

WHY INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC IN WORSHIP MATTERS #2

The use of instrumental music in worship violates four divine laws. (See part #1 in last week bulletin)

Two, the law of worship. Bear in mind “*there is one lawgiver, who is able to save and to destroy*” (James 4:12), and this lawgiver is Jesus Christ (Deut. 18:15; Acts 3:22-26). The lawgiver said, “*God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth*” (John 4:24). The imperative of the command is formulated into the word “must,” and the two-letter preposition “in” forming the parameters of authorized actions in the phrase “in truth,” shows that the lawgiver, Jesus Christ, commands that actions and activities in worship to God are confined to that which is presented or legislated in the New Testament because that which is “in truth” is in “the word of God” (John 17:17).

Now, in view of the fact that Jesus Christ is the lawgiver today, and he has placed everything he requires of those who approach God in worship to be done “in truth,” here is how the use of instrumental music in worship matters. The law of Christ does not authorize the use of mechanical instruments of music in the worship of the church today. So, does it matter? Absolutely, provided a person or congregation of people has the desire to worship God in spirit and in truth.

Three, The Law Of Unity. The Bible says, “*Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace*” (Eph. 4:3). The law of unity is the word of God, for Jesus said, “*Neither pray I*

for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me” (John 17:20-21). The word of God is both the basis of belief in Christ and the basis of unity in Christ.

Now, in view of the fact that the New Testament is the law of unity for everyone living today, here is how the use of instrumental music in worship matters. It is unauthorized by the law of unity, and it divides those who are obeying the word of God from those who have added to it, and, resultantly, it is impossible to sustain its use in worship as being something that God wants or with which he is pleased. So, does it matter? Absolutely, provided a person or congregation of people has the desire to “*keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace,*” and to give God what he wants in worship and what pleases him in worship.

Four, The Law Of Love. A funny thing about love is the more it is given away the more you get. The urging of the scriptures is “*let brotherly love continue*” (Heb. 13:1). Since some do not think of love as partaking in the concept of law, think again from the following statements: John 14:15, “*If ye love me, keep my commandments.*” First John 4:20-21, “*If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen? And this command-*

ment have we from him, That he who loveth God love his brother also.” Revelation 22:14, “*Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.*” Notice, this verse makes honoring the law of God essential to entering into heaven.

Now, in view of the fact that the New Testament is the law of love for everyone living today, here is how the use of instrumental music in worship matters. Its use in worship cannot be found in the New Testament and, therefore, it is unauthorized by the law of love, and, resultantly, it is impossible to sustain its use in worship as being something that

God wants or with which he is pleased. So, does it matter? Absolutely, provided a person or congregation of people has the desire to love God and to give God what he wants in worship and what pleases him in worship.

Summary

Instrumental music in worship matters because it violates: 1) the law of faith, 2) the law of worship, 3) the law of unity, and 4) the law of love. Christians must ever remain content in the worship of God to be “*speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord*” (Eph. 5:19).

2nd of 2 parts

— Gary McDade
