

Instrumental Music and the Cross of Christ

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Introduction: Why is it that we do not use instruments of music in our worship?

- A. The foundation of all we do is the cross of Christ. **(Gal 2:20)**
 - 1. When you have personally been crucified then whenever you hear of “the cross of Christ” it is significant.
 - 2. There are many within churches who have never been crucified and, as a result, are not Christians and have no understanding or real Christianity. **(Gal 6:14)**
- B. The stand of the cross will not be popular with other religious views. **(Gal 6:12)**
 - 1. The cross will bring clarity between the will of Christ and the desires of worldly religion.
 - 2. The crucified man will stand where the “worldly Christian” will seek a place to hide for the sake of “peace” and “unity.”
 - 3. I beg you to be crucified! You will be surprised where it will lead you.
 - 4. The question of our worship to God is clearly a cross issue. Finding fellowship with God and knowing His will is entirely defined by the Cross.

I. The Covenant of Jesus Christ was dedicated at the cross

- A. God has always used the word “covenant” to describe all relationships to Him.
 - 1. διαθήκη diatheke - 1) a disposition, arrangement, of any sort, which one wishes to be valid, the last disposition which one makes of his earthly possessions after his death, a testament or will 2) a compact, a covenant, a testament 2a) God's covenant with Noah, etc.
 - 2. Why was a covenant so significant to Noah? **(Gen 6:18)**
- B. God has always required a “shedding of blood” in order for a relationship to exist with Him. **(Heb 9:18, 22-23)**
 - 1. As the Jews has a covenant that defined their relationship with God, we as Christians have a better covenant based upon the blood shed at the cross of Christ. **(Heb 8:6)**
 - 2. Did you remember the “blood of the covenant” when you partook of the Lord’s supper? **(Mt 26:28-29; 1 Cor 11:24-25)**
- C. The covenant is extensive and complete. Both the shedding of Christ’s blood and the delivery of the covenant was a “once for all” event. **(Heb 9:26-28)**
 - 1. How many of you would fall for one that claimed that a new sacrifice for our sins needs to be made?
 - 2. There are three things in this verse that are “once for all,” that is, they will never be repeated or added to.
 - 3. The delivery of the covenant was also a “once for all” event. **(Jude 3)**
 - a. It is in this body of truth, “the faith,” that will obey the Lord. **(Gal 6:7)**
 - b. What about those who contend for an ongoing delivery of God’s will?

II. The Cross of Christ demands that we abide in His covenant alone

- A. God has clearly revealed the place and time where the old covenant ended.

(Col 2:14-17)

- 1. This plainly shows the scope of a covenant. Worship and service are central issues to a relationship with God.
- 2. As the Old Covenant was removed at the cross, the New covenant was now in force. **(Heb 9:16-17)**
- 3. Without this knowledge we would have great confusion as we read the Bible.
- B. Our eternal salvation depends upon our understanding this distinction. **(Gal 5:1-4)**
 - 1. Many Jewish Christians gave into pressure and tried to force Gentile Christians to be circumcised according to the Old Covenant.
 - 2. This was not a matter of traditions or conveniences, but the Cross of Christ itself! **(Gal 5:11)**
 - 3. How many religious practices are based upon the Old Covenant alone?
 - 4. Where in the New Covenant do we read of: tithing, a separate priesthood (clergy), the burning of incense, or the use of instruments of music in praise to God?

III. What does the Cross of Christ teach us about worship?

- A. How should we approach the Lord’s Supper? **(Mt 26:26-28)**
 - 1. We must remember the reason for why we eat.
 - 2. Does the outward form matter? Suppose we substituted hamburger and coke for the “fruit of the vine” and “bread?”
 - 3. Do we change the instructions of the covenant because of human wisdom or convenience?
 - 4. Could we use “bread” and “fruit of the vine” but add some peanut butter to it?
- B. How should we praise God in our worship?
 - 1. Under the Old Covenant God gave specific instructions that included both vocal and instrumental music. **(2 Chron 29:25-26)**
 - 2. Why not simply look at every verse in the New Covenant and see what God wants?

	<i>Vocal Music</i>	<i>Instrumental Music</i>
<i>Matthew 26:30</i>	_____	_____
<i>Acts 16:25</i>	_____	_____
<i>Romans 15:9</i>	_____	_____
<i>1 Corinthians 14:15</i>	_____	_____
<i>Ephesians 5:19</i>	_____	_____
<i>Colossians 3:16</i>	_____	_____
<i>Hebrews 2:12</i>	_____	_____
<i>Hebrews 13:15</i>	_____	_____
<i>James 5:13</i>	_____	_____

- C. These questions are made much simpler when seen in the shadow of the cross.
- Conclusion:** Is the blood of the New Covenant sufficient for you? **(Heb 13:20-21)**
 - A. The people who submit to the Great Shepherd will be very different from the world.
 - B. Are you ashamed of the Cross or boldly carrying it? **(Gal 6:12, 14)**