

Why Do We Sing

Word

Scripture Reference

Colossians 3:16

Discussion Questions

1. What is your favorite Christian hymn or song? Share with the group what you like about this song.
2. Do you wonder why Christians all around the world gather together every week, and one of the things that we always do is to sing? What is the purpose of our singing? Colossians 3:16 reads, *“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms, and hymns, and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.”* Colossians was Paul’s letter to young believers in the city of Colossae (which is now in southeast Turkey) who were young in age and in their faith. Paul’s letter was to help them grow as Christians. The Colossian Christians started off as followers of Jesus, but soon they became followers of other things such as traditions, rituals, relationship, goals, passions, etc. How is this true among the Christians in this day and age? What are the usual things that sidetrack many new Christians that keep them from growing in their spiritual life?
3. Read Colossians 1:14-18. A Christian is someone where Jesus is preeminent, where Jesus is supreme, where Jesus has first place. That sums up what Colossians is all about. Chapters 1-2 talk about why Jesus is preeminent while chapters 3-4 talk about how Jesus is preeminent. In Colossians 3:16, we learn how Christians make Jesus preeminent, supreme, first in life through singing.

“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.”

- a. **“...*SINGING* with grace in your hearts to the Lord.”** When we sing, we obey. Is singing for a believer a mere suggestion or an option? Read also Psalm 96:1-4 and Ephesians 5:18-19. What are you demonstrating when you sing for the Lord? When you come to worship God but refuse to sing because you consider it optional or something that is not important, what are you missing out on?
- b. **“*LET THE WORD OF CHRIST DWELL IN YOU RICHLY in all wisdom...*”** When we sing, we grow deep in God’s Word. Your singing is more than a warm-up for the sermon or a filler in the service. Discuss how singing stands alongside of preaching as one of the two great ways that God has ordained for His Word to dwell richly in each one of us. Going back to the first question about your favorite Christian song, how does that song impact your theology or knowledge of God? In other words, should the lyrics of the songs you sing matter? Why?
- c. **“...teaching and admonishing *ONE ANOTHER* in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs...”** When we sing, we build each other up. Do you realize that when you sing, you are building up fellow believers? Read Colossians 3:13-16. What other commands come first before the command to sing? Share how you feel when you sing with others in the church congregation or with the choir. Have you ever heard hymns that are familiar to you being sung in another language? How did it bind you with those other Christians in spite of the difference in language or cultural background?

d. “...singing ***WITH GRACE IN YOUR HEARTS TO THE LORD.***”

When we sing, we walk in God’s joy. The word *grace* here means “thankfulness, gratitude.” Those who receive grace, sing. Those who were blessed, sing. If being a Christian means having received grace and blessings from God, what could be the reasons why Christians would refuse to sing? It might be easier for you to sing when you are joyful, but why is it necessary to sing even when you are struggling? Share how you could develop a thankful heart by singing.

Walk

When we sing, we obey. When we sing, we grow deep in God’s Word. When we sing, we build each other up. When we sing, we walk in God’s joy. How does this change your perspective about singing?

Worship & Prayer

Heavenly Father, You are my awesome and wonderful God who deserves to be worshipped and praised with my voice. May You be preeminent in my life and your supremacy evident in every aspect of my Christian walk--in my thoughts and in my actions, which include singing hymns that will glorify your Name and edify my fellow believers. Help me to have the right reasons for singing for You. In Jesus’ name. Amen.