

The Worship Book of Why



Winter Bible Study Series
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Why Do We Use The Arts in Worship?



What ways do we typically incorporate the use of the arts into our times of worship?

Fitting liturgical arts express and deepen the corporate nature of a way of Christian life and worship.

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*For the Beauty of The Church:
Casting A Vision for The Arts*

1. Is there biblical precedent for using the arts in worship?

The [Old Testament](#) is certainly filled with examples of the arts in worship. Let's take a look at some examples. . .

The Book of Psalms

Exodus 15: 19-21

2 Samuel 6: 13-15

1 Chronicles 15:16

2 Chronicles 5: 11-13

The architecture and furnishings of the Tabernacle and the Temple

The [New Testament](#) also talks about the arts, particularly singing.

Matthew 26:30 mentions Jesus and the disciples sang a hymn after he shared the last supper with them.

Acts 16: 25 tells how singing can minister to us, and how we can minister through our voices.

Is there a New Testament directive about the arts in worship?

Here are a few passages to consider . . .

Ephesians 5: 19-20 and **Colossians 3:16**

Why does the Ephesians passage say we should “speak” with psalms . . . ?

Are there examples in the New Testament of the “hymns” they used? Probably so. For example:

Philippians 2:5-11 and **2 Timothy 2:11-13**

2. Why do we use the arts as expressions of worship?

The answer to that question is the answer to the question of why we worship at all:

Something has happened inside of us that we need to express.

Something needs to be proclaimed from us.

Something from the inside needs to be shared.

3. How should we use the arts in worship? In other words, “what are the rules?”

Art for worship must be a point of unity – something that brings us together.

Art for worship must move beyond mere sentimentality. Its purpose is not to “warm us up,” but to challenge and communicate.

Art for worship should be iconic – something we look *through* to hear and see the truth God wishes to communicate.