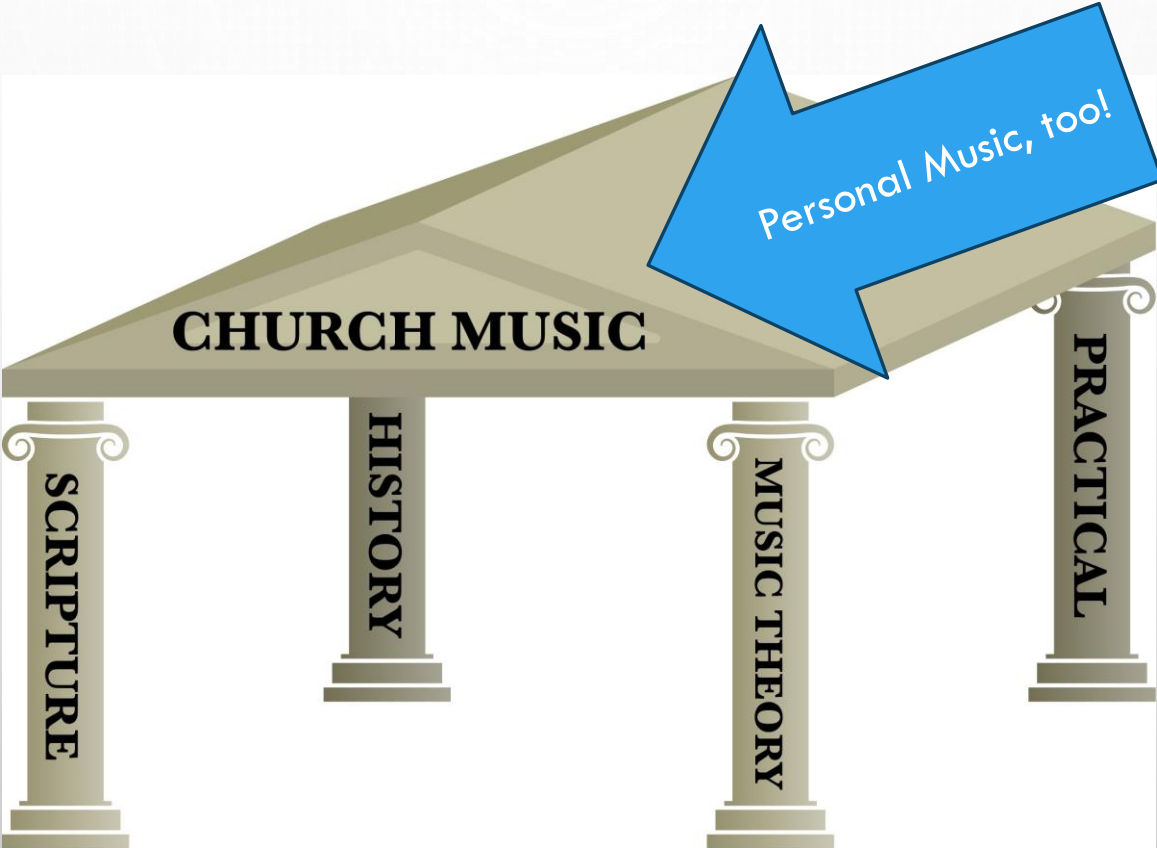


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# **BIBLICAL AND PRACTICAL PRINCIPLES FOR MUSIC**

TYING A GREAT BIG BOW ON EVERYTHING WE HAVE LEARNED THUS  
FAR...

# THE PILLARS WE BUILD ON



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# GENERAL PRINCIPLES

ON THE NATURE OF MUSIC.

## A. MUSIC IS A GIFT FROM GOD.

- “NEXT TO THE WORD OF GOD, MUSIC DESERVES THE HIGHEST PRAISE. THE GIFT OF LANGUAGE COMBINED WITH THE GIFT OF SONG WAS GIVEN TO MAN THAT HE SHOULD PROCLAIM THE WORD OF GOD THROUGH MUSIC.” – MARTIN LUTHER



## B. MUSIC IS NOT INHERENTLY GOOD OR EVIL.

- MUSIC IS A LANGUAGE AND CAN BE USED FOR BOTH GOOD OR EVIL.
- JUST BECAUSE SATAN MAY BE ASSOCIATED WITH MUSIC (EZEKIEL 28:11-19) DOES NOT MEAN THAT ALL MUSIC IS EVIL.



## C. NOT ALL MUSIC IS ACCEPTABLE IN GOD'S WORSHIP AND SERVICE.

- GOD IS VERY PARTICULAR ABOUT HOW HE IS TO BE WORSHIPPED.
- “TAKE THOU AWAY FROM ME THE NOISE OF THY SONGS; FOR I WILL NOT HEAR THE MELODY OF THY VIOLS.” - AMOS 5:23



## D. SACRED MUSIC SHOULD BE OF THE BEST QUALITY WE CAN OFFER, BUT HIGH-QUALITY MUSIC IS NOT INHERENTLY SPIRITUAL.

- QUALITY IS SUBJECTIVE AND NOT ALWAYS THE BEST INDICATOR OF THE VALUE OF MUSIC.
- “CLASSICAL” MUSIC IS A SPECIFIC GENRE OR WESTERN (EUROPEAN) MUSIC.





# HISTORIC PRINCIPLES

FROM OUR STUDY OF THE HISTORY OF SACRED MUSIC





## A. MUSIC SHOULD NOT DISTRACT FROM WORSHIP.

- MUSIC CAN BE GREAT SUPPORT OR ENHANCEMENT TO OUR WORSHIP, BUT ONCE IT DRAWS ATTENTION TO ITSELF IT IS A DISTRACTION.



## B. MUSIC SHOULD BE FREE FROM WORLDLY ASSOCIATIONS.

SHOULD NOT MIMIC OR EMBRACE THE MUSIC OF  
THE WORLD



## C. THE PRIMARY INSTRUMENT FOR WORSHIP IS THE HUMAN VOICE.

EARLY CHURCH MUSIC TYPICALLY LIMITED OR FORBADE THE USE OF INSTRUMENTS AS THEY WERE DEEMED A DISTRACTION FROM THE WORSHIP OF INDIVIDUAL BELIEVERS WITH THEIR OWN VOICES.



## D. INSTRUMENTS SHOULD SUPPORT AND NOT OVERPOWER SINGING.

- THE PRACTICAL REASON FOR THE USE OF INSTRUMENTS IN ALMOST ANY ERA WAS TO ENHANCE THE SINGING.



## E. MUSIC SHOULD BE SUNG IN “ONE VOICE” – UNITED PARTICIPATION.

- EVERY BELIEVER, REGARDLESS OF AGE OR SKILL, SHOULD BE ABLE TO JOIN THEIR VOICES IN GOD’S PRAISE.



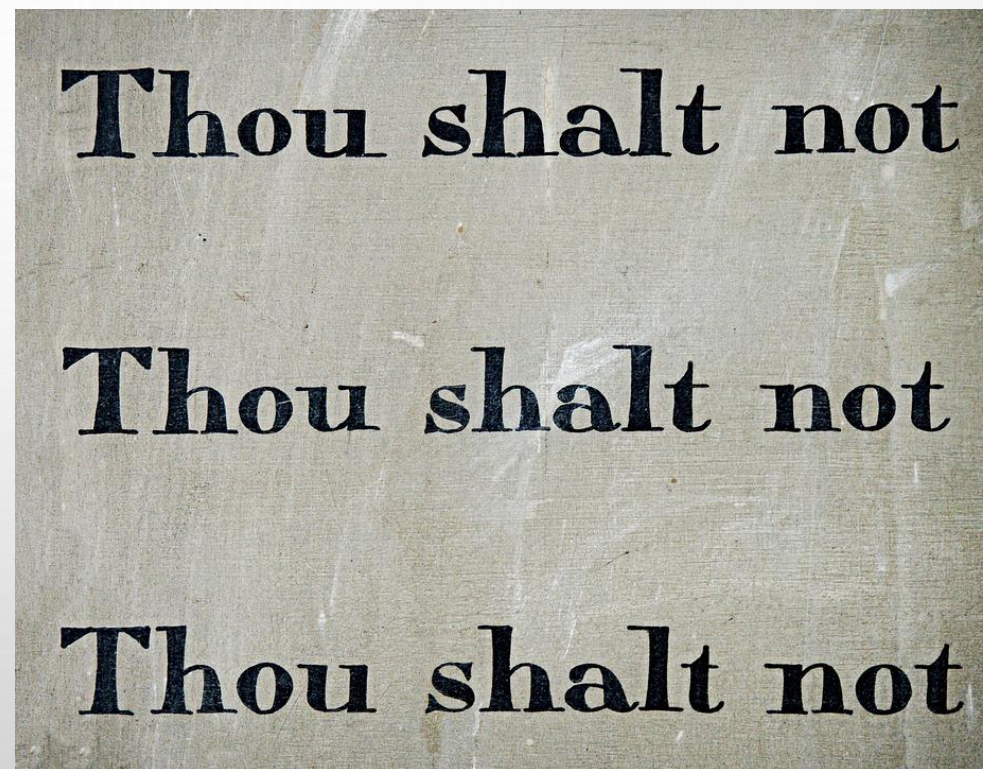
## F. CHURCH MUSIC IS A SPIRITUAL ENDEAVOR AND REQUIRES SPIRITUAL PEOPLE TO PRODUCE IT.

THE FOREMOST REQUIREMENT OF SACRED MUSIC IS NOT MUSICAL SKILL BUT FAITHFULNESS TO GOD.



## G. CHURCH MUSIC MUST PRESENT AND SUPPORT SOUND DOCTRINE.

- EVERYTHING DONE IN CHURCH SHOULD ALIGN WITH GOD, HIS CHARACTER, AND HIS TRUTH. THE SONGS IN EACH BELIEVER'S HEART SHOULD REFLECT THE TRUTH OF GOD.
- SONGS WITH NO, LITTLE, OR FAULTY DOCTRINE MUST BE DISCARDED.



## H. CHURCH MUSIC IS A COMMUNAL ACTIVITY.

- THE CONGREGATION SHOULD PARTICIPATE AND NOT JUST SPECTATE.





# I. MUSIC IS SECONDARY TO THE WORD.

- WILL SINGING IS COMMANDED AND COMMENDED IN SCRIPTURE, ITS ROLE IS ALWAYS SECONDARY TO THE DIVINE REVELATION OF THE SCRIPTURES.



## J. LEADERSHIP IN CHURCH MUSIC SHOULD BE UNITED IN THE GENERAL LEADERSHIP OF THE CHURCH.

- FOR BAPTISTS, THIS MEANS THE MUSIC MINISTRY IS UNDER THE HEAD OF THE EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP OF THE PASTOR.
- THIS ENSURES THAT THE MUSIC PROGRAM REFLECTS THE CHURCH AND ITS DIRECTION.



## K. THE MUSIC SHOULD NOT DISTRACT FROM THE MESSAGE (WORDS).

- OF THE FOUR PRINCIPAL PARTS OF MUSIC (MELODY, HARMONY, RHYTHM, LYRICS), THE EMPHASIS SHOULD BE ON THE LYRICS. T
- HIS IS NOT TO SAY THAT THESE OTHER PARTS ARE UNIMPORTANT, BUT IN THE BALANCE THAT IS NECESSARY IN SACRED MUSIC THE WORDS SHOULD BE PRIMARY.



# L. THE CONGREGATION SHOULD PARTICIPATE IN MUSIC, NOT JUST OBSERVE IT.

- SACRED MUSIC IS NOT A SPECTATOR SPORT, NOR IS A CHURCH SERVICE A CONCERT.



## M. THE MUSIC SHOULD NOT BE SO COMPLICATED AS TO REQUIRE PROFESSIONAL TRAINING.

- IT SHOULD BE ACCESSIBLE TO THE NONPROFESSIONAL AND THE UNTRAINED.



# N. OUR USE OF MUSIC AND SINGING SHOULD BE BUILT ON A ROBUST THEOLOGICAL BASE.

- THIS IS NOT JUST WHAT IS SUNG BUT WHY AND HOW IT IS SUNG.



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# PRACTICAL PRINCIPLES FOR CHURCH MUSIC MINISTRY

APPLYING WHAT WE HAVE LEARNED

## A. SPECIAL MUSIC CAN BE MORE ADVANCED THAN CONGREGATIONAL MUSIC.

- SPECIALS BY SOLOISTS, GROUPS, OR CHOIRS CAN BE, AND GENERALLY ARE, MORE ADVANCED MUSICALLY THAN THAT OF THE CONGREGATIONAL SINGING.





## B. WORK WITH WHAT YOU HAVE AND WORK IT INTO SOMETHING BETTER.

- WORK SO THAT THE MUSIC PROGRAM IS BETTER IN FIVE YEARS FROM WHAT IT IS NOW.



## C. TEACH ABOUT MUSIC PHILOSOPHY AND STANDARDS.

- YOU CANNOT TEACH WHAT YOU DO NOT UNDERSTAND.
- YOU NEED TO BE WELL GROUNDED SO YOU CAN ARTICULATE YOUR POSITION TO THE CHURCH.



## D. PUT IT IN WRITING.

- ANY STANDARDS OR REQUIREMENTS IN CHURCH MUSIC NEED TO BE IN WRITING.
- THE BEST TIME TO MAKE THESE TYPES OF DECISIONS IS BEFOREHAND.
- THIS ENSURES THAT YOUR DECISIONS ARE IMPERSONAL AND CONSISTENT.



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# PERSONAL PRINCIPLES FOR MUSIC

FOR PERSONAL AND PRIVATE USE.

# A. THERE IS GREATER LIBERTY IN OUR MUSIC CHOICES OUTSIDE OF CHURCH.

- THERE IS GREATER LIBERTY IN THE MUSIC WE CONSUME OUTSIDE OF THE CHURCH, YET WE SHOULD HOLD OURSELVES TO A HIGH STANDARD.



## B. THERE ARE LIMITS TO LIBERTY.

- DOES IT PROMOTE ANYTHING SINFUL OR UNHOLY?
- DOES IT HAVE WORLDLY ASSOCIATIONS?
- DOES IT INCITE EMOTIONS THAT ARE NOT PEACEFUL OR PLEASANT?
- DOES IT CAUSE THE MIND TO DWELL ON GOOD THINGS? (PHILIPPIANS 4:8)
- DOES ASSOCIATING MYSELF WITH THIS MUSIC BRING GLORY TO CHRIST?



## C. STRIVE FOR CONSISTENCY AND EXCELLENCY.

- BE “BLAMELESS” IN YOUR PERSONAL MUSIC.
- DO NOT GIVE SATAN ROOM TO ATTACH THROUGH IT.
- DO NOT LET IT BE A STUMBLING BLOCK TO OTHERS.
- BE “SOBER” IN YOUR CHOICES: LOGICAL AND SERIOUS.

