

# Eisenhower Church of Christ

## Should Everyone Sing?

Too many Christians fail or refuse to sing hymns of praise or Gospel songs of admonition to others; and when exhorted to join in the sacrifice of our lips in praise, the answer is: “I can’t sing,” or “my voice will not respond” (even though they can talk a blue streak!), or “I am not musically inclined” (though they play the radio, attend musicals, and enjoy singing!). It is agreed that we are born with varied degrees of the senses of pitch and rhythm—it is difficult to believe that anyone is born with none. But the question is: Should everybody sing? Is one more obligated to try than another? Can one who is talented do the singing for another who is not as talented? Has God authorized a practice in the kingdom of His Son which cannot be obeyed?

Years ago, during a lecture on the music of the church, one from the audience asked to be recognized. We listened as he reasoned: “There is singing and there is making melody in the heart; both are included in the New Testament teaching. One has the talent to sing audibly, while another can only make melody in the heart.” (And he cited a Bible commentary to prove his point.) However, this writer, who was the speaker of the occasion, just had to ascertain if he thought a dual command, connected by the conjunction “and”, could be performed by two people—one doing one part, another the other part—and please God. The auditor’s answer was affirmative. We remarked, this would not hold true in other cases. For instance, the Lord says, “He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved” (Mark 16:16) - can one believe, the other be baptized, and both be saved? You say this is absurd. Yes, but not any more than saying, “You make melody in the heart and I will sing with the voice, and we will both please God.” It takes both for one to complete his own obligation.

We can know that God does, or does not, authorize us to sing with the voice from the heart. If He does not, then we do not have to utter praise and devotion—we can eliminate singing altogether! If He does (and the Bible is clear on this point), how can we honor God and admonish others without doing our best in song? The moment we admit that God commands us to sing, rather than offer mechanical praise, we are faced with a searching question: Can we go to heaven while disobeying a command? There is no alternative—to do or not to do, to the best of our ability, is the real concern. One endowed with greater potentiality in song has no stricter duty, no greater reward; neither is one of lesser talent relieved of duty nor denied blessings and rights of participation. As men judge, one can teach better, lead a better prayers, or give more, but this cannot excuse others from their obligation in these realms. If God says sing, and He does, we must do our best.

Paul said to “speak” psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, “singing and making melody in your heart” (Ephesians 5:19); to teach and admonish (this is with the voice) in the same fashion (Colossians 3:16); with Him, it was personal, “I will sing” (I Corinthians 14:15), and he practiced it (Acts 16:25). The Hebrews writer said it must be “in the midst of the church” (Hebrews 2:12), and that “By him [Christ] therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to His name” (Hebrews 13:15). These and related Scriptures assure that God wants each and all to sing.

Grant that someone has waited too long to do well at singing, he could still try; and anyway, this should not check our teaching that God expects His children to sing! If this had been emphasized fifty years ago, more if not all, Christians would be joining in the exercise today. For the sake of the present and coming generations, we must urge God’s pleasure with respect to music in the worship. It is a fact that we must be taught to do what God requires—Jesus taught His disciples to pray, and by what manner; He actually went through the manner of observing and serving the Lord’s supper; we are taught to teach, but must be taught before we can do so. Hence, to sing, we should be taught to sing.

Singing schools in the past often under emphasized the joy of singing. May the Lord bless everyone who strives to improve our singing, but may we prove, with Solomon, that “man should rejoice in his own works” (Ecclesiastes 3:22). The old saying is that “the proof of the pudding is in the eating”—may we also insist that the means and reward in singing is the doing of it! The least a

Christian could do to effect improvement is to be on hand and try in every singing effort. The elders, who must of necessity be concerned with the teaching of and by the flock, should encourage one of the most powerful means of teaching and admonishing. If all members of the church should attend worship and Bible study, let us put forth every effort to gain 100 per cent attendance; but if we fail, let us not give up. If all are to sign, let us put forth a special effort to attain full participation; but failure with some must not deter our efforts toward better singing.

—L. O. Sanderson

### **Response**

**Juli Marshall** responded to the invitation Sunday morning, November 29th. She asked for forgiveness for being unfaithful. Juli allowed personal problems to keep her from worship services. She has come to terms with her problems and has asked God's forgiveness. Juli asks that we keep her in our prayers that she may grow in faith and become a stronger Christian and a good example for others.

### **Prayer Request**

**Charles Wood** has been dealing with an upper respiratory infection. He has been on different antibiotics for a few weeks. Hopefully, the current antibiotic will help. Please keep him in your prayers.

**Todd Drake** (grandson of James & Joyce Drake) is struggling with severe headaches. He is going to see a specialist in Lubbock.

**Connie Phelps**, a friend of Juli Marshall, will begin a three month session of 24/7 chemo treatments and a daily 15 minute session of radiation for five weeks. The treatments start on December 7th. Connie will have her second surgery early March. Please keep her in your daily prayers.

**Alan Michael Gibson** (Hannah Weakland's friend from FHU) was taken to the ER at ORMC Wednesday evening, November 25th. He was diagnosed with anxiety. He was treated and released. Keep Alan Michael in your prayers.

### **Concerns Update**

**Connie Lowe** traveled to MD Anderson in Houston Monday, November 30th for her checkup. We are waiting for results. She is in need of prayers.

### **Prayer List**

Lee Roy Bell; Susan Bosse; Mack Bradford; Neva Carrigan; Steve Chavez; Cruz Coe; Dayton Dennard; James & Joyce Drake; John Ford; Hattie Gilmore; Anna Groves; Opal Hager; Linda Horton; Bobby Hunt; Bryan Jernigan; Andrue LaFlure; Susan Lee; Tracy Leeth; Connie Lowe; Jill McAfee; Jack McCarty; Anna McGlothlin; Patsy Montgomery; Juan & Estella Morolez; Laura Olivas; Connie Phelps; Elvia Ruckman; Blair Saldana; Andrew Schwarz; Christa Bella Sellers; Brenda Simmons; Meta Troutz; Marilyn Upshaw; Teresa Vires; Lisa Wells; Carolyn Wilkerson; Jack Wright

### **Eisenhower's Shut-ins**

Mildred Bell; Neva Carrigan; Ruby Davis; Roberta Hamil; Janice Laminack; Dusty and Kathy Marshall, Maxine Newton; Janelle Shirley, Wilma Squire and Lester Whisenant

Remember to keep all of our sick, shut-ins, the bereaved, our military personnel and the spiritually weak in your daily prayers.

### **Youth**

**Bible Quiz Question...** What was the outstretched hand from thumb to little finger called?

**Last Week's Bible Quiz answer...** Moses and Elijah appeared with Jesus at the transfiguration.

## Events

A “**Ladies Gift Exchange**” is being hosted by Bonnie Sorenson and Christy Weakland at Bonnie’s home at 6:30 p.m. Friday, December 11th. Bring a gift to exchange. All our ladies are invited to come join the fun and fellowship.

## FYI

Watch “*In Search of the Lord’s Way*” every Sunday morning at 7:30 am on CBS, channel 7.

Also, tune in to hear a message from the Brown Trail Church of Christ on the “**Speaking the Truth in Love**” program every Sunday at 8:00 a.m. on ABC.

## Office News

Our “**Food Pantry**” is low on food. It needs to be kept supplied with food and supplies for the children’s homes and those in need especially at the holiday season.

The **New Mexico Children’s Home** will be in Odessa Tuesday, December 8th for a food drive. They are requesting **Cream of Chicken Soup**. Monetary donations also accepted.

There is a signup sheet in the foyer for those who would like to host a “**Family Devotional**”. We need hosts for 2016. Please put your name beside the month that works for you.

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## How to Make a Minister Effective!

- Build his spiritual power by praying for him.
- Build his reputation by speaking well of him.
- Build his wisdom by consulting with him.
- Build his leadership by cooperating with him.
- Build his pulpit power by hearing him.
- Build his morale by encouraging him.
- The greatest thing we can do for our preacher is to follow the Christ he preaches.

A great minister will build his congregation and a great congregation will build their minister. A church is as responsible for what she does to her minister as is the minister for what he does to the church.

Bulletin Digest

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### December 6, 2015

Announcements  
Song Leader  
Sermon  
Opening Prayer  
Scripture  
Second Prayer  
Closing Prayer  
Lord's Supper  
West...  
East...

#### A.M.

Jeff Wesson  
Rudy Ochoa  
Allen Weakland  
Jeff Wesson  
Richard Siler  
Bill Tolbert  
Josh Wells  
Bill Ryan  
Trinidad Wood  
Josh Weakland  
Craig Wesson  
Dylan Straw  
Isaiah Armendarez

#### P.M.

Jeff Wesson  
Jacob Carson  
Allen Weakland  
Jeff Wesson  
Isaiah Armendarez  
Scot Straw  
Bill Ryan  
John Carroll  
Communion  
(In Library)

**Other Responsibilities:** *Elder :* Jeff Wesson 561-5302 *Deacon:* Jr. Munoz 363-1309 *Pulpit:* Tony Marrs 553-7349; *Table:* John Carroll 553-2780; *Song Leaders:* Denny Wilson 325-340-2291; *Recording Duties:* Chris Butler 362-7486 *Collections:* Chris Butler 362-7486

### **Sunday AM**

*"Marah"*

*(Exodus 15:22-26)*

### **Sunday PM**

*"Servant of Jesus Christ"*

*(James 1:1)*

### **Our Records**

*Bible Class... 69*

*Morning Worship...106*

*Evening Worship...NA*

*Wednesday...86*

*Contribution...\$4,869.50*

