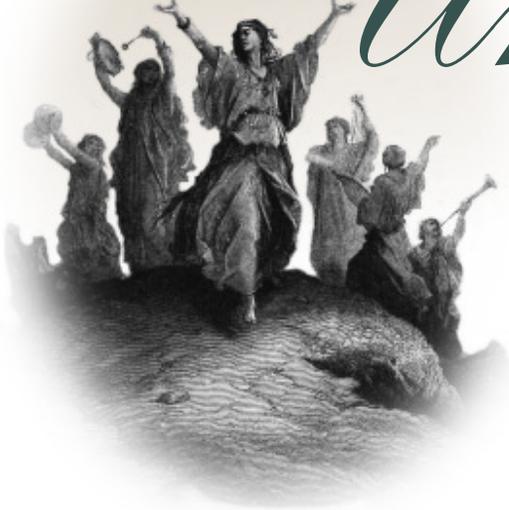


# In Unison



The trumpeters and  
singers joined in unison,  
as with one voice, to  
give praise and thanks  
to the Lord.  
*2 Chronicles 5:13*

## Obeying Our Parent

of lowly flesh, still committing our sins, still grossly imperfect—especially when compared to the perfection of our Father.

It is important that we remember who is on top. It is important—as worship leaders—that we approach corporate worship as obedient servants.

### Why do you sing in the choir?

Most people would probably answer that they sing in the choir because they feel they are capable: they are good singers, so they feel qualified to sing. Others might say, if honest, that they are members of the choir because they enjoy the camaraderie, the feeling of belonging. Still others sing in the choir because it's just fun; they enjoy it, and consider it almost recreational.

But why do you sing in the choir? And with what attitude do you approach the time of worship? Jesus said,

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment.”  
Matthew 22:36-38

Notice that Jesus did not say that this is the first and greatest ‘suggestion’ or ‘recommendation.’ He said it is the first and greatest *commandment*.

We worship God because, as His adoring sons and daughters, we are compelled to. It is the foundation and lifeblood of our relationship with Him.

But we also worship God because we've been told to. To do otherwise would be to disobey our parent.

The effective choir member is the one who strides confidently into the choir loft, knowing fully his or her vaulted position as a child of God—yet, at the same time, understanding perfectly his or her responsibility for humility before a holy God.

### Obedience.

Are you singing out of obedience? Are you leading others in worship because you love your Father so much that you dare do nothing less? Or are you singing in the choir because you haven't anything better to do?

Why do you sing in the choir?

*Y*et, O LORD, you are our Father. We are the clay, you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand. *Isaiah 64:8*

One of the paradoxes of the Christian faith is the sublime counterpoint of, first, our high standing in Christ against, second, our humility before God. Both are equally true. We are brothers and sisters with the Son of God—joint heirs, sharing in His legacy. We have the right of sonship through adoption.

“I will be a Father to you, and you will be my sons and daughters,” says the Lord Almighty. *2 Corinthians 6:18*

But while it is true that, through the blood of Christ, we are adopted sons and daughters of holy God, we remain

*T*

hese books by John

MacArthur, Jr. have been quoted in

In Unison and are recommended

as excellent resources for coming to

a deeper understanding of authen-

tic, Biblical worship.

- ***The Ultimate Priority*** (Moody Press, 1983), paper, 168 pages.
- ***True Worship*** (Moody Press, 1985), paper, 112 pages.



“Worship is not optional. In Matthew 4:10, in response to Satan’s temptation, Jesus quoted Deuteronomy 6:13: ‘You shall worship the Lord your God, and serve Him only.’ In saying that to Satan, He swept into the command every being ever created. All are responsible to worship God. “The foundation upon which true worship is based is redemption. The Father and Son have sought to redeem us that we may become worshipers. Jesus said that the Son of Man came into the world to seek and to save that which was lost (Luke 19:10). In John 4 he reveals the purpose for His seeking: ‘For such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers’ (v23). The Father sent Christ to seek and save for the specific purpose of producing worshipping people. “Thus, the objective of redemption is making worshipers. The primary reason we are redeemed is not so that we may escape hell—that is a blessed benefit, but not the major purpose. The central objective for which we are redeemed is not even so that we might enjoy the manifold eternal blessings of God. In fact, the supreme motive in our redemption is not for us to receive anything. Rather, we have been redeemed so that God may receive worship—so that our lives might glorify Him. Any personal blessing for us is a divine response to the fulfillment of that supreme purpose.” John MacArthur, Jr., *The Ultimate Priority*, p23-24.

## Scripture

Ask now about the former days, long before your time, from the day God created man on the earth; ask from one end of the heavens to the other: Has anything so great as this ever happened, or has anything like it ever been heard of? Has any other people heard the voice of God speaking out of fire, as you have, and lived? Has any god ever tried to take for himself one nation out of another nation, by testings, by miraculous signs and wonders, by war, by a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, or by great and awesome deeds, like all the things the Lord your God did for you in Egypt before your very eyes?

You were shown these things so that you might know that the Lord is God; besides him there is no other: From heaven he made you hear his voice to discipline you. On earth he showed you his great fire, and you heard his words from out of the fire. Because he loved your forefathers and chose their descendants after them, he brought you out of Egypt by his Presence and his great strength, to drive out before you nations greater and stronger than you and to bring you into their land to give it to you for your inheritance, as it is today.

Acknowledge and take to heart this day that the Lord is God in heaven above and on the earth below. There is no other. Keep his decrees and commands, which I am giving you today, so that it may go well with you and your children after you and that you may live long in the land the Lord your God gives you for all time.

Deuteronomy 4:32-40

You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

What I am saying is that as long as the heir is a child, he is no different from a slave, although he owns the whole estate. He is subject to guardians and trustees until the time set by his father. So also, when we were children, we were in slavery under the basic principles of the world. But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons. Because you are sons, God sent the

Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "Abba, Father." So you are no longer a slave, but a son; and since you are a son, God has made you also an heir. Galatians 3:26-4:7

For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will—to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. Ephesians 1:4-6

You are all sons of the light and sons of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness.

1 Thessalonians 5:5

## Hymns and Choruses

More Love to Thee (Prentiss)

Once earthly joy I craved,  
Sought peace and rest;  
Now Thee alone I seek,  
Give what is best.

Stand Up and Bless the Lord (Montgomery)

Though high above all praise,  
Above all blessing high,  
Who would not fear His holy name,  
And laud and magnify?

All People That on Earth do Dwell (Kethe)

All people that on earth do dwell,  
Sing to the Lord with cheerful voice;  
Him serve with fear, His praise forth tell,  
Come ye before Him and rejoice.

Breath on Me, Breath of God (Hatch)

Breath on me, Breath of God,  
Till I am wholly Thine,  
Until this earthly part of me  
Glows with Thy fire divine.

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