

The Top Ten Reasons that the Evangelical Heritage Version (EHV) Is a Worship-Friendly Translation

Like most of the books of the New Testament, the EHV is addressed first of all to the church gathered in worship, prayer, and study. It is largely through the church that Christ delivers his Bible to the world. For this reason the EHV focuses on the public use of the text.

- 1) The EHV makes a conscious effort to preserve a familiar sound in well-known passages which are important to the worship and catechetical life of the church.
- 2) The EHV is “worship friendly” because it makes an effort to preserve language and terms that are embedded in our hymns and liturgy, like *saints* and *communion*.
- 3) The EHV preserves heritage terms like *sanctify*, *justify*, *covenant*, *angels*, and *saints*, but not to the exclusion of explanatory terms like *make holy*, *declare righteous*, *holy people*, etc. The EHV makes an effort to retain key terms that appear in the creeds, catechisms, and hymnals of the church. A translation should not stray too far from the worship language of the church.
- 4) The EHV keeps traditional names like the Ark, Ark of the Covenant, manger, etc., unless a newer term is significantly better at communicating the meaning of the original, such as *Bread of the Presence* for *Showbread* or *Dwelling* for *Tabernacle*.

When the EHV uses a new term for an important biblical concept, it cites the traditional term in a footnote attached to at the first occurrence of the new term in a specific context.

- 5) The Wartburg Project web site offers pastors and congregations free, downloadable, ready-to-paste lessons for all of the lectionaries commonly used in WELS, ELS, and LCMS congregations. It freely grants permission to others who wish to create lectionaries that use the EHV. (However, ask for permission if you plan to use more than 1000 verses/)
- 6) Like the *Lutherbibel* the EHV is translated for the ear no less than for the eye. Luther realized that his Bible would be read aloud in church and in family devotion, therefore he tried to make the sound pleasing to the ear. He avoided harsh constructions, unbalanced sentences and disturbing subordinate clauses. The result was a rhythmic flow of language.

All the EHV lessons have been thoroughly “sound tested” by congregations.

- 7) In the psalms and prophets, the EHV formatting and punctuation are designed to assist users in recognizing the musical units and the dividing points for antiphonal reading. The EHV is willing to work with composers who wish to improve the musical flow of the translation for their compositions.
- 8) The EHV is a grass-roots translation, which makes extensive use of parish pastors and lay people in the editing and evaluation of the translation. This process helps make it worship-friendly.
- 9) Because EHV is a gift to the church, produced at very low cost because of the abundance of volunteer labor, it is able to offer very favorable terms for the use of the EHV text in derived works. Up to 1000 verses can be used in a work without permission.
- 10) The EHV has given a written promise that it will never deny individuals or churches who have obtained rights to use the EHV in derivative works the right to continue to use the version of the EHV which they have adopted, even if new versions of the EHV appear someday.