

Singing & Planting

“let me write the songs of a nation, and I care not who writes its laws.” (Damon of Athens)

9th May 2024

*‘Not to us, LORD, not to us
but to your name be the glory,
because of your love and faithfulness.’
(Psalm 115:1)*

ABOUT ME

DON'T BE NAIVE!

20000+ songs = huge theological influence

Church planters:

- *You are privileged (blank slate)*
- *You have a big responsibility (it is all on you)*

'A thankful hymn-singing spirit has always marked the days of a Church's spiritual prosperity' (p.viii in 'Hymns for the Church On Earth' by J.C. Ryle)

SINGING THE WORD

1. **Distinct from other ministries of the Word** (from the heart, expression of joy, corporate)
 - 'Dwell Richly' in Col 3:16

"Richly" suggests that this constant reference to the word of Christ should not be superficial or passing but that it should be a deep and penetrating contemplation that enables the message to have transforming power in the life of the community. (Douglas Moo PNTC Colossians commentary p.286)

- 'Be filled with the Spirit' in Eph 5:18)

Why does singing encourage the above?

2. Singing is **memorable** (sermon points vs In Christ alone!)
3. Singing is **penetrative**

4. Singing is **corporate** (see how to build a healthy church ch13)
5. Singing is **combative** (Col 3 & Eph 5 context)
6. Singing is **strengthening**
7. Singing is a **blessing** (how much of the bible is song?!)

SINGING GOOD SONGS

What makes a good song?

1. Consider the **music**

'Joy, gladness, contentment, love, and a host of other positive sentiments are rightly expressed. But our music should not contradict our location in the history of God's saving work. The kingdom has only been inaugurated. It has yet to fully come. Our music should show an appropriate restraint.' (Location 2198 - 'How to Build a Healthy Church')

2. Consider the **words** (Habakkuk 3)
3. Consider **unity** / **diversity**

'One of the most important functions of congregational singing is that it highlights the corporate nature of the church and the mutual ministry that builds us up in unity.'
(Location 2094 - 'How to Build a Healthy Church')

ACCOMPANYING GOOD SONGS

1. Quantity & quality of instruments / kit
2. Skill of musicians (Psalm 33:3 Play skilfully)
3. Serve those gathered (classical / contemporary)

LEADING GOOD SONGS

1. Plan well

‘...periodically need to devote time on your calendar (two or three days) to planning services ahead of time—maybe three or four months of services at a time. This will be hard work at first, but it will free you up to create whole services that display thematic continuity, and will also free you up from the pressure of planning services week by week as they come.’ (Location 1549 - ‘How to Build a Healthy Church’)

2. Choose well
3. Introduce well
4. Lead well

‘Every element and form of our gathered worship should show people from Scripture God’s glory in Christ so that we can all be transformed together into an ever more faithful reflection of that glory.’ (Location 1347 - ‘How to Build a Healthy Church’)

ESSENTIAL READING

1. ‘How to Build a Healthy Church’ by Mark Dever and Paul Alexander (chapter 13 ‘Music’)
2. ‘Sing!’ by Keith & Kristyn Getty
3. ‘Corporate Worship’ by Matt Merker
4. www.music-ministry.org/dwell-richly/