

**A Tool to Evaluate Hymns and Contemporary Worship Songs for Use in the Lutheran Congregation** — *Using the Criteria: “Essence, Form and Function”*

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Name of Hymn/Song

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Source of Hymn/Song (Hymnal or Songbook, etc.)

Suitable for faithful use:  Yes  No

Comments:

1. What is the primary focus of the hymn/song? In other words, what is its **ESSENCE**? What does the hymn/song primarily refer to?

Justification (Gospel) It is:  Christ-centered  
- What God has done for us in Christ

Sanctification — (works of faith)  Man-centered

Both Justification and Sanctification

Other . . .

Other . . .

2. Is the Gospel clearly stated? If not, why not? (E.g., are objective and subjective justification kept distinct?)  Yes  No

3. Is there a confusion of Law and Gospel? (E.g., “All you have to do is ask Jesus into your heart . . .”) If so, describe how Law and Gospel are confused.

Yes  No

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4. How are the sacraments (Baptism & the Lord’s Supper) treated in this hymn/song?

Not at all

God’s work of grace (Baptism/correct emphasis)

A good work we do or decision we make (Baptism/incorrect emphasis)

As body & blood of Christ (Lord’s Supper/correct emphasis)

As symbols of body & blood (Lord’s Supper/incorrect emphasis)

Others:

5. How would you classify this particular hymn/song? What is its **FORM**?

Traditional-Classical  Folk  Spiritual  Jazz

Contemporary  Soft Rock  Hard Rock

Other:

Comments:

6. What is the **FUNCTION** of the hymn/song? (Check as many as you think characterize the hymn/song. More than one may apply.)

To Proclaim the Gospel to the World  To Encourage

To Teach the Gospel  To Edify

To Praise God Others:

To Tell a Biblical Story

To Comfort Consciences Burdened by Sin

7. Does the hymn/song promote good order and decorum? In other words, does the hymn/song draw the worshiper to focus clearly on the Gospel, and not just on the style of the music? If there is frivolity or offense, explain why.

Yes

No, it contains . . .

Frivolity  Offense

Why? . . .

8. Is there anything you would change about the hymn/song?

Its Wording

Its Music / difficult to sing / distracts from the Gospel

Its Length / too long or too short

No Change

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