



“WHY DO WE SING IN WORSHIP?”

**OR: “WHY WE DO NOT USE
MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS IN
WORSHIP.”**

Introduction:

- A. **(Slide #2)** Many Who Attend Our Worship Are Intrigued And Amazed, “Why Don’t You Have Instruments In Worship?”
 - 1. They never thought about it being unacceptable or wrong.
 - 2. That may be all they have ever seen.
- B. My How This Topic Has Changed In The Last 50 Years.
 - 1. At that time, churches used pianos; some also used organs.
 - 2. Those who used any other instrument were view as “out there” or “on the fringe.”
 - 3. Today, churches have full-fledged bands that are almost like rock bands.
- C. For Many People The Primary Reason For Choosing A Church Is The Music.
- D. Churches Of Christ Have Not Typically Used Instrumental Music; However, Today Some Are Beginning To Have Instruments In Worship -- Some Have Two Services (One A Capella And One Instrumental); Others Have Just Become Instrumental.
 - 1. (▶) Is this just a “tradition” that we have invented and perpetuate?
 - 2. (▶) Is it a matter of opinion? Is it an expedient?
 - 3. (▶) Can we fellowship those who do use instruments in worship?
- E. Scriptures Asserts That Singing Was What Was Done In The N.T. Church.
 - 1. Eph. 5:19 “speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord,”

2. Col. 3:16 “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.”
3. Other N.T. Scriptures about singing:
 - a. Mt. 26:30 Jesus and the Apostles in the Last Supper [During the Passover Observance, a Law of Moses observance]-- “And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.”
 - b. Ac. 16:25 Paul and Silas in prison -- “But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them.”
 - c. I Cor. 14:15 “What is *the conclusion* then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will also pray with the understanding. I will sing with the spirit, and I will also sing with the understanding.”
 - d. I Cor. 14:26 “How is it then, brethren? Whenever you come together, each of you has a psalm, has a teaching, has a tongue, has a revelation, has an interpretation. Let all things be done for edification.”
 - e. Heb. 2:12 “saying: *‘I will declare Your name to My brethren; In the midst of the assembly I will sing praise to You.’*”
 - f. Js. 5:13 “Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing psalms.”
 - g. Heb. 13:15 “Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of *our* lips, giving thanks to His name.”
 - h. Rom. 15:9 “and that the Gentiles might glorify God for *His* mercy, as it is written: *‘For this reason I will confess to You among the Gentiles, And sing to Your name.’*”
4. Observations:
 - a. Instrumental music is never mentioned in passages that talk about worship in the N.T. Church!
 - b. God’s command requires reciprocal action -- what one does to the others, they do in return to him -- “one another!”
 1. A solo, trio, quartet, or chorus cannot fit this description!
 2. Every person sings to His God; his praise in turn encourages all the others in their singing!
 - c. The ONLY command and evidence of music in worship -- SINGING!
 1. Sing! (And make melody in your heart to the Lord!)
 2. Playing is NOT commanded for music in the Church!
 3. God’s command: “SING!”
 - d. What to sing:
 1. “Psalms” -- Scripture Songs
 2. “Hymns” -- Songs of praise to Deity!
 3. “Spiritual Songs” -- Songs that contain Truth and that encourage brethren in their Christian walk!

F. (Slide #3) Why We Do Not Use Musical Instruments In Worship?

I. (Slide #4) Because Our Loyalty Is To Jesus!

A. We Deeply Respect Who HE Is!

1. A Divine Being!

- a. Jn. 1:1 “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.”
- b. He is the great “I am!” Jn. 8:58
- c. “Immanuel” -- “God with us!” Mt. 1:23. The angel’s message to Joseph was a quote of Is. 7:14.
- d. When we truly understand, we say with Thomas, “My Lord and My God!” Jn. 20:28

2. The One With ALL Spiritual Authority!

- a. Mt. 28:18 “And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, ‘**All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.**’”
- b. Phil. 2:9,10 “which He worked in Christ when **He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places,** ²¹**far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come.** ²²And He put all *things* under His feet, and gave Him *to be* head over all *things* to the church,”
- c. I Pet. 3:22 “who has gone into heaven and **is at the right hand of God, angels and authorities and powers having been made subject to Him.**”
- d. He will have that authority as long as the world exists! I Cor. 15:23-28 “But each one in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those *who are* Christ’s at His coming. ²⁴Then *comes* the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power. ²⁵For **He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet.** ²⁶**The last enemy that will be destroyed is death.** ²⁷For ‘*He has put all things under His feet.*’ But when He says ‘all things are put under *Him*,’ *it is* evident that He who put all things under Him is excepted. ²⁸Now when all things are made subject to Him, then the Son Himself will also be subject to Him who put all things under Him, that God may be all in all.”
- e. He is the ruler over the Church! Eph. 1:20-22 “which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and **seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places,** ²¹**far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come.** ²²And He put all *things* under His feet, and gave Him *to be* head over all *things* to the church,”

3. **He is the HEAD of the Church!**

- a. Eph. 1:22,23 “And He put all *things* under His feet, and gave Him *to be head over all things to the church*, ²³which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.”
- b. Col. 1:18 “And **He is the head of the body, the church**, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, **that in all things He may have the preeminence.**”

B. He Gave Guidance About Worship:

1. Jn. 4:24 “God *is* Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”
2. It must be done from a sincere, focused, and holy heart!
3. It must be done as Heaven has directed!
4. Without both traits, it is unacceptable!

II. (Slide #5) Because We Submit To The New Testament Law!

A. (Slide #6) Music In Worship As Directed In The New Testament -- SING!

1. Eph. 5:19 “speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord,”
2. Col. 3:16 “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.”
3. His Will -- The New Testament! Heb. 9:15-17

B. (►) When God Wanted Instruments, He Commanded Them To Be Used By The Jews In O.T. Worship!

1. Some brethren have asserted that God just “tolerated” instrumental music under the Law of Moses. That is a patently false affirmation!
2. God commanded instrumental music in worship!
 - a. (Slide #7) When Hezekiah opened the Temple during his reign, he reinstituted God-ordained worship! II Chr. 29:25 “And he stationed the Levites in the house of the LORD with cymbals, with stringed instruments, and with harps, according to the commandment of David, of Gad the king’s seer, and of Nathan the prophet; for thus *was* the commandment of the LORD by his prophets.”

- b. **(Slide #8)** David made this command through inspired Scriptures he wrote.
 - 1. He wrote the Psalms by inspiration of the Holy Spirit!
 - 2. Ps. 150:1-5 “Praise the LORD! Praise God in His sanctuary; Praise Him in His mighty firmament! ²Praise Him for His mighty acts; Praise Him according to His excellent greatness! ³Praise Him with the sound of the trumpet; Praise Him with the lute and harp! ⁴Praise Him with the timbrel and dance; Praise Him with stringed instruments and flutes! ⁵Praise Him with loud cymbals; Praise Him with clashing cymbals!”
- 3. **Passages where Israel used instruments in worship:**
 - a. **During David’s days:**
 - 1. When they first went to the house of Abinadab to bring the Ark to Jerusalem (right before Uzzah died!)
 - a. II Sa. 6:5 “Then David and all the house of Israel played *music* before the LORD on all kinds of *instruments of* fir wood, on harps, on stringed instruments, on tambourines, on sistrums, and on cymbals.”
 - b. I Chr. 13:8 “Then David and all Israel played *music* before God with all *their* might, with singing, on harps, on stringed instruments, on tambourines, on cymbals, and with trumpets.”
 - 2. When they finally brought the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem:
 - a. I Chr. 15:16 “Then David spoke to the leaders of the Levites to appoint their brethren *to be* the singers accompanied by instruments of music, stringed instruments, harps, and cymbals, by raising the voice with resounding joy.”
 - b. I Chr. 15:28 “Thus all Israel brought up the ark of the covenant of the LORD with shouting and with the sound of the horn, with trumpets and with cymbals, making music with stringed instruments and harps.”
 - 3. When the Ark was placed in the Tabernacle! I Chr. 16:42 “and with them Heman and Jeduthun, to sound aloud with trumpets and cymbals and the musical instruments of God. Now the sons of Jeduthun *were* gatekeepers.”
 - 4. When David gave the Priests commandments about what they would do at the Temple when Solomon built It! I Chr. 23:5 “four thousand *were* gatekeepers, and four thousand praised the LORD with *musical* instruments, ‘which I made,’ *said David*, ‘for giving praise.’”
 - b. **During Solomon’s Reign:**
 - 1. When the Queen of Sheba came, they were used at the Temple: “And the king made walkways *of* the algum wood for the house of the LORD and for the king's house, also harps and stringed instruments for singers; and there were none such *as these* seen before in the land of Judah.” II Chr. 9:11

2. When Solomon ordained the Temple.
 - a. II Chr. 5:12,13 “and the Levites *who were* the singers, all those of Asaph and Heman and Jeduthun, with their sons and their brethren, stood at the east end of the altar, clothed in white linen, having cymbals, stringed instruments and harps, and with them one hundred and twenty priests sounding with trumpets--¹³indeed it came to pass, when the trumpeters and singers *were* as one, to make one sound to be heard in praising and thanking the LORD, and when they lifted up their voice with the trumpets and cymbals and instruments of music, and praised the LORD, *saying*: ‘For *He is* good, For His mercy *endures* forever,’ that the house, the house of the LORD, was filled with a cloud,”
 - b. II Chr. 7:6 “And the priests attended to their services; the Levites also with instruments of the music of the LORD, which King David had made to praise the LORD, saying, ‘For His mercy *endures* forever,’ whenever David offered praise by their ministry. The priests sounded trumpets opposite them, while all Israel stood.”
- c. **When Jehoshaphat returned from battle:** II Chr. 20:28 “So they came to Jerusalem, with stringed instruments and harps and trumpets, to the house of the LORD.”
- d. **During Hezekiah’s reign!**
 1. At the reopening of the Temple during Hezekiah’s reign: II Chr. 29:25-28 “And he stationed the Levites in the house of the LORD with cymbals, with stringed instruments, and with harps, according to the commandment of David, of Gad the king’s seer, and of Nathan the prophet; for thus *was* the commandment of the LORD by his prophets. ²⁶The Levites stood with the instruments of David, and the priests with the trumpets. ²⁷Then Hezekiah commanded *them* to offer the burnt offering on the altar. And when the burnt offering began, the song of the LORD *also* began, with the trumpets and with the instruments of David king of Israel. ²⁸So all the assembly worshiped, the singers sang, and the trumpeters sounded; all *this continued* until the burnt offering was finished.”
 2. At the Feast of Unleavened Bread: II Chr. 30:21 “So the children of Israel who were present at Jerusalem kept the Feast of Unleavened Bread seven days with great gladness; and the Levites and the priests praised the LORD day by day, *singing* to the LORD, accompanied by loud instruments.”
 3. Isaiah’s prophecy during Hezekiah’s reign: Is. 38:20 “The LORD *was ready* to save me; Therefore we will sing my songs with stringed instruments All the days of our life, in the house of the LORD.”

e. **When God was praised as the wall of Jerusalem was rebuilt in the days of Nehemiah.**

1. Neh 12:27 “Now at the dedication of the wall of Jerusalem they sought out the Levites in all their places, to bring them to Jerusalem to celebrate the dedication with gladness, both with thanksgivings and singing, *with* cymbals and stringed instruments and harps.”
2. Neh. 12:36 “and his brethren, Shemaiah, Azarel, Milalai, Gilalai, Maai, Nethanel, Judah, *and* Hanani, with the musical instruments of David the man of God. Ezra the scribe *went* before them.”

4. **Many of the Psalms were to be used with instruments:**

a. **Psalms of David:**

1. Ps. 6:1 “To the Chief Musician. With stringed instruments. On an eight-stringed harp. A Psalm of David.”
2. Ps. 54:1 “To the Chief Musician. With stringed instruments. A Contemplation of David when the Ziphites went and said to Saul, ‘Is David not hiding with us?’ Save me, O God, by Your name, And vindicate me by Your strength.”
3. Ps. 55:1 “To the Chief Musician. With stringed instruments. A Contemplation of David. Give ear to my prayer, O God, And do not hide Yourself from my supplication.”
4. Ps. 67:1 “To the Chief Musician. On stringed instruments. A Psalm. A song. God be merciful to us and bless us, *And* cause His face to shine upon us. Selah”
5. Ps. 68:25 “The singers went before, the players on instruments *followed* after; Among *them were* the maidens playing timbrels.”

b. **Psalms of Korah:**

1. Ps. 76:1 “To the Chief Musician. On stringed instruments. A Psalm of Asaph. A song. In Judah God *is* known; His name *is* great in Israel.”
2. Ps. 87:7 “Both the singers and the players on instruments *say*, ‘All my springs *are* in you.’”

C. **The New Testament NEVER Commands Or Gives An Example Of Instruments Of Music In Worship In The Church!**

1. See passages in “A” above.
2. See “E” in the Introduction.

D. **To Bring Instrumental Music Into Worship Is To Do So Outside The Authority Of Christ And The New Testament!!!**

E. History Affirms These Facts:

1. Chrysostom [347-407] “David formerly sang songs, also today we sing hymns. He had a lyre with lifeless strings, the church has a lyre with living strings. Our tongues are the strings of the lyre with a different tone indeed but much more in accordance with piety. Here there is no need for the cithara, or for stretched strings, or for the plectrum, or for art, or for any instrument; but, if you like, you may yourself become a cithara, mortifying the members of the flesh and making a full harmony of mind and body. For when the flesh no longer lusts against the Spirit, but has submitted to its orders and has been led at length into the best and most admirable path, then will you create a spiritual melody.” (Chrysostom, 347-407, Exposition of Psalms 41, (381-398 A.D.) Source Readings in Music History, ed. O. Strunk, W. W. Norton and Co.: New York , 1950, pg. 70.)
2. Thomas Aquinas [1225-1274] “Our church does not use musical instruments, as harps and psalteries, to praise God withal, that she may not seem to Judaize. (Thomas Aquinas, Bingham’s Antiquities, Vol. 3, page 137)
3. Martin Luther [1483-1546] “The organ (perhaps better translated “instruments of music”) in the worship of God is an ensign of Baal... The Roman Catholic borrowed it from the Jews.” (Martin Luther, *McClintock & Strong’s Encyclopedia*, Volume VI, page 762)
4. John Calvin [1509-1564] in his Commentary on Psalms, Psalm 33:2 “the Psalmist here expresses the vehement and ardent affection which the faithful ought to have in praising God, when he enjoins musical instruments to be employed for this purpose..... There is a distinction, however, to be observed here, that we may not indiscriminately consider as applicable to ourselves, every thing which was formerly enjoined upon the Jews. I have no doubt that playing upon cymbals, touching the harp and the viol, and all that kind of music, which is so frequently mentioned in the Psalms, was a part of the education; that is to say, the puerile instruction of the law: I speak of the stated service of the temple. For even now, if believers choose to cheer themselves with musical instruments, they should, I think, make it their object not to dissever their cheerfulness from the praises of God. **But when they frequent their sacred assemblies, musical instruments in celebrating the praises of God would be no more suitable than the burning of incense, the lighting up of lamps, and the restoration of the other shadows of the law. The Papists, therefore, have foolishly borrowed this, as well as many other things, from the Jews.** Men who are fond of outward pomp may delight in that noise; but the simplicity which God recommends to us by the apostle is far more pleasing to him.”

5. Adam Clarke [c1763-1832], a Methodist commentator, in his comments on Amos 6:5 said, “I farther believe that the use of such instruments of music, in the Christian Church, is *without the sanction and against the will* of God; that they are subversive of the spirit of true devotion, and that they are *sinful*. If there was a *wo [sic] to them* who *invented* instruments of music, as did David under the law, is there *no wo [sic], nor curse* to them who invent them, and introduce them into the worship of God in the Christian Church? I am an old man, and an old minister; and I here declare that I never knew them productive of any good in the worship of God; and have had reason to believe that they were productive of much evil. *Music, as a science*, I esteem and admire; but instruments of music *in the house of God* I abominate and abhor. This is the abuse of music; and here I register my protest against all such corruptions in the worship of the Author of Christianity. The late Rev. *John Wesley*, who was a *lover of music*, and an *elegant poet*, when asked his opinion of instruments of music being introduced into the chapels of the Methodists said, in her terse and powerful manner, “I have no objection to instruments of music in our chapels, provided they are neither HEARD nor SEEN.” I say the same, thought I think the expense of purchases had better be spared.” *Clarke’s Commentary*, Vol. IV., p. 684.
6. Most historical sources affirm that instrumental music in worship was first introduced by Pope Vitalian I in 670 A.D. The Catholic Encyclopedia, (1913 edition) said cited the claim that Pope Vitalian introduced the instrument. It then says, “This, however, is very doubtful. At all events, a strong objection to the organ in church service remained pretty general down to the twelfth century, which may be accounted for partly by the imperfection of tone in organs of that time. But from the twelfth century on, the organ became the privileged church instrument.” (Vol. XI, pp. 300-301).
7. The Greek Orthodox Church steadfastly refused the use of instrumental music in worship through the centuries; only in the last few years, a few of their congregations have added the instrument.
8. Instrumental music was not an issue in the beginning of the American Restoration Movement during the late 1700’s and first half of the 1800’s.
 - a. The struggle was with Calvinism and man’s free will!
 - b. One of the first hints of a desire to introduce instrumental music in worship was in 1851 when Aylette Raines wrote that Brother S. wishes to introduce the melodeon into the church.”
 - c. In 1859 L.L. Pinkerton introduced the melodeon as the first instrument used in any church of the Restoration Movement in Midway, KY.

III. (Slide #9) Because We Respect The Authority Of Christ!

A. We Only Know What To Do By His Authoritative Revelation!

1. Rom. 10:17 “So then faith *comes* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”
2. What does the Word say?

B. Col. 3:17 “And *whatever* you do in word or deed, *do* all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.”

C. I Pet. 4:11 “If anyone speaks, *let him speak* as the oracles of God.”

D. God Uses And Respects The Silence Of The Scriptures!

1. When God specified one person or action, others were excluded!
 - a. Heb. 1:5-7 “For to which of the angels did He ever say: ‘*You are My Son, Today I have begotten You*’? And again: ‘*I will be to Him a Father, And He shall be to Me a Son*’? ⁶But when He again brings the firstborn into the world, He says: ‘*Let all the angels of God worship Him.*’ ⁷And of the angels He says: ‘*Who makes His angels spirits And His ministers a flame of fire.*’”
 - b. Heb. 1:13 “But to which of the angels has He ever said: ‘*Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool*’?”
 - c. Heb. 2:5 “For He has not put the world to come, of which we speak, in subjection to angels.”
 - d. Heb. 4:7 “again He designates a certain day, saying in David, ‘*Today,*’ after such a long time, as it has been said: ‘*Today, if you will hear His voice, Do not harden your hearts.*’”
 - e. Heb. 7:12-14 “For the priesthood being changed, of necessity there is also a change of the law. ¹³For He of whom these things are spoken belongs to another tribe, from which no man has officiated at the altar. ¹⁴For *it is* evident that our Lord arose from Judah, of which tribe Moses spoke nothing concerning priesthood.”
2. God told us what to do in worship -- SING! The N.T. is TOTALLY SILENT about instruments in worship!
3. One of the favorite attempts people use to justify instruments; what is wrong with their logic.
 - a. The **favorite argument today** is “**Well, the Bible does not say NOT TO use instrumental music!**”
 1. Again, this is a correct observation.
 2. However, authority tells us what to do and that excludes other choices.

- b. The fallacy of their logic!
 1. Imagine a **parent having one \$20 bill** to last for the rest of the week.
 - a. He sends a small child to the store to buy a loaf of bread and a gallon of milk.
 - b. As the child walks through the store, he longs for candy, ice cream, colas, and chips.
 - c. When he returns home, he brings candy, ice cream, a cola, and chips along with the bread and milk.
 - d. The child hands the parent the bread and milk and a quarter.
 - e. How would any parent respond? "Why didn't you obey me?"
 - f. How would a parent react if the child replied, "You didn't tell me NOT to buy the other items."
 - g. That parent would be irate because of the child's disobedience, and would immediately wonder how he could survive the rest of the week on a quarter.
 2. Every person understands that authority excludes others, even when we go to a **public bathroom**.
 - a. One door says, "Women," the other "Men."
 - b. What if a man goes into the women's restroom?
 - c. You will hear screaming and ladies being upset.
 - d. "How dare you come into our restroom?"
 - e. What if the man replied, "The sign did not say, 'Men can't come in,' so I am authorized to be here."?
 - f. No decent woman will accept such logic!
 3. Every time you place an order at a **restaurant or a department store**, you understand the law of authority.
 - a. Imagine going to the restaurant and ordering a hamburger, fries, and a cola and having them bring you every item on the menu along with a check for \$349.
 1. Would you just smile and pay the bill? NO WAY!
 2. You would complain, "I didn't order all those items. I'm not paying for all that food."
 3. How would you react if the waiter replied, "Well, you didn't tell me NOT to bring one of every item."
 4. Would you pay the \$349?
 5. You KNOW you would not do that!
 - b. Or imagine ordering a lawn mower from Sears.
 1. The day it is to be delivered, seven tractor-trailers drive up on your street.
 2. They begin to unload clothes, furniture, tools, appliances, all kinds of home items, and your lawn mower.
 3. One of the drivers hands you a bill for \$496,000.
 4. How would you respond?
 5. "I didn't order all this stuff!"
 6. How would you react if he replied, "Well, you didn't tell us NOT to bring it, so you have to pay."

7. Would you? NO WAY!

4. Christ does not have to say, “Do not use instrumental music” any more than He does not have to say, “Do not use country ham, carrots, Baby Ruth’s, or chocolate pie to remember By Body or water, coffee, or Mountain Dew or Coke to remember My Blood.” When He authorized unleavened bread and fruit of the vine, that excluded all other types of food and drink!

E. We Must Evaluate Our Respect For His Authority!

1. One illustration that I have used to show the inconsistency people have toward authority is a comparison of the game “Simon Says” with respect for God’s authority.
 - a. “Simon says” is a game where one person is Simon.
 - b. He gives commands and all in the game are tested in their respect for Simon’s authority.
 - c. The participants in the game are to obey if Simon begins a command with “Simon says!”
 - d. If he simply gives a command without the authority, “Simon says,” the participants are not to obey the command.
 - e. For example, if the command is, “Simon says put your right hand on your head,” the players are to obey. If Simon simply says, “Put your hand on your head,” the players are not to obey. If they do, they are dismissed from the game because they did not obey Simon.
 - f. When people understand the game, I then give this scenario.
 1. Suppose you are sitting in front of a piano, and are told, “Simon says, play.”
 - a. What would you do?
 - b. You would attempt to play even if you did not know how.
 2. Now consider another example. What if you are sitting in front of the piano and are ordered, “Simon says, play and sing.”
 - a. What would you do?
 - b. Obviously, to obey, you would play and sing.
 - c. What if you just played?
 - d. You did not obey and would be dismissed from the game.
 3. Now consider a third scenario. You are sitting in front of the same piano and receive this command, “Simon says, sing.”
 - a. What would you do?
 - b. You would ONLY sing.
 - c. Why?
 - d. To refuse to sing or to add playing with the singing would cause Simon to dismiss you from the game.
 - e. Players are so concerned to obey Simon because they do not want to be embarrassed as one who does not listen to instructions.

2. And yet, when people search the Word of the Almighty, Holy God of Heaven and He commands, “Sing,” many immediately begin to rationalize or to give arguments to justify adding to God’s command.
3. It makes me wonder, “Do we have more concern about our own embarrassment than we do for Almighty God and His authority?”

F. Bible Students Must Understand Additions And Expedients And Specific And General Commands!

1. **Specific and general commands.**

- a. “General commands” tell you what to do but not how to do it.
- b. “Specific commands” tell you what to do and how to do it.
- c. Three examples will help you see this principle:
 1. The first example is God’s command to Noah about the Ark.
 - a. “Specific commands” included the use of gopher wood, rooms in the ark, protecting it with pitch inside and out, 300 cubits (450 feet) long, 50 cubits (75 feet) wide, 30 cubits (45 feet) high, one window, one door, and three floors.
 - b. God gave Noah a “general command” about the gopher wood in the sense that he did not require a certain length of the boards.
 2. The second example is the Great Commission.
 - a. God gave numerous commands.
 - b. “General commands” include “go” (whether by car, van, train, plane, foot, or camel), “preach” (whether by TV, radio, personally, sermon, tract or book) and “baptize” (whether in a creek, a bathtub, or a baptistery).
 - c. A “specific command” is “preach the Gospel,” (not opinions, false doctrines, politics, or current events).
 3. The third example is music in worship.
 - a. If God had given a “general command,” He would have said, “Make music.”
 - b. Then you could use any kind of vocal or instrumental music you chose.
 - c. However, God gave a “specific command,” “Sing!”
 - d. “Specific commands” exclude all other actions; we are required to do exactly what has been commanded.
- d. Other examples of specific statements excluding others:
 1. Heb. 1:4,5 “Thou art my Son” to Christ excludes all others as God’s Son.
 2. Heb. 7:13,14 “For he of whom these things are spoken pertaineth to another tribe, of which no man gave attendance at the altar. ¹⁴For *it is* evident that our Lord sprang out of Juda; of which tribe Moses spake nothing concerning priesthood.”

2. **Aids and additions.**

- a. “Aids” assist you to obey the command that is given; “additions” change the command.
- b. Three examples will help you understand this principle.
 - 1. First, examine God’s commands about the Lord’s Supper.
 - a. The Lord commanded the use of unleavened bread and fruit of the vine to remind you of Christ.
 - b. “Additions” would involve any other kind of food or drink.
 - c. “Aids” would be anything that assists you to observe the Lord’s Supper in an honorable, correct, and timely manner.
 - d. A table is an aid that gives significance to the emblems.
 - e. Trays are an aid to pass the emblems.
 - f. A congregation could lay the bread on a table; however, trays assist the serving of the bread and promote cleanliness.
 - g. Cups promote cleanliness; they are sanitary and safe.
 - h. The Lord did not authorize the container; He authorized the element in the container as a reminder of His precious, powerful Blood!
 - 2. Second, consider baptism.
 - a. “Additions” would include baptizing babies, sprinkling, or pouring instead of immersing, or baptizing in milk or cola.
 - b. “Aids” include a baptistery, baptismal garments, and warm water. One could be baptized in an ice-cold creek; however, it is much more comfortable to do so in a warm baptistery.
 - 3. Third, consider the music in worship.
 - a. “Additions” would be any kind of instrument accompanying the singing whether it be a piano, organ, drum, or trumpet as well as the use of solos, duets, choruses, humming, clapping, or having women leading the singing.
 - b. The God-authorized instrument is your heart and your voice. Eph. 5:19.
 - c. “Aids” would include songbooks, a microphone, an overhead projector with songs on a transparency (although sometimes they may not be an aid if older people cannot see the words), and a pitch pie (it is NOT an instrument accompanying the singing; it is an aid to “DO IT RIGHT!”)

IV. (Slide #10) Because We Do Not Want To Sin Against God!

- A. Faith Come From Hearing The Word Of God!
- B. David's Attitude Is SO Precious: "Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You!" Ps. 119:11
- C. Why Do We Sing? Because We Do Not Want Do Disobey God! We LONG To Please Him!
- D. For Those Who Espouse, Defend, And Use Instrumental Music In Worship -- Prove From Scripture That It Is Acceptable In Worship To God In The Church!

(Slide #11) Conclusion:

- A. Sing With Praise, Joy, And A Heart Filled With Gratitude!
- B. Do Not Defend Or Argue FOR Singing And Then Refuse TO Sing! SING! Sing Heartily! Sing To The Lord!
- C. And Who Can Do That With More Appreciation Than The Saved? If You Are Not A Child Of God, Submit To Him; Then Sing Praises To Him Throughout Your Life!