

Hymnspiration

Why We Sing What We Sing!



A Brief Study of the Music of the Bible Believing Christian

Part Five – Using Might Rightly

Pastor's Edition

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Concluding Session – Using Music Rightly

How Christians Can Best Use Their Need to Sing

Psalm 50:23; 1Peter 1:15

I. Review the Principles of Music from Scripture

- A. Christians are Peculiar (different) from the world – even in our MUSIC (1Peter 2:9)
- B. We are commanded to TEST everything we do by the word of God, not by our feelings (1Thes 5:21,22; 1John 4:1)
- C. Who was in charge of music in heaven at first (Ezek 28:13)? _____. Shouldn’t HIS tactics be worrisome when it comes to MUSIC in a believer’s life? _____
- D. What are the three types of music that a Christian should be listening to (Col 3:16)
 - 1. _____ - Scripture put to music that affect the soul
 - 2. _____ - Songs in honour of God that affect the life of the believer (the flesh)
 - 3. _____ - Songs that affect the spirit
- E. The most important part of the music we listen to is the WORDS (Col 3:16; Jude 1:3). They need to be the dominate part of our music!
- F. Modern Christian Music (CCM) downplays the words of their music (just repetitious simple phrases that “seem” to be Christian) and instead, emphasizes the music itself – anything that just emphasizes the music instead of the message is suspect and should NOT be accepted as either godly or spiritual (1Cor 2:4; 1:21).
- G. Our emotions most of all must be anchored to TRUTH instead of just feelings (3 John 1:4)
- H. What is the test a believer can put any music to, to tell if it is appropriate for them to listen to?
 - 1. Does it have a dominate **BEAT** – usually using drums or other percussion instrument?
 - 2. Is it proclaiming un-Scriptural words, or promoting un-Scriptural practices? Resulting in depression, rebellion, or madness?
 - 3. It is Sensual (fleshly, carnal) in its feeling, instead of having a spiritual air? The goal of modern music is sex – so the music is “sensual,” fleshly (James 3:14,15)
- I. Music is a Language all its own – a UNIVERSAL language at that
- J. Do modern musicians worry about what their music is “saying” to this generation? _____
- K. In this world, there are always two sides to everything – the **HOLY**, and the **PROFANE** (Ezek 44:23), and it is the job of pastors to make sure believers know the difference and to stay **SEPARATE** (2Cor 6:17).
- L. Music effects everything – so, for the right effect on our lives, we need the right kind of music
- M. Modern Christian Music has been heavily influenced by the world’s music styles – all within just the last **40** years: Christian Rock, Christian Jazz, Heavy Metal Christian Rock, and milder types that are now in almost every evangelical church today!
- N. But that music and those musicians are against **strong preaching** (cf 1Cor 1:21); and against **separation** from the world (i.e., they love to listen to and play the world’s songs)!
- O. Our bodies, minds, hearts make up the TEMPLE of the Holy Ghost, where WORSHIP is supposed to take place – you can’t enjoy the world’s music in a Temple that is wholly dedicated to the Lord!
- P. **CCM has not built Christianity – it has split and splintered it – only the Bible builds!**

II. What’s a Christian to Do?

- A. **REPENT**. See Rock Music, and Christian Rock Music as RUBBISH from hell!
- B. **Break away from the dominion of that rubbish** (1Cor 6:12). “Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye **SEPARATE**, saith the Lord, and touch not the UNCLEAN thing; and I will receive you” (2Cor 6:17).

- C. **Take back the high ground** – sing songs that are NOT like the world!!! Write songs that are truly different than the world, and will “minister GRACE unto the hearers!”

III. Christians Have a Need to Sing

- A. It is built-in to us. It’s the **NEW** song that God gives us at Salvation (Ps 40:1-3)
- B. Because we NEED to sing, Satan will try one of the following:

1. Give us a wrong song to sing – sex-music (Rock music, Jazz music)
2. Give us a wrong way to sing – swaying, jumping, “performing”
3. Convince us that Christian singing must sound like the world
4. Convince us that we CAN’T sing!
5. Bore us with thoughtful songs that don’t have a BEAT!

- C. Music is NOT about preferences, but **CONVICTIONS**, strong choices that we are being called to make! Will we passively, and apathetically listen to and sing along with:

1. **Eminem** “I’m not sayin’ I’m the perfect father, but the most important thing is to be there for my kids and raise them the right way.”
2. **Michael Jackson** “Well they say the sky’s the limit - And to me that’s really true - But my friend you have seen nothing - Just wait ‘til I get through... - Because I’m bad, I’m bad.”
3. **Maddona** “I have the same goal I’ve had ever since I was a girl. I want to rule the world.”
4. **P Diddy** (aka Puff Daddy) “I feel safe [wearing] white because, deep down inside, I’m an angel.”
5. **Bob Dylan** “Being noticed can be a burden. Jesus got himself crucified because he got himself noticed. So I disappear a lot.”
6. **Garth Brooks** “Some of God’s greatest gifts are unanswered prayers.”
7. **Shania Twain** “I don’t want my body to be a distraction from my talent or my brain”
8. **50 Cent** “Don’t much good come from me, but my music is a gift given from God so I’m gonna use it.”
9. **Snoop Dog** “So what if I’m smokin’ weed onstage and doing what I gotta do? It’s not me shooting nobody, stabbing nobody, killing nobody. It’s a peaceful gesture and they have to respect that and appreciate that.”
10. **Prince** “When one finds himself, one finds God. You find God, and you find yourself.”
11. Or any number of 1,000 pop song wanna-be’s?

D. What’s Wrong With MOST Music Today?

1. The majority of the popular music has always been rejected by Christians – Christians are by nature VERY conservative! That’s why we are hated by the world!!!
2. Here is a list of some of the “kinds” of music available today.

African (Drum)	Heavy Metal (Drum)	Rave
Alternative Rock (Drum)	Hip Hop	Reggae
Big Band (Drum)	Jazz	Regional and Ethnic
Blues	Latin (Drum)	Religious
Cajun and Zydeco	Lounge	Rhythm and Blues
Celtic	Marching (Drum)	Rock (Drum)
Choral	Middle Eastern	Salsa
Classical	Military Bands and Music (Drum)	Samba (Drum)
Country (Drum)	Opera	Swing
Dance (Drum)	Polka	Techno
Disco (Drum)	Pop	Traditional Pop
Easy Listening	Progressive Rock Punk (Drum)	Vocal
Electronic	Ragtime	Worldbeat (Drum)
Folk	Rap (Drum)	

3. Examples of Mainly Wrong Music

- a. Rock Music – Heavy Metal, Rap, Samba, Punk, Disco, Rave
- b. Most Country and Western Music
 - 1) Country and Western music has the same addictive sensual back beat as rock & roll music (a back beat) and the lyrics are just as godless. The themes of country music are drinking, complaining, drinking, quitting your job, drinking, quitting your marriage, drinking, dancing, drinking, loneliness, drinking... Only the Lord knows the true extent of the evil fruit of country music, how many men and women have become alcoholics, how many marriages broken, how many babies born out of wedlock, how many fights, how many terrible accidents caused by drinking and driving, how many suicides, not to speak of the eternal consequences.
 - 2) Beware of country music and its damnable philosophy that you can have the world and Christ, too, and that immorality and rebel-rousing are things that God winks at. (Ephesians 5:3-6). Music is a powerful thing, and it behooves God's people to be exceedingly careful about the music in their homes, cars, personal music players, and churches.
- c. Celtic music because it is paganistic, and makes much use of the drum
- d. Blues and Jazz – sensual – a saxophone is pretty bad when played for sex
- e. Religious Music that is not godly and does not exalt Jesus Christ is bad!
 - 1) Distinctly Catholic music – when it is emphasizing Mary and the Mass
 - 2) Buddhist music – obviously dedicated to Buddhist programming
 - 3) Hindu music
 - 4) Muslim music
 - 5) Any religious music that is NOT about God, truth and Jesus Christ (Jude 1:4)

IV. Here is the Christian’s Conviction about Music:

- A. “I will NOT allow my heart or my mouth to sing the world’s songs, or even Christian songs when they are put to music that carries the same beat, and has exact same sounds of the lost culture of today.
- B. I will never transfer to money-hungry entertainers the holy worship that I owe to Christ alone!
- C. My Lord deserves all my heart, and all my best, so I will not allow this world to soil it with its seemingly innocent music and lyrics that I now know to be both deceptive, and damaging to my spiritual life.
- D. I will instead worship my blessed Saviour and edify others with music and songs that are clearly Biblical in content, and mainly spiritual in emphasis, which means I will mainly sing and memorize Psalms, and Hymns, and Spiritual Songs.”

V. What Music CAN a Christian Listen to? Some basic, general conclusions

- A. DISTINCTLY Christian Songs – Psalms, Hymns and Spiritual Songs
- B. Much of the CLASSICAL Music (see the list of some recommended classical musicians)
 1. Some is distinctly Catholic, but is usually safe
 2. Some is very sad emotionally – can be dangerous to your attitude if the depressing aspect of this music is played too much
 3. Much of Classical music is complex, organized and thoughtful – which is good for the mind (play it in the background and your scores and work will excel)

4. Much of Classical music is God-honouring
5. Did you know that many of the musical scores behind the great films of today are basically modern Classical-style music?

- C. **OPERAS** – Be careful though because much of the opera is just an older way of presenting life’s issues without an answer and leaves people very depressed or
- D. **MILD LOVE SONGS** – this is a very dangerous area of music because it can feed too many dreams and thoughts that the Christian will find themselves in trouble with when they are lonely. The majority of these kind of songs are good for relationships – NOT for when you are lonely!!!
- E. Traditional **FOLK** songs and **FOLK** music
1. Be careful of the drum – Bodhrán in old Irish Folk Music
 2. Be careful of the modern style influencing traditional folks music that was written to tell stories, not to get guys and girls together!!
- F. **MILITARY** Songs – Patriotic Songs

VI. The Most Important Song Book in your Life – the Hymnal – Such a handy book for every Christian!

- A. The word *hymn* derives from Greek *hymnos* "a song of praise"
- B. Our Hymnal is a collection of over 500 Psalms, Hymns and Spiritual Songs
- C. Listen to the kinds of song themes contained in our Hymnal... these are the themes of life

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| 1. Adoration, Praise and Worship of the Awesomeness of God | 13. Heaven |
| 2. Assurance | 14. Joy |
| 3. Atonement | 15. Love |
| 4. The Blood | 16. Loyalty |
| 5. Christmas | 17. Missions |
| 6. Comfort | 18. Peace |
| 7. The Second Coming of Christ | 19. Prayer |
| 8. Christian Warfare | 20. Revival |
| 9. Courage | 21. Promises of God |
| 10. Eternal Security | 22. Salvation and the New Birth |
| 11. Faith | 23. Soul-Winning |
| 12. Grace | 24. Thankfulness |
| | 25. Trust |

- D. It is quite a collection that no Christian home should be without!

VII. Hymns We Have Learned in this Study So far:

- A. **A Mighty Fortress is Our God**, by Martin Luther, 1524
- B. **Count Your Blessings**. Words by Johnson Oatman, Jr., 1856-1922; Music by Edwin O. Excell, 1851-1921
- C. **Amazing Grace**, by John Newton, 1725-1807
- D. **How Great Thou Art**, by Pastor Carl Boberg, 1886
- E. **Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise**, Walter Smith, 1876
- F. **I Sing the Mighty Power of God**, Isaac Watts, 1715
- G. **And Can It Be**, by Charles Wesley, 1738
- H. **Arise My Soul**, by Charles Wesley, 1742

- I. **It is Well With My Soul**, by Horatio Spafford, 1873
- J. **Jesus Loves Me**. Words by Anna B. Warner, 1820-1915; Music by William B. Bradbury, 1816-1868
- K. **There’s Room At The Cross for You**. Words & Music by Ira R. Stanphill 1914-1994
- L. **Jesus Loves Even Me**. Written by P.P. Bliss, 1870
- M. **Rescue the Perishing**. Words by Fanny J. Crosby, 1820-1915 ; Music by William H. Doane, 1832-1915
- N. **Saved By the Blood**. Written by S. J. Henderson, 1902
- O. **Just As I Am**, Words by Charlotte Elliott, 1836
- P. **The Old Rugged Cross**, by George Bennard, 1913
- Q. **Trust and Obey**, John Jamnis, 1887
- R. **There are at least 500 more to learn, memorize, and SING in praise and worship of the Lord**

- S. Remember, these were not written by just some musicians that sat in rooms trying to come up with some new pop single in order to sell worthless records – these were sold out Christians who so believed in the Person of Jesus Christ, and had gone through such deep valleys in their lives that **ONLY** the brightness of the love of Jesus Christ and the promises of His word could have gotten them through. Their words and music were out of the fiery furnace, and once learned, can transform the coldest of hearts still today!!!

VIII. Questions and Answers Time