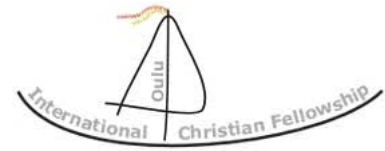


# International Christian Fellowship of Oulu Worship Service / Message



Date & Time: Sunday, 10.2.2008 at 16.00

Place: Chapel of St. Luke

Topic: Music in Worship and Life

Author: Bastian Fähnrich

Sources: Bible New International Version ([www.bibleserver.com](http://www.bibleserver.com)),

Lexikon zur Bibel (Fritz Rienecker, Gerhard Maier),

Nikodemus ([www.nikodemus.net](http://www.nikodemus.net)), YouTube ([www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com)),

Online Etymology Dictionary ([www.etymonline.com](http://www.etymonline.com))

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## **Topic (full title)**

Music in Worship and Life – For the Glory of God, With Grace in the Heart!

## **Question & Answers**

What does the Bible say about music in relation to worship and life?

Let's look into the Word of God to find answers!

## **Definitions**

Music: from Latin *musica*, from Greek *mousike techne*, meaning "art of the Muses", from *mousikos* "pertaining to the Muses", from *Mousa* "Muse". In classical Greece, any art in which the Muses presided, but especially music. Here music is understood as a vocal and/or instrumental form of human expression.

Worship: from Anglian *worðscip*, *wurðscip* and Saxon *weorðscipe*, meaning "condition of being worthy, honor, renown", from *weorð* "worthy" (see worth) + *-scipe* (see -ship). Sense of "reverence paid to a divine being". Here worship means coming before God in a humble spirit.

Life: In this message and document I will refer to the life of a Christian believer, and all other areas of Christian life, apart from worship.

## **Overview**

Old Testament:

- Times of Moses (1450 B.C.): Mostly vocal forms of music, could include instruments, for example Miriam's tambourine.
- Times of David and Solomon (1000 B.C.): Both vocal and instrumental music. Besides using human voices and a few instruments (bass drum, sistrum, lyre, harp, cymbal, flute, shalm, trumpet), people clapped hands and danced.

New Testament: like in the Old Testament, but mostly vocal forms of music.

Church History:

- Mostly vocal forms of music, cf. Latin phrase *a cappella*, meaning "according to, like in the church (chapel)"
- Later also instrumental music such as the harmonium, piano, organs, guitars.

Today: Many vocal and instrumental forms of music.

Future, End Times: New Song, Song of Moses and Song of the Lamb, cf. Revelation

## **Scripture References**

### **Old Testament**

#### **Worship:**

- Instructions & Teaching (Moses, Miriam, David)
- Prayer, Praise & Thanksgiving  
(Hannah in 1 Samuel 2:1-10, Psalms, for example 8, 9, 34, 76, 100, 105, 113-118)

#### **Life:**

- Weddings (Jeremiah 25:10)
- Festivities (Amos 6:5)
- Marriage, Love Relationship between Man and Woman (Song of Songs)
- Mourning (2 Samuel 3:33+34, 2 Chronicles 35:25, Lamentations)
- Journey & Work (Numbers 21:17f., Jeremiah 48:33)
- Victory (Moses and Miriam in Exodus 15:1-21, Deborah in Judges 5)

#### **Exodus 15:1-2**

Then Moses and the Israelites **sang this song** to the LORD: I will sing to the LORD, for he is highly **exalted**. The horse and its rider he has hurled into the sea. 2 The LORD is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation. He is my God, and I will **praise** him, my father's God, and I will **exalt** him.

#### **Exodus 15:20-21**

Then Miriam the prophetess, Aaron's sister, took a **tambourine** in her hand, and all the women followed her, with tambourines and dancing. 21 Miriam sang to them: **Sing** to the LORD, for he is highly **exalted**.

#### **Deuteronomy 31:19-22; 32:1-43**

Now write down for yourselves this song and **teach it** to the Israelites and make them sing it, so that it may be a witness for me against them. 20 When I have brought them into the land flowing with milk and honey, the land I promised on oath to their forefathers, and when they eat their fill and thrive, they will turn to other gods and worship them, rejecting me and breaking my covenant. 21 And when many disasters and difficulties come upon them, **this song will testify** against them, because it will not be forgotten by their descendants. I know what they are disposed to do, even before I bring them into the land I promised them on oath. 22 So Moses wrote down this **song** that day **and taught it** to the Israelites.

#### **Psalms 33:1-4**

1 Sing joyfully to the LORD, you righteous; it is fitting for the upright to **praise** him. 2 Praise the LORD with the **harp**; make music to him on the **ten-stringed lyre**. 3 **Sing to him a new song; play skilfully, and shout for joy**. 4 For the word of the LORD is right and true; he is faithful in all he does.

#### **Psalms 66**

1 **Shout** with joy to God, all the earth! 2 Sing the **glory** of his name; make his **praise** glorious! 3 Say to God, How awesome are your deeds...4 All the earth bows down to you; they sing praise to you, they sing praise to your name. ...8 Praise our God, O peoples, let the sound of his praise be heard... 16 Come and listen, all you who fear God; let me tell you what he has done for me. 17 I cried out to him with my mouth; his praise was on my tongue...

#### **Psalms 100**

1 Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth. 2 Worship the LORD with **gladness; come before him with joyful songs**. 3 Know that the LORD is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture. 4 Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. 5 For the LORD is good and his love endures for ever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.

#### **Psalms 150**

1 **Praise** the LORD. Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty heavens. 2 Praise him for his acts of power; praise him for his surpassing greatness. 3 Praise him with the **sounding of the trumpet**, praise him with the **harp and lyre**, 4 praise him with **tambourine and dancing**, praise him with the **strings and flute**, 5 praise him with the clash of **cymbals**, praise him with resounding cymbals. 6 Let everything that has breath praise the LORD. Praise the LORD.

## Psalm 130

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=un8IVBY2AS0](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=un8IVBY2AS0)

## New Testament

### Worship:

- Instructions & Teaching  
(Paul in 1 Corinthians 14:15+26, Ephesians 5:19, Colossians 3:16, Hebrews 2:12)
- Prayer, Praise & Thanksgiving  
(Mary in Luke 1:46-55, Zechariah in Luke 1:68-79, Simeon in Luke 2:29-32)
- Early Christian hymns (Ephesians 5:14, 1 Timothy 3:16)

### Life:

- Same occasions as in the Old Testament
- Gathering after Holy Communion (Disciples in Matthew 26:30)
- Prison (Paul and Silas in Acts 16:25)
- Joyful events (James 5:13, Romans 15:9-11)
- End times (Revelation 14:3, New Song and Song of the Lamb in 4:11, 5:9-14, 15:3f.)

## **1 Corinthians 14:26**

When you come together, everyone has a **hymn**, or a word of instruction, a revelation, a tongue or an interpretation. All of these must be done for the **strengthening of the church**.

## **Hebrews 2:12, 13:15**

He says, I will declare your name to my brothers; in the presence of the congregation I will **sing your praises**... By Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving **thanks** to His name.

## **James 5:13**

Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him **sing psalms**.

## **Today (relating to the Old and New Testament)**

There are many forms of music in **worship** and in the **life** of a Christian believer, perhaps ranging from classical music and traditional hymns to gospel, jazz, pop, hip-hop, rock, rap and heavy metal.

The Bible **doesn't explicitly forbid** a certain form of music. But: the Word of God is concerned with the **attitude** of Christians when using music in worship and life.

Scripture is very clear: Music, as everything else in worship and life, has to be used **for the glory of God**, and **with grace in the heart!**

## **1 Corinthians 10:31**

**Whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.**

## **Colossians 3:16**

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.

## **Isaiah 29:13**

The Lord says: These people **come near** to me with their mouth and **honour me with their lips**, but their **hearts** are **far from me**. Their worship of me is made up only of rules taught by men.

## **Romans 12:2**

Do **not conform** any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what **God's will** is - his good, pleasing and perfect will.

## **Ephesians 5: 15-20**

15 Be very **careful**, then, **how you live - not as unwise** but as **wise**, 16 making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. 17 Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is. 18 ... Be filled with the Spirit. 19 **Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart** to the Lord, 20 always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

### **1 Peter 1:13-16**

13 ...**Be self-controlled**; set your hope fully on the **grace** to be given you when Jesus Christ is revealed. 14 As obedient children, do **not conform** to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. 15 But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; 16 for it is written: Be **holy**, because I am holy.

### **1 John 2:15-17**

15 **Do not love the world or anything in the world.** If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For everything in the world - the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does - comes not from the Father but from the world. 17 The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives for ever.

## **Conclusion**

It's possible to use **various forms** of music in worship and life, as long as it is **glorifying** God and performed or enjoyed with a **grateful heart**.

Many artists and musicians in Finland and around the world profess and share their Christian faith by making music. They profess and share their faith in **direct** and/or **indirect ways**. Christians (and non-believers) can profit from this, either by listening or reproducing their music in worship and life.

**Direct:** Praise and worship songs, hymns, dance, lyrics speaking directly of God  
Examples: Jaakko Löytty ([www.wideline.fi/jaakkoloytty.htm](http://www.wideline.fi/jaakkoloytty.htm)), Pekka Simojoki ([www.myspace.com/exityhtye](http://www.myspace.com/exityhtye), [www.karavaanikulkee.net](http://www.karavaanikulkee.net)), Amy Grant ([www.amygrant.com](http://www.amygrant.com)), Rebecca St. James ([www.rsjames.com](http://www.rsjames.com)), Michael W. Smith ([www.michaelwsmith.com](http://www.michaelwsmith.com)), Misty Edwards ([www.myspace.com/mistyedwards](http://www.myspace.com/mistyedwards)) etc.

**Indirect:** Songs, lyrics and other forms of art related to music (dance, visual arts) telling indirectly about Jesus Christ. Example: Natasha Bedingfield ([www.natashabedingfield.com](http://www.natashabedingfield.com)) song "Soulmate" (Love song with double meanings)

## **Soulmate**

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=BEzbgGj7EaQ](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BEzbgGj7EaQ)

Incompatible, it don't matter though  
'cos someone's bound to hear my cry  
Speak out if you do  
You're not easy to find

Is it possible Mr. Loveable  
Is already in my life?  
Right in front of me  
Or maybe you're in disguise

Who doesn't long for someone to hold  
Who knows how to love you without being told  
Somebody tell me why I'm on my own  
If there's a soulmate for everyone

Here we are again, circles never end  
How do I find the perfect fit  
There's enough for everyone  
But I'm still waiting in line

Who doesn't long for someone to hold  
Who knows how to love you without being told  
Somebody tell me why I'm on my own  
If there's a soulmate for everyone

If there's a soulmate for everyone  
Most relationships seem so transitory  
They're all good but not the permanent one

Who doesn't long for someone to hold  
Who knows how to love you without being told  
Somebody tell me why I'm on my own  
If there's a soulmate for everyone

Who doesn't long for someone to hold  
Who knows how to love you without being told  
Somebody tell me why I'm on my own  
If there's a soulmate for everyone  
If there's a soulmate for everyone