

STYLE VS PREFERENCE

We need to be intentional and thoughtful in our preparation. Most importantly, we need to put ourselves and our preferences aside. Our goal is not to promote the newest or to continue with the accepted. It is to facilitate the meeting of God and His people through musical worship.

Style can be a big point of contention in musical worship. Often the problem is not solely with the music, but rather with the person who is unwilling to entertain something new or different, or with the person who discounts centuries of church music.

Music is emotive and people can have a personal and profound connection to God through song. When we stop using a particular song, or infer that a certain hymn might be irrelevant, we may be incorrectly communicating the same things about their experience with God through that song.

This is one reason why a change in musical style can be so difficult in the church.

As we lead, we need to be mindful that preference is not about God, it is about us.

"This is what I like" is a personal statement. If the main argument for why we want to use a particular song in worship is "because I like it," it needs to be supported by:

Does it work for our congregation?

Does it fit within the theme of this service?

Are the words theologically sound?

If these things don't support why we like a song and want to use it in worship, then "because I like it" is not a good enough reason to add it to the worship service.

We need to take our preference out of the picture to facilitate the engagement and participation of the congregation.

God likes all expressions of love and worship that are offered, not only the contemporary or the traditional.

We need to cultivate an attitude amongst worship leaders that says:

"We don't use songs because they are new. We don't use songs because they are old. Rather, we use songs because they are a good tool to help us engage with God."