

It would be well to try replacing corrupt music with scripture songs and hymns. Particularly hymns that remind us of Christ loving sacrifice for us on Calvary will make the task of elimination seem a little easier. Many have found this to be the best way to erase worldly music from the mind. This may be hard at first, but one day we with David will say "... *He hath put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God: many shall see it, and fear, and shall trust in the LORD.*"

(Psalm 40:3)



-16-

Music is a universal language. This concept is evidenced by the fact that when movies are translated into other languages, the music in them remains the same. Music speaks to the emotions.

One of the most distinctive places that this is portrayed in the Biblical record is in the story of King Saul. Apparently Saul had some problems with an evil spirit. From the Biblical narrative we know that sometimes this involved anger and sometimes depression. His men counseled him "to seek out a man, who is a cunning player on an harp: and it shall come to pass, when the evil spirit... is upon thee, that he shall play with his hand, and thou shalt be well." 1 Sam. 16:16 This method is recorded to have been quite successful, for the story continues "And it came

-1-

There is another counterfeit method of music to be addressed that is almost entirely the opposite of rock. It has no real rhythm and is often termed "New Age". The Bible says, "But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking." (Matt. 6:7) **Many pagan religions use repetitions to create a hypnotic trance. This may also be achieved by music that contains no rhythm and is very repetitive.** This extreme of music should also be avoided for God commanded in Jer.10:2 "Thus saith the LORD, Learn not the way of the heathen..." and Deut. 18:9 reiterates, "...thou shalt not learn to do after the abominations of those nations".

-14-

as one, to make one sound to be heard in praising and thanking the LORD; and when they lifted up their voice with the trumpets and cymbals and instruments of musick, and praised the LORD, saying, For he is good; for his mercy endureth for ever: that then the house was filled with a cloud, even the house of the LORD;"

However, Christ warned "Take heed what ye hear..." (Mark 4:24) and Luke 8:18 records him saying, "Take heed therefore how ye hear..."

Music, when not abused, is a great blessing; but when put to a wrong use, it is a terrible curse. The Bible also records the use of music in the false worship of Babylon. "Then an herald cried aloud,

-3-

term used for fornication in the back seat of a car, hence the vividly descriptive term "rock 'n' roll" was coined.

The connection of counterfeit music styles to ancient heathen worship is evident. "The actual genealogy or lineage of rock 'n' roll music goes all the way back to Satanic voodoo, which in turn led to jazz, then blues and finally rock 'n' roll." [David Tame, The Secret Power of Music, pp. 187-204]

Jazz is characterized by its eccentric noises [uncertain sounds], while rock may be recognized by its overpowering rhythm element, syncopated beat and polyrhythms. If you have a small untrained (and unperverted) child clap their hands to a song, the correct rhythm is what they would naturally clap.

-12-

1. Music Should Be Sung With Understanding

Psalm 47:7 *For God is the King of all the earth: sing ye praises with understanding.*

It is clear from the scriptures that we are to understand what we sing. Specifically, the words of the songs we sing should glorify God. Confused, unintelligible talk or language, and gibberish is inappropriate in the singing and worship of God. *For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints.* (1 Cor. 14:33) Paul reiterates, *What is it then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also: I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also.* (1 Corinthians 14:15)

-5-

that he saw the calf, and the dancing: and Moses' anger waxed hot, and he cast the tables out of his hands, and brake them beneath the mount.

Notice that when Moses and Joshua heard and saw the apostasy of Israel at the golden calf, Joshua did not recognize the "music" of the heathen worship, evidencing the fact that this was different from what was regularly used in the worship of God. On the other hand, Moses, who had grown up in the Egyptian court, recognized it immediately. "By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches

-10-

give a distinction in the sounds, how shall it be known what is piped or harped? For if the trumpet give an uncertain sound, who shall prepare himself to the battle?"

Notes combine to make music just like letters combine to form words. The resulting creation can be either good or evil. Good music is made up of melody, harmony and rhythm. Melody absolutely is essential to good music. *Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord;* (Ephesians 5:19)

Unfortunately, Satan wants to make music a snare by the way in which it is conducted. But God's work is ever characterized by calmness and dignity.

-7-

To you it is commanded, O people, nations, and languages, that at what time ye hear the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, dulcimer, and all kinds of musick, ye fall down and worship the golden image that Nebuchadnezzar the king hath set up: And whoso falleth not down and worshippeth shall the same hour be cast into the midst of a burning fiery furnace.” (Daniel 3:4-6)

The Word of God challenges us to be *“Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord. And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them.”* (Eph. 5:10,11)

There are at least five principles of music that we can establish from the Bible.

-4-

Another way for an amateur to recognize syncopation is by noticing—does it make you want to swing your hips or make you want to march forward. March style rhythms help to maintain order and thus are used in military training. Syncopated rhythms—those that make you want to swing your hips-- are inverted from the natural rhythm and they contribute to the lustful behavior before mentioned.

Even if the rhythm is very light, if it is on the “off-beat”, many have found this statement to be true. *“Soft rock” is like soft liquor, it leads to the harder stuff as the addiction increases.* (Raymond Obomsawin) Cymbals and other percussion instruments may be rightly used to emphasize certain points in music without the repetitive polyrhythms.

-13-

“Let all things be done decently and in order.” (1 Cor. 14:40)

3. Beware the Voice of a Harlot

Isaiah 23:15 And it shall come to pass in that day, that Tyre shall be forgotten seventy years, according to the days of one king: after the end of seventy years shall Tyre sing as an harlot.

The false church is portrayed in the Scriptures as a harlot, and according to this verse, there is a special way that a harlot sings. This is often called the whisper or airy vocal. According to a vocal book by Musicians Institute Press, singing in this way will *“...give it [the song] a sensual quality, making it more intimate.”* (pg. 27)

-8-

No wonder Solomon warned *Pro 5:3 “For the lips of a strange woman drop as an honeycomb, and her mouth is smoother than oil: But her end is bitter as wormwood, sharp as a twoedged sword. Her feet go down to death; her steps take hold on hell.”* (Prov. 5:3-5)

4. God’s Music Sounds Different from Heathen Music

Exodus 32:17-19 And when Joshua heard the noise of the people as they shouted, he said unto Moses, There is a noise of war in the camp. And he said, It is not the voice of them that shout for mastery, neither is it the voice of them that cry for being overcome: but the noise of them that sing do I hear. And it came to pass, as soon as he came nigh unto the camp,

-9-

to pass, when the evil spirit...was upon Saul, that David took an harp, and played with his hand: so Saul was refreshed, and was well, and the evil spirit departed from him.” (1 Sam. 16:23)

Singing is as much a part of worship as is prayer. In fact, although in modern society we try to separate them, worship and singing are linked together in the Bible. Psalm 66:4 says, *All the earth shall worship thee, and shall sing unto thee; they shall sing to thy name. Selah.* Psalm 69:30 reiterates, *“I will praise the name of God with a song...”*

It is evident that God is pleased with the harmonious use of the voice and instruments of music for 2 Chronicles 5:13 states that *“It came even to pass, as the trumpeters and singers were*

-2-

Let us desire instead the music of heaven.

Consider this testimony of someone who learned and implemented these principles of music. *“I always knew there was something that wasn’t right with our ‘Christian’ music. ...I was convicted and it took me about two weeks to give up 80% of my music library. Fast forward a few months: I am just blown away by the effect it has had on me, giving that music up. I no longer have the “urge” to sin. There is temptation now and then, but not like the constant beating of the drum as before...”* (Shepherd’s Call Newsletter)

Paul challenged *“Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.”* (Rom. 12:21)

-15-

2. Music Is To Have a Practical Use

Colossians 3:16 *“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.”*

Music may be used for teaching and admonishing others with the Words of God. Foolish, purposeless music should be avoided. *“It is better to hear the rebuke of the wise, than for a man to hear the song of fools.”* (Eccl. 7:5)

3. Music Should Give a Certain Sound

1 Cor. 14:7,8 *“And even things without life giving sound, whether pipe or harp, except they*

-6-

than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompense of the reward.” (Hebrews 11:24-26) We should be aware that just because we find something pleasurable does not mean it isn’t sin.

Notice also that this music sounded like war, and was connected to lewd dancing involving nakedness. The Bible records that *“...Moses saw that the people were naked...”* (Exodus 32:25) Still today, this music is played in clubs and bars to remove the natural inhibitions of people. The origin of the term rock 'n' roll is worth noting. In the early 1950s, a disk-jockey named Alan Freed had been receiving reports concerning kids' strange reactions to this "new" music, so he decided to name it after a ghetto

-11-