

Let Us Sing! (To Fulfill the Great Commandment)

Colossians 3:16 and Ephesians 5:18–20

(black Bibles pages 984 and 978; Children's Bibles pages 1466 and 1456)

Our sermon series merges two themes: (1) worship, and (2) the advent/Christmas season. Our theme verse is taken from the wise men, "[We] have come to worship him." (Matthew 2:2)

Jesus named this The Great(est) Commandment: "And you shall love the Lord your God with all your **heart** and with all your **soul** and with all your **mind** and with all your **strength**." (Mark 12:30)

- In other words, worship God alone!

What does singing in worship have to do with the Great Commandment? Let's look at how singing engages and summons our (1) heart, (2) soul, (3) mind, and (4) strength.

(1) Heart

- Jesus uses the word "heart" to speak of our *character* and *desires*. It's about what you choose to value in life. (Luke 6:45 and Matt 6:21)
- Sing with your heart: "And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, **singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart**, giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ..." (Eph 5:18-20)

(2) Soul

- Jesus uses the word "soul" to speak of our (eternal) *existence* and *emotions*. It's about your experience of life. (Matt 10:28, Mark 14:34)
- Mary sings from her soul about Christmas: "My soul magnifies the Lord!" (Luke 1:46)
- Emotional engagement in worship is *good*. See many psalms! Yet *emotionalism* is bad.

(3) Mind

- This is about our *thoughts and understanding*.
- Singing should engage the mind: "Let the **word** of Christ dwell in you richly, **teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom**, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God." (Col 3:16)

(4) Strength

- This is about deploying our *time and energy*. Your resources in life.
- Is singing to the Lord on a Sunday morning worth our time and energy?

Love the Lord your God with everything you have? Remember, He's loved us first.

- And He sings, too: "The Lord your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing." (Zeph 3:17)