

What Kind Does God Want?

Let's start with a powerful concept: Why did the presence of the Father continue to be with Jesus? Answer (from Jesus, Himself, in John 8:29), "And He who sent Me is with Me; He has not left Me alone, **for I always do the things that are pleasing to Him,**" (emphasis supplied). Simple, but powerful.

Paul understood this same concept. The Holy Spirit inspired him to pen 2 Corinthians 5:9, 10

Therefore we also have as our ambition, whether at home or absent, to be pleasing to Him. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

Notice that Paul also understood this is an eternal issue! Paul understood that if he were still trying to please *man* he would not be a bondservant of Christ (Gal. 1:10). ***The same reality is true today. Who are we trying to please, self, others or God?*** If we are truly trying to please God (as Jesus and Paul were) then life, choices, daily life and even our worship become far easier to understand and choose.

One vital, yet misunderstood, subject is, "What does God want in worship?" What kind of bread does God want in worship? Simple - unleavened bread. What kind of liquid does God want in worship? Simple - fruit of the vine. What kind of decency does God want in worship? Simple - in a decent and orderly manner (1 Cor. 14:40).

When we ask, "What kind of music does God want?" the answer is simple (though some try to complicate it by adding to God's word). Singing! That's the answer, "Singing!" Ephesians 5:19 and Colossians 3:16 are clear enough. The New Testament church followed the New Testament pattern for over 600 years, but then a few churches decided to add musical instruments to worship. **It was resoundingly rejected my most until the 15th century!!!** And instrumental music in worship did not become commonplace until the 18th century! Yes, instrumental music in worship has only been in popular use for less than 400 years of the last 2,000!

But instrumental music in worship is never found in the New Testament. Like animal sacrifice and burning of incense, we leave Old Testament things to the past and follow the New Testament (Romans 7:1-4, et al).

When we ask, "What kind of bread does God want?" we stick with a biblical answer. When we ask, "What kind of liquid does God want in our communion cups?" we stick with a biblical answer. When we ask, "What kind of music does God want?" we, at this church, will stick with an actual, biblical answer:

...speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and
spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord.

Scriptural command, biblical example and even secular history all confirm this reality: *the early churches all sang a capella, that is without any instrumental music!* May we have the wisdom and courage to follow what God wants!

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