

The Studio

EPISODE // WHY DO WE SING IN WORSHIP?

Think back to the last birthday party you attended. Did you sing “Happy Birthday?” My guess is that your answer is “yes.” Rather it’s singing with family at a funeral, or with friends at a concert, singing occurs naturally. So what about singing with the body of Christ?

Today we are going to dissect the question, “Why do we sing in worship?” This may be a question you’ve always asked yourself, but haven’t heard discussed within the church. Generally speaking, singing in a congregational setting has been a widely- accepted practice amongst various denominations, age groups, and even cultures. So why is that? Why do we sing? Here are five reasons that we sing in worship.

- ✧ **God commands us to sing.** There are hundreds of references of singing within the Bible. Jesus Himself sang songs of praise after the Last Supper. If we are called to replicate the character of Christ, I’m confident that singing should always be involved.
- ✧ **Christians have sung throughout history.** The earliest Christians put their community beliefs in songs, which is why Christian hymnody as a whole began. Songs are recorded in scripture and other historical texts. The Book of Psalms in the Bible is a great resource for reading songs of believers that have gone before us.
- ✧ **Songs can give us theology.** As you may know, hymns and other Christian songs are full of rich, theological text. The act of singing uses both part’s of the brain, therefore it can educate us and teach us about the gospel of Jesus Christ.
- ✧ **Singing connects us emotionally.** Songs of celebration have the power to lead us to dance. Songs of lament have the power to lead us to tears. Music has a way of piercing into the deep parts of our soul, that assists in our expression and response to God and to the church.
- ✧ **Singing helps unites us to the church.** The gospel alone unites believers to one another. However, music is a tool that allows us to do so. As we gather on the Sabbath, we join together as one body, and praise God with one voice.

We recognize that God gives each of us different gifts. But at the end of the day, we all are called, wanted, and expected to sing.

My hope for you comes from the proclamation found in Psalm 96. “Sing to the Lord a new song! Sing to the Lord, all the earth! Sing to the Lord! Bless His name! Share the news of his saving work every single day!”