

Why We Sing – Psalm 96

As an act of worship

Oh sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth! Sing to the LORD, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day. -Psalm 96:1

1. Do you actually sing during the church gathering? Why or why not?
2. There are over 400 references to singing throughout the Bible and the largest book of the Bible (Psalms) is made up of songs. Why is singing such a fundamental part of how we are called to worship God when we gather together?
3. What does it mean to ascribe to God the glory which He is due?
4. Why is singing praises the appropriate response when we experience and think about who God is and all He does?

And at the dedication of the wall of Jerusalem they sought the Levites in all their places, to bring them to Jerusalem to celebrate the dedication with gladness, with thanksgivings and with singing, with cymbals, harps, and lyres. - Nehemiah 12:27

And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. -Matthew 26:30

As an act of discipleship

Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples! For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; he is to be feared above all gods. For all the gods of the peoples are worthless idols, but the LORD made the heavens. Splendor and majesty are before him; strength and beauty are in his sanctuary. Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the peoples, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength! Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; bring an offering, and come into his courts! Worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness, tremble before him, all the earth! -Psalm 96:3-9

1. Why is the lyrical content of the songs we sing together so important?
2. Generally, what should be the ultimate focus and intent of the words we sing in our “worship songs”?
3. What are some ways that modern ‘worship’ songs can miss the point and enforce wrongful thinking/perspectives?
4. How is it that we can be disciplined through the singing of Biblical truths and the mighty acts of God?

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. -Exodus 15:1

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. -Colossians 3:16

As a declaration to the world

Say among the nations, "The LORD reigns! Yes, the world is established; it shall never be moved; he will judge the peoples with equity." Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice; let the sea roar, and all that fills it; let the field exult, and everything in it! Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy before the LORD, for he comes, for he comes to judge the earth. He will judge the world in righteousness, and the peoples in his faithfulness. -Psalm 96:10-13

1. What do you think people unfamiliar with church and Christianity think when we get together and sing?
2. Why are our choices of song and participation in congregational singing important when thinking about people who are not Christians but may be interested?
3. How can the songs that we sing as a church be an act of gospel declaration to the watching world, and evangelism to people who don't believe?

"Good corporate worship will naturally be evangelistic" -Tim Keller, Worship by the Book.

Oh give thanks to the LORD; call upon his name; make known his deeds among the peoples! Sing to him, sing praises to him; tell of all his wondrous works! -Psalm 105:1-2