5:19	Books, Tuner	Instrumental Music
Contribute – 1 Cor. 16	Basket, Account	Mon. / Sat.



If One

Why Not The Other?

“I like it”
 “Just an aid”
 “It helps the singing / Lord’s Supper”
 “God didn’t say not to”

Why We Do Not Use Instrumental Music In Worship

- I. It Is Not Authorized**
- II. God Has Specified Singing**
- III. It Is An Addition To God's Word**

History Of Instrumental Music In Worship

“The Greek word ‘psallo’ is applied among the Greeks of modern times exclusively to sacred music, which in the Eastern Church has never been any other than vocal, instrumental music being unknown in that church, as it was in the primitive church...”
(McClintock & Strong, Vol. 8, p. 739).

History Of Instrumental Music In Worship

“It is not, therefore, strange that instrumental music was not heard in their congregational services ... In the early church the whole congregation joined in the singing, but instrumental music did not accompany the praise” (W. D. Killen, *The Ancient Church*, pp. 193, 423).

History Of Instrumental Music In Worship

The American Encyclopedia says, “Pope Vitalian is related to have first introduced organs into some of the churches of Western Europe about 670 but the earliest trustworthy account is that of one sent as a present by the Greek emperor Constantine Copronymus to Pepin, king of Franks in 755” (Volume 12, p. 688).

History Of Instrumental Music In Worship

The Chambers Encyclopedia (Vol. 7, p. 112) says, “The organ is said to have been introduced into church music by Pope Vitalian in 666 A.D.”

***Why We Do Not Use
Instrumental Music In Worship***

- I. It Is Not Authorized**
- II. God Has Specified Singing**
- III. It Is An Addition To God's Word**