

# Why Do We Not Use Instruments?



*Nothing in the New Testament Instructs Us to Use Instruments*

*Instruments Have Grown Old and Have Passed Away*

*Because We Are Instruments – God Wants Our Hearts and the Fruit of Our Lips*

The background of the slide features a dark gray background with white musical notation. A single staff of music is visible, containing several notes and rests. The notes are stylized with large, dark, oval-shaped heads and stems. The staff lines are thin and white. The overall aesthetic is clean and modern.

# Instrumental Music

Responding to  
Arguments

# Arguments in Support of Instrumental Music



- 1. Jesus never deals with it*
- 2. It is a non-issue in Acts*

**Fallacy of Ignorance**

# Arguments in Support of Instrumental Music



3. *Colossians 3:16 and Ephesians 5:19 are addressed to the individual*

Simply False

# Arguments in Support of Instrumental Music



- 4. The only mention of singing in the assemblies is in 1 Corinthians 14:26 and that is a reference to solos.*

**Assumption / Non-Sequitur**

# Arguments in Support of Instrumental Music



5. *A first-time reader would never conclude that instrumental praise is unacceptable to God.*

**But they did for  
about 1,000 years!**



# Martin Luther (1483-1546)

“The church rings with the noise of trumpets, pipes, and dulcimers; and human voices strive to bear their part with them. Men run to the church as to a theatre, to have their ears tickled.”

“The organ in the worship is the ensign of Baal.”



# John Calvin (1509-1564)

“Musical instruments celebrating the praises of God would be no more suitable than the burning of incense, the lighting up of lamps, and the restoration of the other shadows of the law. The papists, therefore, have foolishly borrowed this, as well as many other things from the Jews. Men who are fond of outward pomp may delight in the noise; but the simplicity which God recommends to us by the apostles is far more pleasing to him.”





# John Calvin (1509-1564)

“Does any one object, that music is very useful for awakening the minds of men and moving their hearts? I own it; but we should always take care that no corruption creep in, which might both defile the pure worship of God and involve men in superstition. Moreover, since the Holy Spirit expressly warns us of this danger by the mouth of Paul, to proceed beyond what we are there warranted by him is not only, I must say, unadvised zeal, but wicked and perverse obstinacy.”



## John Wesley (1703-1791)

“I have no objection to instruments of music in our chapels provided they are neither heard nor seen.”

A black and white portrait of Adam Clarke, an elderly man with receding hair, wearing a dark coat and a white cravat. The portrait is positioned on the left side of the image.

# Adam Clarke (1760-1832)

“I am an old man, and an old minister, and I here declare that I never knew them productive of any good in the worship of God; and have had reason to believe that they were productive of much evil. Music as a science, I esteem and admire; but instruments of music in the house of God I abominate and abhor. This is the abuse of music; and here I register my protest against all such corruptions in the worship of the author of Christianity.”



# Charles Spurgeon (1834-1892)

“David appears to have had a peculiarly tender remembrance of the singing of the pilgrims, and assuredly it is the most delightful part of worship and that which comes nearest to the adoration of heaven. What a degradation to supplant the intelligent song of the whole congregation by the theatrical prettiness of a quartet, the refined niceties of a choir, or the blowing off of wind from inanimate bellows and pipes! We might as well pray by machinery as praise by it.”

The  
**LONDON BAPTIST  
CONFESSION OF FAITH  
OF 1689**

with Original Preface,  
Baptist Catechism,  
and Appendix on Baptism

Put forth by the elders and brethren  
of many congregations of Christians  
(baptized upon profession of their faith)  
in London and the country

# 1689 Baptist Confession of Faith

“The acceptable way of worship-  
ping the true God, is instituted by  
himself, and so limited by his  
own revealed will, that he may  
not be worshipped according to  
the imagination and devices of  
men, nor the suggestions of  
Satan, under any visible  
representations, or any other way  
not prescribed in the Holy  
Scriptures.”

# Arguments in Support of Instrumental Music



6. *The Hebrew author quotes Psalm 45 which references instrumental music.*

Special Pleading

# Arguments in Support of Instrumental Music



## 7. *Giftedness*

Emotional Pleading

# Arguments in Support of Instrumental Music



8. *“The Gospel is barrier enough. Why make it more difficult to reach the lost?”*

Emotional Pleading



# Arguments in Support of Instrumental Music



9. *“The shift is in one direction. No one is changing to a cappella music only.”*

Appealing to the Majority

# Arguments in Support of Instrumental Music



10. *“I can’t believe in a God who would send me to hell because I did not correctly infer His implication or interpret His silence.”*

Emotional Pleading /  
Red Herring

# Arguments in Support of Instrumental Music



*11. Miriam, Saul, and David used instruments*

But did Paul, Peter,  
and John?

# Arguments in Support of Instrumental Music



*12. “I can open my bible and show you why we practice baptism. I can show you why we partake of the Lord’s Supper. I can show you why we give. But I can’t do that with a cappella singing.”*

I Can

# Arguments in Support of Instrumental Music



*13. The first Christians still attended the sacrifices at the Jerusalem temple where instrumental music was used.*

Assumption /  
Localized Argument

# Arguments in Support of Instrumental Music



*14. “New Testament documents are not a literature that regulates assemblies in particulars but calls those assemblies to reflect cruciformity.”*

**Prestige Jargon**

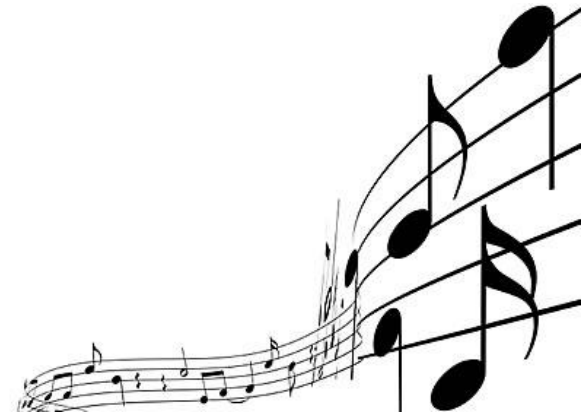
# Arguments in Support of Instrumental Music



*15. Continuity – God does not vacillate*

**God Always Tells Us  
What He Wants**

# Arguments in Support of Instrumental Music



*16. The term for “singing” in Ephesians 5:19 psallo which means to pluck.*

**Root Fallacy**



# Arguments in Support of Instrumental Music



*17. Does God really care?*

**Appeal to Indifference**

# Arguments in Support of Instrumental Music



*18. The deaf use instruments as their voice and to stay together.*

**False Dichotomy**

# Arguments in Support of Instrumental Music



*19. Colossians 3:16-17 – v 16 has the idea of singing, v 17 has the idea of playing – “in word or deed”*

**Simply Wrong**

# Arguments in Support of Instrumental Music



*20. I've never felt closer to God than when I worship with instruments of music.*

**Emotional Pleading**

# The Problem with Instruments (and Their Arguments)



*Almost No Appeal to Scripture*

*One Has To Create Situations, Occasions,  
or Problems to Which Instruments Might  
Be a Solution*

*Instruments Are Not Used for the Glory  
of God, but for the Pleasure of Men*

# What We Know



*God Is Pleased with Singing*

*God Commands Us to Sing*

*God Commands Us to Teach through  
Singing – Accomplished with Words*

# Why Do We Fight Scripture?



*Concerning Instrumental Music*

*Concerning Morality*

*Concerning Baptism*