

WHY WON'T THEY SING?

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COLOSSIANS 3:16

WHY DO WE SING?

LET THE WORD OF CHRIST DWELL IN YOU RICHLY, TEACHING AND ADMONISHING ONE ANOTHER IN ALL WISDOM, SINGING PSALMS AND HYMNS AND SPIRITUAL SONGS, WITH THANKFULNESS IN YOUR HEARTS TO GOD.

WHY DO WE SING?

Nº 1

IT CONNECTS US WITH THOSE WHO HAVE GONE BEFORE AND REMINDS US THAT CHRISTIANITY IS MUCH BIGGER THAN WE ARE.

WHY DO WE SING?

Nº **2**

**SINGING GIVES US THE ABILITY TO
ACTIVELY PARTICIPATE IN WORSHIP.**

WHY DO WE SING?

Nº **3**

**SINGING CONNECTS OUR MIND, EMOTIONS,
SPIRIT, AND BODY TOGETHER IN PRAISE OF GOD.**

WHY DO WE SING?

Nº **4**

CONGREGATIONAL SINGING IS THE ONLY THING WE DO AT CHURCH WHERE WE ARE ALL UNIFIED IN ACTION AT THE SAME TIME.

WHY DO WE SING?

Nº **5**

**MUSIC ALLOWS US TO EXPRESS OUR EMOTIONS
AND AFFECTIONS IN WAYS THAT FEW OTHER
ACTIVITIES CAN.**

WHY DO WE SING?

Nº **6**

THE SONGS OF OUR FAITH SHAPE OUR BELIEFS AND PRACTICE AS WELL AS, IF NOT BETTER, THAN MOST SERMONS.

WHY DO WE SING?

Nº **7**

**SINGING & MAKING MUSIC TO THE LORD CELEBRATE
GOD'S CREATIVITY AND OUR LIKENESS WITH HIM. IT
IS AN ACT OF STEWARDSHIP.**



**THE CONGREGATION IS YOUR MOST
IMPORTANT ENSEMBLE**

CHARACTERISTICS OF GREAT CONGREGATIONAL SINGING

Active, full participation
A wide variety of subjects
Songs that are spiritual songs
Spiritual engagement in music

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE A GREAT SINGING CONGREGATION?

Sing with musicality

Others?

WHY WON'T THEY SING?

WHAT ARE WE FEEDING OUR FLOCK?

- ◆ The shaping power of congregational singing
- ◆ How many songs do you sing each week?
- ◆ How many songs do you repeat in a given year?
- ◆ There is a finite amount of opportunities to feed your flock. Make each one count!



WHY WON'T THEY SING?

THINGS THAT UNDERMINE CONGREGATIONAL SINGING

- Poor quality congregational songs
- The congregation isn't sure what they are supposed to do (solo stanzas, instrumental interludes, etc.)
- Poor stage leadership
- Performer's mentality from the platform
- Too much musical embellishment
- Singing range

WHY DON'T THEY SING?

DR. NATHAN BURGGRAFF

From Luther to Tomlin:
A Corpus Analysis of Harmony and Melody in
Congregational Songs of the American Evangelical
Church



WHY WON'T THEY SING?

MELODIC ANALYSIS

Vocal Extremes in the Melodic Line (lowest and highest notes sung)

	<1955 (100 songs)		1955-1987 (46 songs)		1988-2017 (114 songs)			
					1988-2000 (27 songs)		2001-2017 (87 songs)	
	LOW	HIGH	LOW	HIGH	LOW	HIGH	LOW	HIGH
A5								0.9%
G#/Ab5								0.9%
G5								7.9%
F#/Gb5								12.3%
F5		1.0%						12.3%
E5		4.0%		2.2%		2.6%		16.7%
D#/Eb5		9.0%		2.2%				3.5%
D5		47.0%		23.9%		6.1%		10.5%
C#/Db5		12.0%		4.3%		4.4%		1.8%
C5		24.0%		32.6%		4.4%		3.5%
B4		1.0%		8.7%		4.4%	0.9%	4.4%
A#/Bb4		2.0%		10.9%			3.5%	
A4				10.9%		0.9%	1.8%	0.9%
G#/Ab4					0.9%		0.9%	0.9%
G4	3.0%			4.3%		0.9%	0.9%	
F#/Gb4	2.0%						7.0%	
F4	5.0%		6.5%		1.8%		1.8%	
E4	7.0%		4.3%		3.5%		8.8%	
D#/Eb4	21.0%		6.5%		0.9%		2.6%	
D4	34.0%		39.1%		5.3%		8.8%	
C#/Db4	6.0%		6.5%		3.5%		2.6%	
Middle C4	19.0%		28.3%		1.8%		10.5%	
B3	1.0%		4.3%		1.8%		7.9%	
A#/Bb3	2.0%				1.8%		4.4%	
A3			2.2%		1.8%		7.9%	
G#/Ab3					0.9%		2.6%	
G3			2.2%				4.6%	
	% of 100		% of 46		% of 114			

CAPLINE HEADER ELEMENT

MELODIC ANALYSIS

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G5								7.9%
F#/Gb5								12.3%
F5		1.0%						12.3%
E5		4.0%		2.2%		2.6%		16.7%
D#/Eb5		9.0%		2.2%				3.5%
D5		47.0%		23.9%		6.1%		10.5%
C#/Db5		12.0%		4.3%		4.4%		1.8%
C5		24.0%		32.6%		4.4%		3.5%

After 2000,
71.3% of songs
in their original
key are above
the comfortable
melodic range!

WHY WON'T THEY SING?

PRACTICAL IDEAS TO IMPROVE SINGING

- Authentic worship leadership
- Skilled musicians
- Pastoral leadership
- Stage presence and appearance
- Appropriate song and key selection
- Pastoral approach
- Awareness of stage volume
- Lighting issues

SLIDES FROM TODAY'S PRESENTATIONS

RESOURCES.CBUWORSHIP.COM