

## **A Disputation on the Role of Music in the Public Worship of the Church**

### **9.5 Theses**

by Gary A. Parrett

1. Our heavenly Father, in seeking worshipers who will worship him in spirit and in truth, wills that the whole life of believers should be worship.

2. Furthermore, the word “worship,” when it is applied to public gatherings of the saints, cannot be reduced to a synonym for singing praises.

3. Worship involves a rhythm of revelation and response: God graciously reveals himself to us and we are obliged to faithfully respond. In public worship, all the elements, including musical elements, must assist worshipers in either more clearly understanding God’s revelation, more faithfully forming their response to God, or both.

4. Those who lead the congregation in song, then, must be theologically equipped for this important task.

5. Faithful response to God involves more than praise. Thus we need a much broader range of songs available for the use of congregations.

6. The Body of Christ in worship is more than an assembly of individual worshipers. When we “come together,” we must discern the Body, and submit to it.

7. The Body of Christ is far bigger than we usually think it is. The breadth and diversity of its global and historical reach should, in significant ways, be reflected in our services of worship.

8. Those who lead the Church in song are called to assist the congregation in its singing, not to replace it. Technologies such as amplification, then, must be used with theological and pastoral sensitivity.

9. The Seeker whom we must serve in our worship services is, first and foremost, God himself. This truth should affect everything about our approach to public and personal worship.

9.5 In its services of public worship, as in all expressions of its life, the Church must obey such Scriptures as Philippians 2:3-4: “Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others more important than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others” (NIV).