

PLAIN SPEECH

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“Seeing then that we have such hope, we use great plainness of speech” (2 Cor. 3:12)

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UNSCRIPTURAL SONGS

I suppose it's safe to say that nearly every non-institutional (NI) congregation (often a contradiction of terms nowadays) understands that the Bible teaches those who promote false doctrine must be silenced (cf. **Titus 1:10-11**). However, it's also safe to say that nearly every so-called NI congregation unwittingly promotes error during their various assembly times. How? By singing songs (often heart-felt favorites) that are unscriptural. Let me give you some examples taken from a common song book, *Hymns for Worship (Revised Version)*.

#187 – Lord Make Calvary Real To Me

I have heard people lead this song “in preparation for the Lord's Supper.” You have got to be kidding me! Listen, if the events on Calvary are not real to the song leader, he needs to sit down and shut up. If Calvary is not real to those in the pews, they need not to partake of the Lord's Supper. How can one obey **1 Cor. 11:23-26** and yet be admitting to God that the crucifixion is not real to him/her? Amazing! “*But it sure sounds pretty,*” someone responds. How pretty a song sounds is not the measuring stick as to whether or not a song should be sung. Whether or not a song dovetails with scripture is the litmus test.

#161 – Hallelujah! What a Savior!

People love this song, but it has unscriptural ideas in it. The 2nd verse contains these words about the Lord: “*Bearing shame and scoffing rude, in my place condemned he stood.*” The underlined part constitutes the substitution theory that is so prevalent amongst the “conservative.” Contrary to the many times it is uttered by some “brother” before partaking of the Lord's Supper, Jesus did not take our place. He did not take our place in physical death (**Heb. 9:27**). Moreover, Jesus did not take our place via a spiritual death. Are we really to assert that Jesus died spiritually at Golgotha? If so, how did Jesus end up in paradise (**Lk. 23:39-43**) but suffer a spiritual death by literally taking all of mankind's sin upon Him (**Rom. 3:23**)? Jesus did not “take our place” on the cross. How could He have? Is there any living people today who were foreordained to die on a Roman cross as Jesus was (cf. **Zech. 12:10; Rev. 13:8**)? Be honest now. Jesus did not save us from the punishment of the cross because a cross is not our punishment for sin. “*But we've sung that song for countless years,*” someone chimes in. Whether or not a song has been sung for a long time is irrelevant as to whether or not that song should continue to be sung. The Samaritans sung praise for Simon the sorcerer for a long time, and they were dead wrong in so doing (**Ax. 8:11**).

#93 – My God and I

This song is another favorite of so many. However, how any can believe **1 Pet. 4:11** and **Col. 3:17** and still sing this song is beyond me. The song states that humans walk through fields and meadows with God. Think about it. Do we literally walk through fields and meadows with God as the song proposes? The singer of the song claims he/she shares laughs with God. I have a very good friend in another state. I recall one time he and I were talking about a humorous video clip we had seen about flatulence. Is such something He or I should approach God with? No! Man's relationship with Deity is to be filled with reverence and godly fear (**Heb. 12:28**). Please do not try to twist **Jn. 15:14**. The song suggests that we clasp hands (hold hands) with God. Do we? No! More is wrong with this song, but the fact that it is unscriptural is obvious.

#126 – Open My Eyes That I May See

Last time I checked most people who call themselves members of the church are in agreement that God does not directly operate upon the human heart, but rather today operates indirectly through the Word (cf. **Eph. 6:17; 2 Tim. 3:16-17**). Yet, this song smacks of the direct operation through and through. The 1st verse goes this way: “*Open my eyes that I may see glimpses of truth thou hast for me.*” God's Word is truth (**Jn. 17:17**), and this song is asking God to open one's eyes to grasp that truth. Wow! How erroneous! The song continues: “*Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see: Open my eyes, illuminate Me, Savior divine.*” Can anyone else say CALVINISM?!

More examples could be given. **Col. 3:16** states: “*Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.*” Are we to teach and admonish one another with unscriptural concepts?

Folks, it is just as easy to sing false doctrine as it is to preach it. Think on these things!