

Indian Trail Church Corporate Gathering Singing Values

The Proclamation of Christ - All worship in the church, and especially singing, is a response to our glorious God who has made Himself, His redeeming grace, and His plan for the ages known through His preeminent, Son, Jesus Christ (Psalm 2; Col 1:15-23; Eph 1:3-14; Eph 3:17-19; Heb 1:3-4; John 1:1-18; 2 Cor 4:5-6). Christ is the focal point of all redemptive history (Luke 24:27; Rom 10:1-13; Eph 1:9-10; Rev 5:6-14) and is the means by which His church is saved, sanctified, and brought into glory. Therefore, in order for us to truly know God, experience His presence, and respond in worship, Christ and the Gospel must be proclaimed in our singing (Col 1:28-29; 3:16-17; Rev 2:4).

Congregational Singing - In the Scriptures, singing is commanded and encouraged for God's people for the following purposes: 1) As a means for the church to corporately respond in worship (i.e. praise, thanksgiving, confession, etc.) to the revelation of God and His saving grace through Jesus Christ (Psalm 100; Heb 13:28-29; Eph 5:18-21; Col 3:16-17), 2) As a means by which the people of God encourage one another and instruct one another in the faith (Psalms; Eph 5:18-21; Col 3:16-17), and 3) As a powerful witness of the church's one hearted unity in Christ and devotion to Christ (Psalm 66:2; Col 4:5; 1 Pet 2:9). Therefore we encourage full-hearted, corporate singing in the local church.

Scripturally Saturated, Doctrinally Sound Lyrics - The Scriptures, being God breathed and without error and therefore the sole authority on all matters pertaining to our faith, are uniquely profitable for converting the soul and building up the believer in the faith (Acts 20:32; 2 Tim 3:16-17; Psalm 19:7ff; Rom 10:17; Heb 4:12-13; John 17:17). Furthermore, sound doctrine is vital to the health of the church (Tit 2:1; 2 Tim 4:2ff.). Therefore, the lyrics to our songs need to be Gospel centered, Scripturally saturated and in conformity to the primary doctrines of the historic faith. Furthermore, while poetic devices are beneficial in our songs helping us connect to the songs rationally and emotionally, they should always serve the purpose of making biblical truths more understandable and must never be ambiguous or extraneous. Therefore, we encourage sound doctrine in the lyrics of our songs.

Shepherding in Song - In its simplest form, the Scriptures call God's people to sing songs of worship with one another in the church (Eph 5:18-21; Col 3:16-17). But thoughtful care in our Lord's day gatherings and other fellowship gatherings is needed to direct our congregations through thoughtful song choices, liturgy/flow of the worship service, cooperate Scripture reading and prayer, and pastoral exhortations/encouragements that will help our congregations engage in corporate worship that is biblical and from their hearts (1 Cor 14:40; Col 1:28-29; 2 Tim 3:16-17). Therefore, whether this is done by the teaching pastor, an elder, a worship leader, or a combination of these, we encourage shepherding God's people in song.

Skillful, Complimentary Music - Music (by this I mean the combination of melody, harmony, and rhythm set to lyrical poetry) is a beautiful gift of God and in itself is a cause for giving thanks to God who creates all things that are beautiful for our enjoyment and for his glory (Psalm 19:1-6; Rom 1:19-20; 1 Tim 4:3-4; Rev 4:11). All the more, music that encourages God's people to respond in worship to the revelation of God and promote congregational singing in the church has great value for the church and should be pursued according to the gifts God gives the church (Psalms 33; 98; 150; 1 Pet 4:10-11). Therefore we encourage skillful, excellent music and musicianship that serves congregational singing and helps draw out significant biblical truths and appropriate, attendant emotion befitting the worship experience (Psalm 33:3; 150).