

Praise the LORD! Sing to the LORD a new song, his praise in the assembly of the godly!
Psalm 149:1

Songs & Singing

Stefan Richardson

Store In My Heart

Ecclesiastes 1:14

I have seen all the works which have been done under the sun, and behold, all is vanity and striving after wind.

Ecclesiastes 12:13-14

The conclusion, when all has been heard, is: fear God and keep His commandments, because this applies to every person. For God will bring every act to judgment, everything which is hidden, whether it is good or evil.

These two passages really sum up the message of this book. Though he tried all that was available on earth to find purpose in life, the Preacher could only conclude that a focus on God in all parts of our existence is the only thing that matters. No matter what endeavor he tried it ended in loss if God was not at the center of it. We will never find happiness if we leave God in the fringes of life. We should enjoy life in service to God!

It's a fascinating thing to consider the development of musical and audio technology over the last few generations. Once upon a time, if you wanted to hear a song sung, you would either have to find someone else to sing it to you or, perhaps more often for the ordinary person, sing it together with someone. Then, with the advent of radio and phonograph, songs became more commonly passive — instead of singing to one another or together, families would gather around the living room radio to listen. Then came what someone once called the “Age of the Walkman”, then the iPod, then the iPhone — music became a solitary pastime with headphones, more often than not.

For our considerations now, most of this development is neither here nor there, except to make one simple observation: group singing (particularly a cappella) is now usually thought to be a strange thing. A group of non-professional, dare we even say non-skilled, people singing together is often seen as fascinatingly antiquated at best and freakishly unbearable at worst.

Yet, singing together — with one another, and partially to and for one another — is one of the hallmarks of Christians. There are **Ephesians 5:19**, “*speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord*” and **Colossians 3:16**, “*with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with*



Contact Us

We want opportunities to speak with others about the Lord's Kingdom.

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For Our Information

Ruben Keisler had his staples removed. He is still healing but doing well with recovery.

Adene Gray has not been feeling well this past week.

The Simpson Family is out of town today.

Many have ongoing health issues that need our prayers and concern.

Tonight we start our study in 1Samuel 14:24 at 5 pm.

Wednesday at 7 pm our study starts in Galatians 1:9.

Pray for safety, courage & healing.

thankfulness in your hearts to God". In **Acts 16:25** we read of Paul and Silas singing together in prison. There are the ancient writings telling of early Christians singing together.

Why is participatory singing important? Firstly, it involves unity of focus and attitude. Secondly, it praises God in a way He has asked and commanded. Thirdly, it helps us deeply teach and remember the truth.

These three brief points can help us as Christians remember why singing together is valuable and useful, even if most of the world thinks it's weird and old-fashioned!

(Stefan is a young preacher I have known since he was a little boy. Some of you may have noticed his last name and made a connection to the Richardsons I have spoken about from time to time. He is Jackie's grandson and he has been preaching full-time for a few years now. I think he is currently in Iowa and I am glad that technology makes it possible to connect with his writings in such an easy manner.

I would make one slight adjustment to his paragraph on why participatory singing is important. I feel praising God as He has commanded is the **First** and **Foremost** reason we need to keep in mind. Even if the other two points were not included, following God's instruction should be paramount. With that said I think Stefan is spot on in this assessment of our singing.

It is almost impossible to sing as a group without having some focus on unity. Our singing is much better when we are all seeking a righteous attitude and have a desire to give to God, and our brethren, of our best. This common desire will enhance the message of our songs.

Many studies have shown that music, or at least rhythm, helps us to retain the things we hear. Each of us knows how helpful it is to teach children with songs and rhythmic patterns. Many of us learned our ABC's in just such a manner. Singing Truth together as we praise God is helpful in retaining these things so that they will be available to help us overcome temptation and grow stronger in our faith. Sing to praise God and help one another. (DLH)



We seek only to serve God according to His Will!