



Lesson: Music Matters

Passage: Various

- **A Brief Look at Music in the Bible**

- Music is a part of Creation revealing God Himself (Rom. 1:20).
- Music shows up almost at the beginning of the Bible (Gen. 4:21).
- Music is mentioned hundreds of times throughout the Bible.
- Music was a major part of Israelite culture, as well as their neighbors' cultures, especially worship.
- Music was often used to show celebration of some kind or another, both as appropriate expressions of worship, as well as inappropriate expressions of excessive living instead of serving God (Amos 6).
- God commanded that music accompany sacrifices and even gave some prescriptions for how to do it (2 Chron. 29:25).
- Music was used to refresh Saul's soul and drive away the evil spirit that tormented him (1 Sam. 16:14-23).

- Music ceasing in a place was a sign of God's judgment.
 - Young men's music ceasing was a symbol of Israel's despair under God's judgment (Lam. 5:14).
 - The end of Babylon's (picturing Satan) music was a sign of its downfall (Isa. 14:11).
- Most of the accounts of people worshipping God in the Bible include music.
- There will be singing and instruments in Heaven (Rev. 14:1-3, 15:2-4).
- Musicians were a significant class of ministers to God.
 - We know from the extensive lists of instruments in various passages that lots of people were involved in musical worship.
 - Regulations were established to govern Israel's musicians (Neh. 11:22-23).
 - Communities of musicians were even established in Israel (Neh. 12:29).
 - Once the Ark of the Covenant was returned, musicians were appointed to minister continually before it (1 Chron. 13, 15, & 16).
 - Musicians are listed as part of the procession into the sanctuary (Ps. 68:24-25).

- Musicians were employed as foremen for manual labor (2 Chron. 34:12).
- God Himself sings (Zeph. 3:17b; Matt. 26:30, Mark 14:26).
- Music was a primary response to many of the biggest events in the Bible, including:
 - Creation (Job 38:7)
 - Exodus (Ex. 15:1-21)
 - Moses's song of testimony before his death and Israel's entry into the Promised Land (Deut. 31:19-21, 30, 32:1-43)
 - Deborah and Barak's song (Jud. 5)
 - David's lament over Saul and Jonathan's deaths (2 Sam. 1:17-27)
 - The return of the Ark of the Covenant (2 Sam. 6)
 - The rebuilding of Jerusalem's walls (Neh. 12:27-29)

- **Two Ways We Use Music in Church**

- Vertically: _____

- We are reflecting what is happening in heaven and rehearsing for when we will join in.
- We gather and sing to praise our Creator and Savior.
- Biblical songs are almost always *in response* to God.

- Horizontally: _____

- Musical worship expresses the filling of the _____.

Eph. 5:18–21 – And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but **be filled with the Spirit,** ¹⁹**speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord;** ²⁰**always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father;** ²¹**and be subject to one another in the fear of Christ.**

- a. Musical worship should be a natural result of being filled with the Spirit.
- b. It should include 'psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs.'

- Musical worship expresses our _____.

Col. 3:16–17 – Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God. ¹⁷Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.

- a. Part of why we sing is to teach one another God's Word.
- b. Worship is a natural overflow of God's Word being in our hearts.

- Musical worship expresses our _____ in Christ.

Acts 16:25 – But about midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns of praise to God, and the prisoners were listening to them;

- a. Rejoicing in suffering shows that we trust God is using *all* things in our lives for our good (Rom. 8:28; 5:3–5; Jas. 1:2–4).

Phil. 1:12–14 – Now I want you to know, brethren, that my circumstances have turned out for the greater progress of the gospel,¹³ so that my imprisonment in the cause of Christ has become well known throughout the whole praetorian guard and to everyone else,¹⁴ and that most of the brethren, trusting in the Lord because of my imprisonment, have far more courage to speak the word of God without fear.

- b. We rejoice *internally* because we trust God to bless us even in suffering, and the songs we sing when we gather as a body witness to that joy *externally*.

- **How Do We Do Music at EastPointe?**

- Our commitment

- Collaborating regularly on best practices
- Empowering those who serve while ultimately viewing it as an elder responsibility

○ Our criteria

- _____
- _____
- _____

○ We treat songwriter controversies ultimately as matters of _____ (1 Cor. 10).

What do we do with these truths?

1. The songs we sing on Sunday mornings are not about us as _____; they're about us as _____.

2. Church music needs to be done intentionally to _____.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Looking at all the ways music is used across Scripture, what are some implications you would draw for how we should think about music in general?
2. How is it helpful/important to think about BOTH the horizontal and vertical aspects of music in church?
3. What are some worship songs you remember best? What impact have they had on you spiritually (for better or worse)?
4. If people are arguing about song styles, what might that reveal about their attitudes toward music in church?



Blanks: Worship, Witness, Spirit, theology, contentment, Content, Singability, Expression, conscience, individuals, the Church, please God