



**Introduction:** Article: “Nation’s Largest Church of Christ Adding Instrumental Service.” Bobby Ross, Jr. The Christian Chronicle. Dec. 12, 2006. [www.christianchronicle.org](http://www.christianchronicle.org)

Is it true that “to be most faithful to God’s word” we must add instrumental praise?  
No, The Case is For A cappella Praise.

**I. A cappella Praise Because the New Testament \_\_\_\_\_ It**

- A. A cappella means \_\_\_\_\_ – Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary
- B. The New Testament directs Christians to sing praise to God by commands and examples; it does not direct Christians to play instruments for God as worship:
  1. Matt. 26:30; Mk. 14:26; Acts 16:25; Rom. 15:9; 1 Cor. 14:15
  2. Eph. 5:18-19; Col. 3:16; Heb. 2:12; Jas. 5:13
- C. The N. T. directs a cappella praise to God in contrast with the O. T. Christians live according to the gospel of Jesus Christ that fulfilled and replaced the Old Testament (Hebrews 7:11-16).
  1. O.T. said Burn \_\_\_\_\_ (Exodus 30:7-9) Yet N.T. is silent.
  2. O.T. said Light \_\_\_\_\_ (Exodus 40:4) Yet N.T. is silent.
  3. O.T. said Keep \_\_\_\_\_ Day (Deuteronomy 5:12-15) Yet N.T. is silent
  4. O.T. said Play \_\_\_\_\_ (2 Chronicles 29:25) Yet N.T. is silent.
  5. O.T. said \_\_\_\_ (Psalm 30:4, 12) N.T. says \_\_\_\_\_ (Col. 3:16). And so we sing a cappella praise.
- D. We need to stand on the scriptures (1 Thess. 5:21; 1 John 4:1; 1 Cor. 4:6).

**II. A cappella Praise Because \_\_\_\_\_ is For It**

- A. But isn’t this just a peculiar reading of the N.T. among churches of Christ? No, History is for it.
- B. Timeline and quotes supporting a cappella praise:
- C. Review the meaning of vocal singing: a cappella music.
  1. “As far as church history is concerned, the most telling confirmation of textual silence, ironically, is found in the very words, a cappella. Cappella is Latin for chapel or church. Taken in its literal meaning, the Italian a cappella means “in chapel style,” or “in the style of the church.” From the first century onward, vocal music was so distinctive from the instrumental music used in both pagan worship and private entertainment that it was uniquely known as music of the church – that is a cappella! So when we say that we sing a cappella, we are affirming what millions of believers over the centuries have affirmed – that the music of the church is distinctively vocal.” (F. Lagard Smith, The Cultural Church. p. 201)

**III. A cappella Praise Because Instrumental Music Does Not “\_\_\_\_\_”**

- A. Without scripture or history, proponents of instrumental music usually go the pragmatic route.
- B. Instrumental Music Does Not Make \_\_\_\_\_ (Rom. 1:16; John 8:31-32).
- C. Instrumental Music Does Not \_\_\_\_\_ Saints (Col. 3:16).
- D. Instrumental Music Does Not Promote \_\_\_\_\_ (Eph. 4:3)
- E. Instrumental Music Does Appeal to the \_\_\_\_\_.
  1. Instrumental music manipulates \_\_\_\_\_, emotion and pulse.
  2. Instrumental music entertains and teaches others that worship is a \_\_\_\_\_ (not so! John 4:23-24).