

# The Corporate Ministry of Singing

*Colossians 3:16*

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**Theme:** Foster the corporate indwelling of Scripture by singing doctrinally rich God centered songs.

**12** So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience;

**13** bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you.

Colossians 3:12–17

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14 Beyond all these things *put on* love, which is the perfect bond of unity.

15 Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful.

Colossians 3:12–17

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16 Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms *and* hymns *and* spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

17 Whatever you do in word or deed, *do* all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.

Colossians 3:12–17

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**Structure of Chapter 3:**

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Characteristic 1: Chosen

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3 Characteristics of every person who is in Christ: (v.12)

Characteristic 1: Chosen

Characteristic 2: Holy

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Characteristic 1: Chosen

Characteristic 2: Holy

Characteristic 3: Beloved

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Characteristic 1: Chosen

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**4 Descriptions:**

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1. Clothed in Christ's Character (12-14)

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2. Ruled By Christ's Peace (15)

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4. Committed to Christ's Glory (17)

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3. Filled With Christ's Word (16)

16 Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms *and* hymns *and* spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

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3. Filled With Christ's Word (16)

**1** How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel  
of the wicked,  
Nor stand in the path of sinners,  
Nor sit in the seat of scoffers!

**2** But his delight is in the law of the Lord,  
And in His law he meditates day and night.

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18 And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit,

19 speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord;

20 always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father;

Ephesians 5:18–20

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**Wisdom:** the capacity to understand and function accordingly  
(BDAG)

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**Teaching:** to give instruction or impart information.

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**3 Participles:** Teaching, Admonishing, Singing

**Teaching:** to give instruction or impart information.

**Admonishing:** to counsel about avoidance or cessation of an improper course of conduct, admonish, warn, instruct (BDAG)

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**Theme:** Foster the corporate indwelling of Scripture by singing doctrinally rich God centered songs.

Summary:

**The Command:** Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly

**The Application:** Instruct one another with wisdom

**The Means:** Through corporate singing

18 And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit,

19 speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord;

20 always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father;

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## **3 Categories:**

**Category 1:** Psalms

**Category 2:** Hymns

Definiton: a song with religious content, hymn/song of praise especially in honor of a deity

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**Allen Ross:** *"A hymn was more formal, loftier and more universal in scope [that is, than a spiritual song,] focusing on one or more of the divine attributes and not on our personal experiences."*

**15** He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.

**16** For by Him all things were created, *both* in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him.

**17** He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.

Colossians 1:15–20

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18 He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything.

19 For it was the *Father's* good pleasure for all the fullness to dwell in Him,

Colossians 1:15–20

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20 and through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross; through Him, *I say*, whether things on earth or things in heaven.

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## **3 Categories:**

**Category 1:** Psalms

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**25** But about midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns of praise to God, and the prisoners were listening to them;

Acts 16:25

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**Category 3:** Spiritual Songs

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**Allen Ross:** *"These are new songs that set forth the believer's spiritual enjoyment of life under God."*

9 And they sang a new song, saying,

“Worthy are You to take the book and to break its seals; for You were slain, and purchased for God with Your blood *men* from every tribe and tongue and people and nation.

Revelation 5:9

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Two crucial commonalities shared by all three types of songs:

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Two crucial commonalities shared by all three types of songs:

1. They Are Rich in Theology
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Implication 1: Worship through song is an essential part of our corporate worship.

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**Moises Silva:** *Next to the preaching of the word and participation in the sacrament, the heart of worship was this “spiritual singing”—a festive recognition of God in Jesus Christ as the Lord of the congregation and of the world.*

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Implication 1: Worship through song is an essential part of our corporate worship.

Implication 2: The content of our corporate singing must include Psalms, Hymns, and Spiritual Songs.

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2. It is to be a corporate means of instruction in Biblical truth

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Example 1:

*"The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose, I will not, I will not, desert to its foes, that soul though all hell should endeavor to shake, I'll never, no never, no never forsake."*

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Example 2:

*"Should my life be torn from me, every worldly pleasure, when all I possess is grief, God be then my treasure, be my vision in the night, be my hope and refuge, Til my faith is turned to sight, Lord my heart will praise you"*

*"O my soul put your hope in God, My help, my rock, I will praise Him, Sing O Song through the raging storm, You're still my God my salvation."*

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## Conclusion

1. Evaluate Your Singing Ministry