

TO PLAY OR
NOT TO PLAY?

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Instrumental Music in Worship to God

This issue is not about ability or preference.

It is possible to worship God in an unacceptable manner.

God demands proper worship from man.

As Christians, we do not have authority to use instruments as we worship God.

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Justin Martyr *“The use of instrumental music was not received in the Christian churches, as it was among the Jews in their childish state, but only the use of plain song. Simply singing is not agreeable to children, but singing to lifeless instruments and dancing and clapping is. On this account the use of this kind of instrument and of others agreeable to children is removed from the song of the church and there is left remaining simple singing.”* (Answers to the Orthodox)

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Thomas Aquinas *“Our church does not use musical instruments as harps and psalteries to praise God with all, that she may not seem to Judaize.”* (Bingham’s Antiquities, p.238)

Philip Schaff *“The use of organs in churches is ascribed to Pope Vitalian.”* (History of the Christian Church)

Catholic Encyclopedia *“Although Josephus tells of the wonderful effects produced in the temple by the use of instruments, the first Christians were too spiritual a fiber to substitute lifeless instruments for or to use them to accompany the human voice.”* (Catholic Encyclopedia, vol. 10, p.651)

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Martin Luther *“The organ is worship in the insignia of Baal.”* (McClintock & Strong’s Encyclopedia)

John Calvin *“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 other things from the Jews.”* (Calvin’s Commentary on Psalm 33)

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John Wesley *“I have no objection to instruments of music in our chapels provided they are neither heard nor seen.”* (Clark’s Commentary on Amos, p.684)

David Benedict *“Staunch old Baptists in former times would as soon have tolerated the Pope of Rome in their pulpits as an organ in their galleries.”* (50 Years Among the Baptists, p.238)

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Charles H. Spurgeon *“What a degradation to supplant the intelligent song of the whole congregation by the theatrical prettinesses of a quartette, the refined niceties of a choir, or the blowing off of wind from inanimate bellows and pipes! We might as well pray by machinery as praise by it.”* (The Treasury of David)

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Acts 16:25 *“Paul and Silas were praying and **singing** hymns of praise to God.”*

Romans 15:9 *“And I will **sing** to Your Name.”*

I Corinthians 14:15 *“I will **sing** with the spirit and I will **sing** with the mind also.”*

Ephesians 5:19 *“**Speaking** to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, **singing** and **making melody with your heart** to the Lord.”*

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Colossians 3:16 *“**singing** with thankfulness in your hearts to God”*

Hebrews 2:12 *“In the midst of the congregation I will **sing** Your praise.”*

Hebrews 13:15 *“let us to continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, **the fruit of lips** that gives thanks to His Name.”*

James 5:13 *“Is anyone cheerful? He is to **sing** praises.”*

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