



A SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST PERSPECTIVE

Singing with Meaning and Purpose

*"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly... singing with grace in your hearts
to the Lord."*

COLOSSIANS 3:16

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THE ARGUMENT OF THIS SEMINAR

**Church singing must be more than *beautiful sound*.
It must be truthful worship, heartfelt devotion, and
intentional ministry.**

Truthful

The words are biblically and doctrinally sound — the congregation is being taught, not merely moved.

Heartfelt

The singer believes what the text says. Spirit and understanding travel together.

Intentional

The song has an assignment in this service, at this moment, for these people.



Why Do We Sing in Church?

Before the theology, an honest audit. Which of these drives our song selection?

1

To praise God

The worshipper's reason.

2

To prepare hearts for the Word

The service's reason.

3

To preserve truth through song

The church's reason.

4

To inspire the congregation

Right — if it means edify, not excite.

5

To display talent

A reason we act on, but cannot defend.

6

Because it is our tradition

Habit is not the same as worship.

The two outlined cards are not sins — they are insufficient reasons. A ministry built on them will eventually sing well and mean nothing.



Seven Things Scripture Sends Song to Do

Every one of these is a job. Ask which job today's song has been given.

1

Praise

Celebrating the character and works of God

Psalm 96:1-3

2

Teaching

Preserving doctrine and truth in the memory

Colossians 3:16

3

Testimony

Telling what God has personally done

Psalm 40:3

4

Prayer

Turning the heart Godward in song

Psalm 42:8

5

Encouragement

Strengthening believers in difficulty

Acts 16:25

6

Unity

Joining the congregation in one voice

2 Chronicles 5:13

7

Mission

Declaring God's glory among the nations

Psalm 96:3

Ask on Sabbath:

"Which of these seven is this song being asked to do this morning?"



Meaning and Purpose — Two Different Questions

Meaning looks at the song. Purpose looks at the service. A song can pass one test and fail the other.

Singing with MEANING

“Do I know and believe what I am about to sing?”

- 1 Knowing what the words actually say
- 2 Understanding the theology behind them
- 3 Internalising the text before singing it
- 4 Matching musical expression to the message
- 5 Ministering from conviction, not memory

Singing with PURPOSE

“Why is this song here, in this service, today?”

- 1 Every song carries a spiritual assignment
- 2 Why are we singing this song today?
- 3 What truth is it sent to communicate?
- 4 How does it fit the worship theme?
- 5 What should it accomplish in the congregation?