

## Sing with Understanding: Growing as Musical Worshipers, Part Three

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### Questions for reflection:

- 1) Do you find the Puritans' opposition to formal prayers persuasive?
  
- 2) In churches that practice exclusive psalmody, their sermons and prayers are authored by fallible ministers. How do they defend exclusive psalmody when they don't hold preaching and prayer to the same litmus test?
  
- 3) Have you considered that God uses all worship elements to sanctify you, and his appointed worship leaders are discipling you in your worship? How do you feel about that?
  
- 4) Reflect on the potential benefits of a musical style in corporate worship that is dissimilar from the style of one's daily devotional music.
  
- 5) Consider the implications of Nehemiah 13:10-11. How does this passage demonstrate God's value for musical leadership and its related application to a church's stewardship priorities?
  
- 6) Can you persuasively defend Proclamation's musical practices without moralizing them? In other words, without claiming that our practices are "right" or "the best" or "Godly?" Or, another way of putting it, could you also persuasively defend another church's dissimilar musical traditions?
  
- 7) How might you exhort a sister or brother in Christ who might say they come to Proclamation "because of the music?"

### Supplemental reading, pt. 3:

- Donald Campbell, "Puritan Belief and Musical Practices in the Sixteenth, Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries," D.M.A. diss. (Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, 1994)
- Thomas Ford, *Singing the Psalms: The Duty of Christians Under the New Testament* (1634)
- Stanley R. Hall, "The American Presbyterian Directory for Worship: History of a Liturgical Strategy," Ph.D. diss. (University of Notre Dame, 1990)
- Daryl G. Hart, *Seeking a Better Country: 300 Years of American Presbyterianism* (P&R Publications, 2007)
- John Martin Maxwell, *Worship and Reformed Theology: The Liturgical Lessons of Mercersburg* (Pickwick Press, 1976)
- Nick Needham, "Westminster and Worship: Psalms, Hymns? And Musical Instruments?" in J. Ligon Duncan, ed. *The Westminster Confession into the 21st Century: Essays in Remembrance of the 350th Anniversary of the Westminster Assembly* (Mentor, 2003)
- James Hastings Nichols, *Corporate Worship in the Reformed Tradition* (Westminster Press, 1968)
- Bertus F. Polman, *Church Music and Liturgy in the Christian Reformed Church of North America*, Ph.D. diss. (University of Minnesota, 1981)
- Dennis J. Prutow, *Public Worship 101: An Introduction to the Biblical Theology of Worship, the Elements of Worship, Exclusive Psalmody, and A Cappella Psalmody* (Reformed Presbyterian Theological Seminary, 2013)
- Lester Ruth and Lim Swee Hong, *A History of Contemporary Praise & Worship: Understanding the Ideas that Reshaped the Protestant Church* (Baker Academic, 2021)
- Bryan Spinks, *Scottish Presbyterian Worship: Proposals for Organic Change, 1843 to the Present Day* (Saint Andrew Press, 2020)
- David M. Tripold, *Sing to the Lord a New Song: Choirs in the Worship and Culture of the Dutch Reformed Church in America, 1785-1860* (Eerdmans Publishing Co., 2012)