

Today there is a great confusion in the church concerning what kind of music can a Christian listen to, sing or play. The generation today has not been trained in what is appropriate for a Christian. We must address this issue and help the church and the Christians in the church to understand exactly what God says about certain kinds of music.

This generation today accepts everything. The church has become so carnal that being separated from the world is a ridiculous thought. Although the mainstream believes that any kind of music is good, the Bible disagrees. When you make a judgment toward anything, including music, it must be made with scripture. The following are reasons why the born again believer should abstain from worldly and contemporary style Christian music.

I. Origin

(Where did it come from?)

II. Motives

(Glory to God or the flesh?)

III. Actions

(The old out the New in!)

The origin

(Where did it come from?)

What is rarely considered when listening to music is where it came from. Even a good Gospel hymn, if sung by a lost person should not be a choice of artist to listen too. Some love to hear Elvis Presley's Gospel album. The songs all may be church hymns, but the origin is a man that did not walk with God. The Bible teaches that once a person is saved they are to come out from among the lost. Their ways are to change and they should not want to act nor be around the carnal world. Music and other things are included in the scriptures. In **2 Corinthians 6:17** it says, **"Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you,"** and in **1 John 2:15** it says, **"Love not the world, neither the things *that are* in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him."** Separation can be a very hard thing to do, but it is a very necessary thing. To be able to think as God would think and to live a life that God is pleased with, you must prevent your mind from being influenced with music that has a bad origin. As you surrender your heart to Gods desires, you will find that your music must Glorify Him.

The world and Christians can take Gospel songs and corrupt them. The origin of music must be found. If lost people preform the music, it should be avoided and likewise if a good song is performed in a worldly way, that should be avoided. As a Christian, we must be sure that our testimony is clean. The Lord has forgiven us, but the world is looking for the Christian to compromise and act as they do. The Bible says in **Amos 3:3**, **"Can two walk together, except they be agreed?"**

The moment the church let her guard down; satan came in through the music and has been corrupting the music ever since. Most do not realize that satan was the minister of music in Heaven. **Ezekiel 28:13** says, **"Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God; every precious stone *was* thy covering, the sardius, topaz, and the diamond, the beryl,**

the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle, and gold: the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created. Knowing this, we can be assured that he will use corrupt music to side track the church and its converts. The Lord wants the Christians mind to be set on things that are Godly and not worldly. **Colossians 3:2** says, “**Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.**” Also in **Philippians 4:8** it says, “**Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.**” The Christian has to be careful in what they allow their hearts to be exposed to. If the roots of music are from the world or it has the sound of the world, it is best that the Christian leave what is worldly alone.

The Motive

(Glory to God or the flesh?)

When Christians are trying to decide what is right and wrong, motive is a key to a Godly decision. The motive of music deals with the reason in which it was made. Most everyone that produces music, that are called Christians, will tell you they are singing for the glory of God. What they do not tell you is that when the music is perform that the Spirit with in is not moved, but the flesh is! All through the Bible, the Lord tells us that our music should have the motive to Glorify Him, not the flesh. **Ephesians 5:19** says “**Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord;**”. Anytime music makes your want to move the flesh as the world does, it is wrong. The Bible says in **Ephesians 4:29**, “**Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may**

minister grace unto the hearers.” Our motives for all music should be to lift the Lord up, to praise Him. The flesh has to be killed daily and not allowed to control the motive. **Colossians 3:23** says, **“And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men.”**

The danger of contemporary and carnal music is it is directed to make the man happy, to gratify the desires of the flesh and not to really lift Christ. If you listen to most of the popular “Christian Music” today, you will notice that the music is always much louder than the lyrics. The reason for this is that the flesh loves musical beats more than Godly lyrics. A few verses above Colossians 3:23 is **Colossians 3:17**, **listen to what it says, “And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.”**

When we are singing, or listening to someone sing, the music and lyrics should be directed to the Lord. Worldly styles and lost singers are not following the Word of God. They follow the desires of the flesh. The following are verses that tell us to “Sing unto the Lord”:

Exodus 15:1 **“Then sang Moses and the children of Israel this song unto the LORD, and spake, saying, I will sing unto the LORD, for he hath triumphed gloriously: the horse and his rider hath he thrown into the sea.”**

Judges 5:3 **“Hear, O ye kings; give ear, O ye princes; I, even I, will sing unto the LORD; I will sing praise to the LORD God of Israel.”**

1Chronicles 16:23 **“Sing unto the LORD, all the earth; shew forth from day to day his salvation.”**

Psalms 13:6 **“I will sing unto the LORD, because he hath dealt bountifully with me.”**

Psalms 30:4 **“Sing unto the LORD, O ye saints of his, and give thanks at the remembrance of his holiness.”**

Psalms 95:1 **“O come, let us sing unto the LORD: let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation.”**

Psalms 96:1 **“O sing unto the LORD a new song: sing unto the LORD, all the earth.”**

Psalms 96:2 “Sing unto the LORD, bless his name; shew forth his salvation from day to day.”

Psalms 98:1 “O sing unto the LORD a new song; for he hath done marvellous things: his right hand, and his holy arm, hath gotten him the victory.”

Psalms 98:5 “Sing unto the LORD with the harp; with the harp, and the voice of a psalm.”

Psalms 104:33 “I will sing unto the LORD as long as I live: I will sing praise to my God while I have my being.”

Psalms 147:7 “Sing unto the LORD with thanksgiving; sing praise upon the harp unto our God:”

Psalms 149:1 “Praise ye the LORD. Sing unto the LORD a new song, *and* his praise in the congregation of saints.”

Isaiah 12:5 “Sing unto the LORD; for he hath done excellent things: *this is* known in all the earth.”

Isaiah 42:10 “Sing unto the LORD a new song, *and* his praise from the end of the earth, ye that go down to the sea, and all that is therein; the isles, and the inhabitants thereof.”

Jeremiah 20:13 “Sing unto the LORD, praise ye the LORD: for he hath delivered the soul of the poor from the hand of evildoers.”

The motive of the believer should be to lift up the Lord and to honor Him and not the flesh. We can also find what our tongues can be used for in the scriptures. **James 3:8-11** says, “But the tongue can no man tame; *it is* an unruly evil, full of deadly poison. 9 Therewith bless we God, even the Father; and therewith curse we men, which are made after the similitude of God. 10 Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be. 11 Doth a fountain send forth at the same place sweet *water* and bitter?” Anything that comes out of our mouth, our anything that we initially hear should be good enough the Lord would say it or listen to it! Although the defenders of contemporary and carnal music will say it is fine, it does not hurt you, they are wrong. The minds become polluted with the idea that it is fine to ride the fence, be one way on Sunday and another way on Monday.

Our motive on Sunday is to sing songs and listen to Godly music and it should be the same all week. **In 1Corinthians 15:58 it says, “Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.”** This means to stay consistent for God in your motive!

One last thought on motives in music. There are many songs that can be called “silly songs”, “theme songs” or just generic music that does not have the Gospel in it. This music is not music you would listen to in church or in a worship service. The way you judge this music is the same way you do with the rest. That music should never take away from God or have inappropriate lyrics or musical arrangements. The root of the music should always have the desire to honor God.

Actions

(The old out the New in!)

There will always be disagreements about music. However, when you get to the point of how the Christian is supposed to act, the truth stands out. Once you are saved your life changes and so do your music desires. The world has entered in the Christian music because, so called Christians, miss there worldly beats and party music, so they use the same styles and put a few religious words in the song. **In 2 Corinthians 5:17 it says, “Therefore if any man *be* in Christ, *he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.*”** All things are new, even your music taste. The devil is out to corrupt and water down the things of God. He started with the corrupt bible versions and now it is Gods sacred, Jesus honoring, music. The groups that sing contemporary and worldly music all act like the world. They want to dress immodest, act immodest, hang out with the world and want the attention of the world. Christians should want Gods attention. If you get His

attention, you will have the world's attention. However, the difference will be that they will see Christ and not compromise. Either our actions will help others come to Christ or they will cause others not to want God. In **1 Corinthians 8:13** it says, **“Wherefore, if meat make my brother to offend, I will eat no flesh while the world standeth, lest I make my brother to offend.”** The Christian should not participate in anything that would cause another person to stumble. **What you do will indicate who you really are!**

In conclusion, your stand on style of music must come from God. The church and booklets as this can help reveal scriptures that apply, but your conviction about the subject must be God sent. It is not the use of different types of instruments that are bad; it is in what manner that they are used. If you would carefully study the scriptures in this booklet and pray for Gods conviction and understanding, God will direct you. Remember that God will bless us, if we use our time blessing HIM!

DO YOU KNOW FOR SURE THAT IF YOU DIED TODAY YOU WOULD MEET JESUS?

If Jesus Christ returned today, do you know for sure that you would go to Heaven with Him?

REALIZE THAT GOD LOVES YOU

God loves you and has a plan for your life.

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." John 3:16

THE BIBLE SAYS THAT ALL MEN ARE SINNERS

Our sins have separated us from God.

"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God." Romans 3:23

God made man in His own image. He gave man the ability to choose right from wrong. We choose to sin. Our sins separate us from God.

GOD'S WORD ALSO SAYS THAT SIN MUST BE PAID FOR

"For the wages of sin is death..." Romans 6:23

Wages means payment. The payment of our sin is death and hell, separation from God forever. If we continue in our sin, we shall die without Christ and be without God forever.

THE GOOD NEWS IS THAT CHRIST PAID FOR OUR SINS

All our sins were laid on Christ on the cross. He paid our sin debt for us.

"But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." Romans 5:8

WE MUST PERSONALLY PRAY AND RECEIVE CHRIST BY FAITH AS OUR SAVIOUR

The Bible says, *"For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."*
Romans 10:13

PRAY AND RECEIVE CHRIST AS YOUR SAVIOUR

Lord, I know that I am a sinner. If I died today, I would not meet you in Heaven. I believe that you died for my sins and were raised the third day. Forgive my sin, come into my life and be my Saviour. Help me live for You from this day forward. In Jesus' name, Amen.

NEW LIFE

Everlasting life begins when you receive Christ as your Saviour.

LET US HELP YOU IN YOUR NEW LIFE AS A CHRISTIAN

Contact the pastor of the church and ask for material that will help you in your studies of Jesus.