

Why the Music Battle?
By Doug Nichols

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“Oh give thanks to the LORD, call upon His name; make known His deeds among the peoples. Sing to Him, sing praises to Him; speak of all His wonders”
(1 Chronicles 16:8-9, nasb).

Recently I had a wonderful time in 1 Chronicles and read again about the priests of the tabernacle and temple who were assigned the responsibility of providing music. Some priests were dedicated just to singing; this was an important responsibility of one aspect of worship.

These singers were priests. They were not new believers or teenagers, but instead were mature leaders (young and old) in the ministry of worship under guidelines of ministry.

I wonder if the fact that mature people are not the ones writing the music and leading the songs of worship may be one reason why we have so many music battles in the local church. In most churches the worship leaders are young people; many are dedicated and godly people, but still young. They have a wonderful responsibility to and in the church, but not in leading public worship.

Older people have spent much time in the Word of God and have had their senses trained to discern good and evil (Hebrews 5:14). When they hear certain tunes and lyrics, their godly nature grates at the music. Sometimes they may not even understand why they react to some music!

Another reason for music battles in the church is that often the lyrics are not biblical. The music sounds like that sung in the world, not in the worship of our living God.

Youth music and catchy choruses are not necessarily wrong, but should not be used in a public worship service. People should be lifting their eyes to God in praise with songs that are biblical and tunes which are singable.

Much of the music used in churches today is not singable. Notice the congregation - who is singing? Many times the older people attempt to set an example for younger people. The older people are trying to sing while the youth are not singing at all. The only people singing are the performers up front as they put on a show instead of leading the congregation, as the tabernacle priest, in praise and worship of God.

Also, why not take the band off the platform and place it on the side? One of our associate churches in the Philippines has a large worship band including drums, guitars, trumpets and other instruments, but the musicians are placed to the side where they cannot be seen. This switch would be beneficial in many churches,

especially since most of the band leaders dress like they are going fishing, camping, or on a picnic, instead of to worship God. They should dress neatly to show respect for God and others without looking like they just got out of bed, still wearing pajamas.

“Ascribe to the LORD the glory due His name; bring an offering, and come before Him; worship the LORD in holy array... O give thanks to the LORD, for He is good; for His lovingkindness is everlasting” (1 Chronicles 16:29,34, nasb).