

20 WAYS TO IMPROVE YOUR CONGREGATIONAL SINGING

Matt Merker

1. Teach a theology of congregational singing.
2. Pastors: lead by example.
3. Select songs with robust theology.
4. Select songs with profound poetry.
5. Select songs with stirring congregational melodies.
6. Sing about every aspect of the Christian life.
7. Arrange instrumentation not to overpower but to facilitate the congregation's voice.
8. Try to make the style of the musical accompaniment hospitable to the whole congregation.
9. Put songs in a key that fits the congregation's musical range and sing at a natural tempo.
- *10. Encourage people to sing harmony parts.
11. Go *a cappella* often.
12. Lead singing invitingly.
13. Make the structure of each song intuitive to follow.
14. Turn the lights up.
15. Consider seating.
16. Introduce new songs intentionally.
17. Promote musical literacy.
18. Promote singing in the home.
19. Cultivate an encouraging and honest feedback process.
20. Pray.