

A Study of the Church: Equipping the saints for the work of the ministry

- **What is the church?**
 - Collection of believers
 - Indwelling Holy Spirit
 - Union with Christ
 - Began at Pentecost
 - Local gathering of believers – the functional unit

- **What is the church suppose to be doing?**
 - Equipping the saints for the work of the ministry

- **How does the church equip the saints?**
 - Baptism
 - Lord's Supper
 - Preaching
 - Praying

- **How is the church organized for this work?**
 - Elders and deacons
 - Teaching/preaching
 - Serving
 - Discipline – moral and doctrinal purity

- **What is the work of the ministry?**
 - Worship
 - Singing
 - Giving/stewardship
 - Disciples of Jesus
 - Love
 - Serving the weaker brother
 - Others – teaching, witnessing, praying, helping . . .

Sing a New Song Music in the Bible

Jubal – first mention of music (Genesis 4:20-22)

The Song of Moses – first and last song of the Bible
Exodus 15 and Revelation 15:3-4

Pagan music:

- Genesis 4:20-22 – the family of Cain.
- Exodus 32:18 – singing before the golden calf.
- Isaiah 24:9 – drunken singing
- Amos 6:4-5 – “Idle songs”
- Amos 5:23 – God rejected their songs (“noise”) & music
- Ezekiel 33:32 – “lustful songs”

God sings (Zephaniah 3:17)

History of Christian Music

Biblical era:

- Judaism – Psalms
- Jesus – Matthew 26:30
- Paul and Silas – Acts 16:25
- Paul to Colosse – Colossians 3:16

Early Church History:

- “Pliny (63-113 AD) – “they were in the habit of meeting on a certain fixed day before it was light, when they sang in alternate verses a hymn to Christ, as to a god.”
- “Tertullian (155-230 AD) – re: agape feast: “each is asked to stand forth and sing, according to his ability, a hymn to God, either one from the holy Scriptures, or one of his own composing.”
- Spectator event – 1000 years

Reformation era:

- Jan Hus (1371-1415)
- Martin Luther (1483-1546)
- Calvin (1509-1564)
- Isaac Watts (1674-1748)
- John Wesley (1703-1791) and Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

History of Christian Music

American era:

Gospel song

- Developed in 1800s – dealing with personal salvation; often borrowed tunes from popular secular tunes.
- D.L. Moody: “Singing does at least as much as preaching to impress the Word of God upon people’s minds.”
- The Gospel Song:
 - Primary purpose is to give a testimony or an exhortation, a warning or an invitation
 - Used primarily in evangelistic, revival and fellowship services
 - Music usually rhythmically fast or lilting
 - The use of a chorus or refrain at the end of each stanza
- Charles Alexander
 - song leader as the master of ceremonies
 - “warming up” the audience
 - large community choirs

Contemporary

- Similar to the Gospel Songs – emphasis on personal experience
- More deliberate attempt to incorporate popular music styles and methods
- Intent to “entice” the unbeliever into the Christian lifestyle
- Encourage emotional displays or feelings
- Often an overt rejection of classic hymns as archaic and irrelevant

Sing a New Song!

Biblical Principles

1. A command – “Sing . . . !”
 - Psalm 96:1
 - Psalm 95:1
 - Psalm 100:1-2

2. Sing to the Lord
 - Acts 16:25 – Paul and Silas
 - Exodus 15:1 – Song of Moses
 - Revelation 15:3-4 – Song of Moses

3. Praise and exaltation of God.
 - Psalm 96
 - Bless His Name
 - Tell of His salvation
 - Declare His glory
 - Declare His marvelous works
 - He is to be praised
 - Psalm 100
 - A joyful noise
 - He is God
 - He is Creator
 - He is our Shepherd
 - He is good
 - He is merciful and faithful

4. Singing from the Word of God.
 - Colossians 3:15.
 - Psalm 96 and Psalm 100

Sing a New Song!

Biblical Principles

5. Sing a new song!

- Psalm 33:3; 40:3; 96:1; 98:1; 144:9; 149:1; Isa. 42:10; Rev. 5:9; 14:3
- The emphasis is upon your daily experience with God

6. Sing an old song!

- The song of Moses: Exodus 15:1f; Deuteronomy 31:30f; Revelation 15:3-4
- The model hymn

Sing a New Song – 2005

1. Sing to God
2. Make melody
3. Sing Truth
4. Sing in holiness
5. Sing the old and the new song