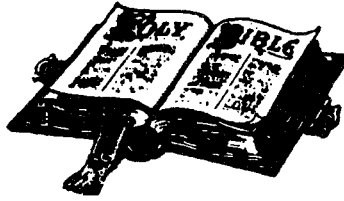


THE INSTRUCTOR



"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness." 2 Timothy 3:16

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SARCASM

The word "sarcasm" has an interesting root. It comes from the Greek work "sarkasmos" which literally meant "to tear flesh."

(Webster's 7th Collegiate Dictionary).

Sarcasm seems to be exactly what Paul is warning against in Galatians 5:15 when he says, **"But if you bite and devour one another, beware lest you be consumed by one another."** One paraphrase of this is, **"But if instead of showing love among yourselves you are always critical and catty, watch out! Beware of ruining each other,"** (Gal. 5:15, TLB). [Editor's note: The word "catty" suggests "slyly spiteful: MALICIOUS."]

The use of "cutting, hostile or contemptuous remarks" is sarcasm. When such remarks flow from the mouths of Christians speaking of other Christians, it is sinful!

Is this ever done? Sadly, yes. Congregations which practice what the Scriptures teach concerning church cooperation, benevolence and evangelism are contemptuously referred to as

"anti". Preachers and elders who attempt to follow God's instructions concerning reproof and discipline are ridiculed as "power hungry popes." Women of conviction who wear a covering in worship are accused of binding a "religious garb." Christians who believe that their love for Christ obligates them to carefully keep His commandments are branded as "legalists" bent on judging those who "chew their gum on the wrong side of the mouth." Sincere beliefs and practices of fellow Christians are laughed at and scorned. Too often, when we should **"be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another"** (Rom. 12:10) we give neither love nor honor. We give cuts and sarcasm. When we should be **"striving to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace"** (Eph. 4:3), we are making every effort to maintain a factious spirit with the axe of spite.

Paul commanded, **"Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification,**

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Editorial ...

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC IN WORSHIP?

Is it Scriptural for churches to make mechanical instrumental music in their assemblies as worship unto God? By the expression, "is it Scriptural", I mean "**is it authorized in the Scriptures?**" In considering this, let us consider **what is the issue** involved? First from a negative viewpoint please consider what the issue is NOT. **It is NOT:**

1. May mechanical instruments of music be played in the home?

2. Do we like mechanical instrumental music?

3. Is mechanical instrumental music sinful within and of itself?

4. A matter of mere choice or preference?

The real **issue IS:** What does GOD **authorize** us to do in public worship? We should consider such questions as: What does GOD **require** of men? What does GOD **allow** (with His approval) men to do? What is GOD **pleased with** in public worship? Please candidly consider the following.

I. WE SING IN PUBLIC WORSHIP BECAUSE WE ARE TO WORSHIP IN TRUTH (as well as **in spirit**) AND SINGING IS REVEALED IN TRUTH! (Cf. John 4:24; 17:17; Phil. 3:2-3).

A. Jesus and His disciples **sang!** (Cf. Matthew 26:30; Mark 14:26).

B. Christians are told to **sing!** (Cf. Eph.

5:19; Col. 3:16; James 5:13).

C. Also read and study Romans 15:9; 1 Cor. 14:15; Heb. 2:12.

Note: Without question, Christians are **authorized** to SING! Who would dare dispute this fact?

II. WE DO NOT PLAY MECHANICAL INSTRUMENTS OF MUSIC IN WORSHIP TO GOD! Here are some reasons **why we do not PLAY** in worship.

A. It is NOT according to **truth** as given by Jesus Christ! We must worship God **in truth**. (Cf. John 4:24). God's Word is truth! (Cf. John 17:17). The truth was given by Jesus Christ! (Cf. John 1:17). No where in truth do we find **authorization** to make mechanical instrumental music in our public assemblies! If there is such **authorization** please show us where it is found. NOTE: Do not appeal to the Old Testament (law including the Psalms) since it does **not** contain the truth which was given by Jesus Christ!

B. It is NOT a **good work!** NOTE: The **Scriptures** furnish us unto **all good works**, but they do NOT furnish us unto the **playing** of mechanical instruments of music in our assemblies! **THEREFORE: It is NOT a good work!** (See 2 Timothy 3:16-17).

C. It does NOT pertain unto **life and godliness!** NOTE: In the Scriptures we have **all things** that pertain unto **life and godliness**, but we do NOT have **authority** to **play** instruments of music in our public assemblies. **THEREFORE: Playing instruments of music in public worship** does NOT pertain unto **life and godliness!** (Cf. 2 Peter 1:3).

D. It can NOT be done "**by faith!**" Since "**faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God**", and God's Word does NOT tell us that we should or may make mechanical instrumental music in our assemblies, it can NOT be done **by faith!** (See Rom. 10:17; 2 Cor. 5:7).

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E. It can NOT be done **by the authority of Christ** since Christ has NOT **authorized** such! NOTE: To do a thing **“in the name of the Lord Jesus”** is to act by His authority! If He has NOT **authorized** such, it can NOT be done **in His name!** (See Col. 3:17; Matthew 7:21-23).

F. It is **an addition** to the Word of God! NOTE: Since it is NOT in God's Word it must be **an addition!** NOTE: We dare not add to God's Word! (Cf. James 1:25; Gal. 3:15; 1 Col. 4:6; Rev. 22:18-19).

G. It is **unrighteousness!** The righteousness of God is revealed in the GOSPEL! (Cf. Rom. 1:16-17). But **playing** mechanical instruments of music in worship to God is NOT revealed in the gospel! THEREFORE: **Playing** instruments of music in worship is NOT **righteousness!**

H. It is **vain** worship because it is a doctrine of men! NOTE: If we teach for doctrines the commandments of men our worship is in **vain!** (Study Matthew 15:7-9).

I. It is a **transgression** of the law of Christ! (Cf. 2 John 9). We are under **law to Christ** as contained in the New Testament. (See 1 Cor. 9:21). The **law of Christ** teaches us to SING, but it does NOT teach us to PLAY! Thus, **playing** is a **transgression of God's law;** hence, it is **SINFUL!** (See 1 John 3:4).

J. Those who practice such do NOT **have God!** 2 John 9 says: **“Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son.”** NOTE: to **“play”** in worship one must **transgress and abide NOT in the doctrine of Christ.** Such a person does NOT have God!

III. THE PLAYING OF MECHANICAL INSTRUMENTS OF MUSIC IN PUBLIC WORSHIP DOES NOT AND CAN NOT MEETS THE DEMANDS OF TRUE WORSHIP!

A. It can NOT **teach!** However, the apostle Paul admonished saints at Colosse to **“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; TEACHING and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, SINGING with grace in your hearts to the Lord.”** (Col. 3:16).

B. It can NOT **give understanding!** However, the inspired apostle declared: **“...I will sing with the spirit, and I will SING WITH THE UNDERSTANDING also.”** (1 Cor 14:15).

C. It can NOT **admonish!** However, Paul said: **“...teaching and ADMONISHING one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, SINGING with grace in your hearts to the Lord.”** (Col. 3:16).

D. It can NOT **make melody in the heart!** However, the inspired writer said: **“Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and MAKING MELODY IN YOUR HEART to the Lord.”** (Eph. 5:19).

IV. THE PLAYING OF MECHANICAL INSTRUMENTS OF MUSIC IN PUBLIC WORSHIP IS SINFUL! Here's why.

A. **Jesus Christ never authorized it!** If you think He has **authorized** such please point to the passage in the New Testament that you believe **authorizes** it.

B. **The Holy Spirit has NOT revealed it!** NOTE: The Holy Spirit guided the apostle **into all truth,** but He did NOT reveal to the apostle the idea that Christians should or may make mechanical instrumental music in public worship! (Carefully study John 14:26; 16:13; 1Cor. 2:9-13; Eph. 3:2-6; James 1:25; 2:12; 1 Cor. 4:6; 2 Pet. 1:3 & 2 John 9).

C. **The apostle never commanded it!** Men do it and often demand it, but no apostle ever commanded it!

D. **No inspired man ever taught it!** Many **uninspired** men will **teach** and **practice** such, but no **inspired** man ever did! QUESTION: Why would any person be so **presumptuous** as to teach something no **inspired** man would dare teach?

E. **There is no inspired record where**

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SARCASM

that it may impart grace to the hearers.” (Ephesians 4:29). If this verse means anything, it means that only edifying words should come out of the mouths of Christians. Edifying words are words that make others stronger. Edifying words may include admonitions with considerable bite to them. When fault is pointed out and corrected, Jesus Himself used some very strong language (cf. Matthew 23). But edifying words will not include needless sarcasm.

The wise man wrote, **“There is one who speaks like the piercings of a sword, but the tongue of the wise promotes good health”** (Proverbs 12:18). May God grant us the wisdom to speak only those words which

promote the health of our brothers and sisters in Christ. - **Steve Klein, 16239 Log Cabin RD., Athens, AL 35611**

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any early (first century) Christians ever practiced it! Why would any one today do so?

F. The word **“sing”** is the scope of the command (& practice of early Christians), and therefore **it is the LIMIT of our practice!**

It is proper and good to SING in public worship because SINGING is authorized! We can unite on SINGING! Since PLAYING is **NOT authorized** it causes division!

– SENTENCE SERMONS –

Christians are in the world, but the world should not be in Christians!

* * * * *

Some men are so sensitive that patting them on their backs will cause their heads to swell.

* * * * *

A stubborn man can be held my his mere opinions.

* * * * *

The person who in his patience can possess his soul is indeed blessed.

* * * * *

Some people make more preparation for a two weeks' vacation than they do for eternity!

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