

IS THERE A PATTERN FOR THE KIND OF MUSIC TO BE USED IN WORSHIP? #1

A “pattern” is a blueprint, a guide, a model. When followed, it will produce an exact replica of the original. So yes, there is a pattern for the “kind of music” to be used in worship. It is heaven’s pattern and therefore not subject to man’s whims.

Though many try to make it out to be very difficult, even to the extent of claiming there is no pattern, the Bible tells us plainly what God requires. But many refuse to accept it and go to great lengths to circumvent plain passages of Scripture. These people are not always far away from where we live, nor are they all members of denominations. Some are members of the church of Christ and live right here in our community. They are apostates, having betrayed and abandoned “*the faith that was once delivered unto the saints*” (Jude 3). The use of mechanical instruments of music in worship is not a matter of opinion and of no consequence. It is a matter of right and wrong, sin and error, heaven and hell.

All one has to do is simply read the New Testament to see what Christians did in the first century. Every verse that mentions worship in song was ALWAYS VOCAL. Their singing was a cappella (sung without instrumental accompaniment). There is totally an absence of mechanical instruments of music in the worship of the first century church.

“Speaking to yourselves in psalms

and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord” (Eph. 5:19). “*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). See also 1 Corinthians 14:15, Hebrews 2:12 and James 5:13.

What is the Lord’s pattern concerning the KIND OF MUSIC He desires in worship? It is VOCAL MUSIC. Jesus never authorized mechanical instruments of music to be used in worship. The Holy Spirit never sanctioned their use. The apostles never commanded them and the first century church never used them. They were not introduced until centuries after the time of the apostles. There is no command or example, nor is there anything implied that would permit their use! Mechanical instruments of music used in worship are the invention and introduction of man, not God. They are an addition to the Bible. Additions are condemned in Revelation 22:18.

The Lord’s pattern of music is SINGING PSALMS, HYMNS and SPIRITUAL SONGS with the fruit of our lips from the heart (Heb. 13:15)!

Are you following the New Testament pattern or are you following man’s tradition and doctrine? Had you not rather follow God instead of man?

—Garland M. Robinson