

**What songs shall we sing in worship?**  
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Biblically and historically singing is a significant part of the worship of our Lord. Because lyrics matter, we wish to select songs that best enable us to both learn about our God (as he has revealed himself in Scripture) and to express our love to him. Therefore we have set forth the following criteria for the selection of our songs.

1<sup>st</sup> The songs we sing should convey enough truth about God to be worth memorizing and singing both privately and publicly.

2<sup>nd</sup> The songs we sing is that they should reflect the fullness of our God's person and work.

Not necessarily on any one Sunday but over many weeks, the songs should reflect the breadth of our God's character and grace. Robert Godfrey wrote, "Joy and reverence reflect the character of God, who is just and merciful, holy and loving. Worship that is only joyful serves a God stripped of half his attributes... It severs Law from Gospel and repentance from faith." (W. Robert Godfrey "The Reformation of Worship" in Here We Stand by Boice and Sasse, 1996)

3<sup>rd</sup> The music we use should fit the content of the song.

Not every song can match the music to the words as well as the "Hallelujah Chorus" or "A Mighty Fortress is our God," but it should be our aim.

4<sup>th</sup> The music and lyrics should be **sing-able** by a congregation.

5<sup>th</sup> The music and lyrics should be easy to remember.

What songs will our children and we know from memory in the years to come? What songs will inform their and our thoughts and be the basis of our private worship? I want our worship to become unself-conscious. C.S.Lewis wrote, "As long as you notice and have to count the steps, you are not yet dancing but only learning to dance. A good shoe is a shoe you don't have to notice. Good reading becomes possible when you need not consciously think about ...print or spelling. The perfect church service would be one we were almost unaware of; our attention would have been on God." (Letter to Malcolm, 4)

6<sup>th</sup> The sound of the music should not overwhelm the voices of the congregation. The purpose of the instruments in congregational singing is to support the primary instruments, which are the voices of the people.