

Christian **MUSIC**

Sing a New Song



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All Scripture quotes are from the King James Bible.

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Introduction

My history with music goes back to growing up in the eighties, in the glam rock and heavy metal era. Music was my god for many years, and I played in various small rock bands and went to every concert that I could go to. I still remember my first Alice Cooper concert when I was a teenager. I did not drink or do drugs at that time, but I was completely spell bound and mesmerized by the performance and music. I was energized from that night on about the power of music and my love and worship for it; and this continued right up until I got saved.

In my early twenties, through a series of circumstances, God started dealing with my heart concerning salvation. While writing a rock & roll song in my room, I was having writer's block. I went and retrieved my mother's Bible from her room, and started to

read in it for the first time. I created my chorus from the first three chapters, and the chorus went something like this, “You take my rib, / you take it from me, / and you take my life, / why don’t you let me be? / GIVE ME BACK MY LIFE!”

After reading the Bible for the first time, I thought to myself, “This is pretty good stuff.” So I started hiding my mother’s Bible in my room so that no one would know that “Jerry-So-Cool” was reading the Bible. I ended up in the book of Psalms and read through it; and even though I was unsaved, God revealed to me that my music was not good, and that if the music did not glorify God, then it was of the Devil. That day, I gave up my love for rock music. Though I struggled with breaking ties with that music for a while, I knew it was wrong. A couple of months later, I got saved and God transformed my life.

Immediately after getting saved, I was introduced to Christian rock and contemporary music, and I started playing in a Christian Contemporary (CCM) band. One night while playing on a semi-national Christian television program, I was convicted that my motives for playing Christian rock were all wrong. I had noticed some things about that culture that really did not sit right with me and what the Bible had to say about worshiping the Lord. For me, the beat of CCM music was like a nicotine patch for a smoker; it knocked the edge off to help you better cope with the cravings of rock music.

I quit the band that night. Then, after studying the subject more in-depth, I developed convictions from the Word of God instead of from my cravings for worldly music. This booklet is a compilation of my thoughts throughout the years. I do not claim that all the things written in this

booklet are original with me. I have compiled these things through various books and online resources. And, honestly, I was not as diligent as I should have been in collecting all the sources for the information. This booklet was written for the purpose of making us think twice before listening to worldly music or likewise using it in our churches today.

CHAPTER ONE



THE NEED

To have a booklet about the music that we use in our churches and in our homes says a lot about Christianity today in general. Fifty years ago, there would have never been a problem of questionable music. Mostly, people sang hymns that were time-tested to be of good quality and separated from the world.

However, starting in the fifties, a new type of music emerged on the scene (rock music). Before the fifties, you had classical music, folk, jazz, blues, blue grass and country music that had a different purpose

and connotation to it. It was not driven toward fleshly appetites. Not all these types of music were godly, needless to say, but, with the exception of blues, you would have been hard pressed to find Satanism and much of the wickedness you find in today's music. Blues music evolved over the years and actually became the start of the rock and roll music that we have today. Following the fifties, rock and roll and country-western became prominent, and, as the old saying goes, it was "downhill from there."

By and large, the church music before the fifties would have been classified as a mix of classical and folk. Both of these types of music had a very distinct sound and could be picked out from all other types of music. Classical music had the connotation of being very skillful and eloquent, while folk had the connotation of being down to earth and was the working man's music. The folk songs often portrayed the working man's troubles and also the joys of life. Again, I am not saying that all the musicians and songs were godly or perfect, but I am

speaking of the general impression one would get from hearing the songs.

Today, popular music has more to do with entertainment and feeding the flesh, which we know is contrary to a biblical Christian life. Unfortunately, most of the popular songs today deal with immorality and themes that are anti-Christian.

As we grow up, many (if not most of us) are influenced by the themes of sin from different formats. A man or woman can be a product of their culture, including its music, language, or traditions. Some things, such as some foods, language, and traditions, in the culture are good, but equally there are some things of the culture that are not good.

However, we as Christians became products of another culture when we got saved. We are not to continue in our same, old lifestyle. 1 Peter 1:14 says, "As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance." As Christians, we must choose

within the culture and see what *is* in line with the Word of God, and what is *not* in line with the standards of the Word of God to complement our Christian lives.

Philippians 4:8 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.”

This scripture is the litmus test for the things we can faithfully use of our culture, such as music, TV, and all other forms of entertainment. One may ask, “The verse says, ‘if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise.’ So, as long as my music has *some* virtue, it makes it justified? I know that I can find *something* good about rock music!”

The word *virtue* means “moral excellence.” Then the word *any* is used as a key word. When you look at the context of

the whole passage, the word *whatsoever* is repeated. At the end of the verses, the word *any* is used. If you take this word out, it would follow the same context as the other verses, meaning that the things must be honest, just, and pure. Therefore, we must determine if the writer of Philippians was trying to teach something in contrast of the other parts of the verse or if he is still going with the same context.

Interestingly, when you look at the *Strong's* definition of the Greek, it says that the Greek word means "if any: - he that, if a(-ny) man('s thing, from any, ought), whether any, whosoever" (my underline for emphasis). The phrase *whether any* is also a possible rendering, which fits the flow of the verse much better and agrees with the rest of the verse completely. Any way you interpret the verse, it still means that it must contain moral excellence; it cannot just contain a small portion of excellence while being 98 percent impure and yet still fit the context of the teaching. One needs to look at many Scriptures throughout the Bible. For

example, 2 Corinthians 6:17, “Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you.” This fits together nicely.

Notice the words, “touch not.” This shows that we are not even to get near the unclean thing! We are to avoid the pagan arts and their idols because Christians have their own culture. Thus, it is seen from history that Christianity from its start has changed culture. That is why the Roman Empire hated Christians and killed them: because people got saved and it started to alter their immoral culture. Also, the Jews hated Jesus because He messed up their culture of tradition that was not based upon the Word of God.

Remember the story of Paul going into Ephesus in Acts 19, and many of the people getting saved? The response to their new faith is found in Acts 19:18-20, “And many that believed came, and confessed, and shewed their deeds. Many of them also

which used curious arts brought their books together, and burned them before all men: and they counted the price of them, and found it fifty thousand pieces of silver. So mightily grew the word of God and prevailed.” Needless to say, music is an art as well as literature, and they understood these things were contrary to their new lives, which we, as Christians, also find today.

CHAPTER TWO



THE DECEPTION

Colossians 2:8 says, “Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.” If the tradition/music/books are based upon the Word of God, then they’re fine and they are probably good for the culture. But if it is based upon man’s philosophy, then we need to be wary of it. The word *rudiments* (above) means “a basic principle or element” (*Webster’s online dictionary*). Or, in our terms, “the world’s philosophies.” Meaning, we cannot decide

what is good and acceptable by the world's philosophies and principles, but we need to go to God's Word to judge what is right.

For example, the children of Israel in the wilderness were severely judged for wanting to go back to the foods of Egypt (even though these were not intrinsically sinful) because God had provided something special for them. The Lord was teaching them to be a distinct people. Under the Law of Moses, the people were taught in many ways to distinguish between holy and unholy and between clean and unclean, even if it meant the forbidding of things that were not inherently evil in order to drill into them the law of distinction and separation.

New Testament Christians have traditionally believed (as Paul said) that these things were "written for our learning" (Romans 15:4). There are countless examples of divine anger throughout the Old Testament over those things incorporated from the surrounding nations. For example, in Nehemiah's time, a foolish and corrupt

high priest gave Tobiah the Ammonite a chamber in the Temple. What an astonishing and shocking act! Nehemiah “cast forth all the household stuff of Tobiah out of the chamber” and thoroughly cleansed the whole area (Nehemiah 13:8). And let’s not forget Nadab and Abihu who were killed for offering up strange fire (Leviticus 10:1-2).

As Christians, we must pinpoint things that are morally corrupt and evil, and then we can partake of that which is good. As this booklet is about music, we must search out music that is morally pure to listen to and add it to our Christian worship. It must be pure and not contradict the Lord and His principles.

Now, let me go ahead and get a certain argument out of the way. Some will say that many of our hymns were taken from bar songs. This idea is very erroneous and is not provable, but the truth is that there were people who were drunks that borrowed folk songs and added words or sang the entire folk song in its original form. The

proponents of this false ideology mainly speak of the beloved “Amazing Grace,” which was sung to *numerous* melodies at first. The melody that we listen to today was a Scottish folk song and was *not* a barroom song. In all my research there is no proof to what they claim. The type of music was folk, and though a drunk may sing “Amazing Grace” now and then, this does not make it a barroom song!

The music and worship in the church, as well in our personal lives, should promote holy living and avoid styles that contradict the separation of Christians. A ruling principle in Christian worship for generations has been the need to distinguish between the sacred and the secular, or between the sacred and the profane, and between spirituality and worldliness. That is why we had so much of an uproar about Elvis and the Beatles from Christians when rock music started. Those Christians from the 50’s and 60’s were concerned and proven right in their complaints that a little compromise would lead to moral destruction

of the culture. Thus, the world's music evolved with more and more subtle slips of sensual themes, more beat-focused styles, and music that appealed to the flesh and sinful nature more and more. Most of the music of any quality was replaced. The rock music continued to push boundaries and strode over moral barriers with the young people.

Unfortunately, Christians followed the way of the world instead of continuing in things that were pure, just, and had virtue. Until recently, fundamentalist churches believed that the church and the world represented opposing standards in lifestyles and tastes, and so most of the world's popular trends were treated with great suspicion. Spiritual worship was never to be confused or mixed with paganism because one belonged to the realm of sacred things, and the other to the realm of secular and profane things. Most serious Christians were convinced that God would be offended of the self-centered, pleasing of the flesh, rock, rap, and country music that was permeating

the church, because worship was for the sole purpose of glorifying the Lord.

Over the years rock music has ended up affecting country music (from the fifties and beyond) and now both genres have the same connotation of drinking and loose living. Then rap music came into existence in the 80's and beyond, which fed off of the frustration, hatred, and loose living of a pagan culture.

The church, by contrast, represents God by joining together as a group of called-out believers coming together to serve, learn, worship, sing, soul win and be the upholders of God's sovereignty and holiness. We, as Christians, are to be the salt and the light in all areas of life, which had been the case throughout the years, usually shedding light on the darkness of the world.

However, during the late 60's and beyond, the "Jesus movement" began (which was born out of rebellion). The young people that fed themselves on the

pleasures of the world still wanted Christianity - but on their own terms. This movement among young people proved to be a means of integrating the world into the church, and though it was rejected by most serious Christians in those early days, these young people were the next generation of preachers and laymen of the church. This movement was like a Trojan Horse that was planted into the culture of America and today has been released into our churches after the old guard was let down.

There are many reasons for this, and I will not go into all of them in this booklet. But one important fact is that we have more unsaved people in today's churches than ever before. For example, about 90 percent of Americans claim to be Christian; however, when polled by George Barna and asked what was the meaning of John 3:16, only about 32 percent could respond with the right answer. The result is that we have a lot of people in church that cannot worship as Jesus said, "in spirit and in truth" (John 4:23). This has pressured pastors to seek to

appease and cater the worship services to the unsaved (yet still proclaimed) Christians. More and more, the new trends were picked up by leaders of youth groups, shallow churches, and certain evangelists who had come to put earthly appeal before the standards of the Lord.

Just like in Micah 3:11, “The heads thereof judge for reward, and the priests thereof teach for hire, and the prophets thereof divine for money: yet will they lean upon the LORD, and say, Is not the LORD among us? none evil can come upon us.” Worship became about the money and the crowds rather than glorifying the Lord.

CHAPTER THREE



WHAT IS RIGHT?

Before we get into what is acceptable music based upon the principles of God's Word, I want to deal with an argument that is so many times used as a crutch. People will say, "What about Christian liberty? What about Romans 14:1-23? Does not the Word say in Romans 14:5, 'One man esteemeth one day above another: another esteemeth every day alike. Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind'? Cannot I be persuaded in my own mind that this music is alright? Cannot I have my own personal preferences?"

In answer to that, Yes! You can have liberty in this area; however, you will have to give an answer to God for what you have accepted, and I would challenge you to search out why you believe the way you do! Is it because of your flesh and culture, or is it the leading of the Spirit of God and His Word? But let us imagine that you search it out, and find that there is no conviction against rock music and using it as a means of worship with God's Words added to it, and that you see nothing wrong with borrowing from the world's music. You still have no right to impose your belief on your neighbor if it will make him stumble. Look in Romans 14:22, "Hast thou faith? Have it to thyself before God." Church is no place for your flaunting of what you deem acceptable in your culture.

The church's place is to come together to worship in a style that is neither questionable nor a stumbling block for others. The more traditional styles of arrangements and melodies are not a stumbling block to anyone but they may be

dull to some who have fed themselves upon the world's music of heavy rhythm and drums that appeal to the flesh. These styles include rock, blues, jazz, big band, rap, New Age, and other styles normally associated with worldly entertainment and provocative dancing.

One cannot honestly say that when they hear the tune of, "The Old Rugged Cross," that they think of the things of the world, but many will admit that hearing drums makes them envision the things of the world. Music is of great importance to our Heavenly Father. Over five hundred times in His Word, God reveals His love for music and His standards for that music.

Now, you may ask, "Well, isn't that the reason we have so many different churches - some traditional, and some more contemporary? Or isn't that the reason we have two different services to cater to each crowd's taste?" And surely that is the motive for many churches; however, we don't know who may show up to church on

any given Sunday as a visitor with a background that may be from Rock music or other things that now may be a stumbling block to that person. I literally worshipped rock music, and just to think if I would have arrived to church and heard that same kind of music in a worship service; it would not have impressed me even a little. Since God had already convicted me of my music before salvation, I would have been confused to hear this same music in a church. Then we need to remember that worship is not about us - it is directed to the Lord.

With that being said, not just any type of music is important to God. The Lord commands in many passages to sing a “new song” unto the Lord: Psalm 33:3, “Sing unto him a new song;” Isaiah 42:10, “Sing unto the LORD a new song,” etc. The Christian philosophy of music varies among musicians. The contemporary country-rock Christian musicians believe that Christian words are the important medium in songs and that the music itself does not matter, so

long as it is satisfying to the listener. However, you do not find that backed in the Scriptures. But Psalm 40:3 says, “And 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.” Notice the underlined words; the song will not only sound different, but will also look different.

When one looks at the CCM movement and their culture, they look just like the rock bands from the world in the way they dress and present themselves. When I was playing in the CCM band for a short time, this was a part of the conviction that God brought to my attention, because I read the verses about separation from the world in the Bible and I was convicted that I was not that much different from what I was before. My motive for playing in the group was the attention that it brought me from those people I was entertaining, as well as the fact that I did not look any different, and a rugged exterior brought attention to myself among Christians. I remember reading when Jesus confronted the Pharisees about their religion

that catered to them rather than to the Lord in Matthew 23:25-26: Jesus said, “Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye make clean the outside of the cup and of the platter, but within they are full of extortion and excess. Thou blind Pharisee, cleanse first that which is within the cup and platter, that the outside of them may be clean also.” God told me that He was concerned about both the inside and the outside of the cup being in agreement; and that my worship music was not to be about me.

Music is permeated throughout our culture even from childhood. When we are saved, we are to sing new music rather than that which we sang back when we were unsaved. A *new song* means *different than that which you have sung before*. God gives His children a new song both in words and in sound because He wants His music to be righteous, not worldly.

The music that we sing in church and listen to for recreation needs to encourage the way of life found in Romans 12:2, “And be not conformed to this world: but be ye

transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God.”

However, many Christian musicians are trying to reach the lost through the medium of a worldly musical sound with Christian words. The current popular music: rock, rap, country, western rock and gospel rock have sounds that appeal to the lusts of the flesh, eyes and the pride of life. One person said it this way: “if you take the voices out of the soundtrack or song and listen to the instruments, if it sounds like a secular song, it is not God honoring.”

There are some styles of secular music, such as classical music, marching band music, fun songs, and traditional folk songs that are appropriate for certain occasions but not necessarily for worship services. But, I believe there are styles, such as jazz, rock, rap, punk, dance band, and New Age that are never considered appropriate anywhere because of the connotation of worldliness that goes along with them.

The unsaved are looking for something different! I played in rock bands before I got saved, and before I went to the church that I got saved at, I was a little intimidated by Christians and how they dress up. However, after getting to the church, dressed in my Metallica T-shirt and biker boots, I was surprised by my own reaction. Everyone was dressed up, just like I had anticipated; but, with the soft and God honoring hymns in the background, I remember thinking to myself, “These people care enough about what they are doing to dress up for it, almost like they are going to see the President every Sunday!” Now surely, they *were* seeing someone special, and He is the King of kings and Lord of Lords. This is part of the reason for my passion for this subject, as well as the fact that we are to reach the lost through soul-stirring preaching and good, Christian, worshipful music. Also, the fact is that Jesus did not conform His message to this world to reach the lost; the lost, who sought salvation, instead conformed to Him.

Music can be used for worship. As I have said before though, “Worship has everything to do with God, but very little to do with us.” Many times a person will say, “Oh, that song really helps me worship God!” Let us consider worship in light of John 4.24, the words of the Lord Jesus Christ: “God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.” To worship in Spirit means that we are not to worship in any *physical* way. There are no physical elements or actions in spiritual worship. Worship is from the heart. Though you may see some physical reactions to worship from the heart (like the use of clapping in the Bible), clapping is a result of worshipping in spirit - but in and of itself, it is not worship. I like this saying, “the message of the music must move your heart before the beat moves your hip.”

Worship is spiritual and cannot be offered by way of beat or rhythm. Music is merely a help to the worshipping of the Lord. Likewise, the music should complement the words and should not

become the driving force of the music; the driving force should be the Spirit of God. To consolidate the point, the Lord defines worship as being exclusively “in truth.” This, of course, means that genuine worship comes from a true, honest, and sincere mind. It also means that worship is, in substance, truth about God. “In truth” means that worship must be made according to the truth, which is as prescribed by the Word of God. The *message* should be the overall medium in worship, and not the beat or the musical style.

Let me pose a scenario to you. Let’s say we take the popular CCM music today and remove all the music from it and just read the words. By reading the words, would you still be moved like you were with the music behind the words? I am guessing that you would not because much of the new Christian music is more focused on the music rather than the message. There may be exceptions, but I can tell you honestly that most of the hymns of the faith would move me with or without the music, about

the same. As a church, we must come out from the world, and our music must be distinct. The use of music and soundtracks that beat to the drum of heathenism is worldly and is not being separate from the world as commanded by Scriptures.

Now going a little more in-depth in what music is right, there are three things that make up good music: rhythm, melody, and harmony. All three of these are to be balanced and blended together. The melody is the flow of the song. A melody is a sequence of pitches and durations while, more figuratively, the term has occasionally been extended to include successions of other musical elements such as tone color. Sounds a little complicated, but in essence, it is the *subject* of the piece of music.

Harmony involves chords and their construction, or how they are put together to form the music. These first two elements are important because they form the story and mood of the music. Harmony arranges the chords to fit within the melody.

The rhythm is the beat that makes all these come together and flow. It is the timing of the song. Rhythm is the last element to consider. When rock and roll permeated music, then the music started coming together differently. The rhythm took precedence over harmony and melody. When playing in rock bands, either the rhythm of guitar and/or the beat of the drums becomes the focal point, rather than the melody and the harmony. Thus, the music becomes unbalanced. This is very scary when we consider just the drum set and its association with the world.

The Bible lists many kinds of instruments. Psalms 150:3-5 says, “Praise him with the sound of the trumpet: praise him with the psaltery and harp. Praise him with the timbrel and dance: praise him with stringed instruments and organs. Praise him upon the loud cymbals: praise him upon the high sounding cymbals.”

Now, many will say that cymbals are drums. I disagree because cymbals are in fact percussion, like unto the timbrel, but they are still different than drums. I will in

no way say that all percussion is wrong, but certain types are wrong, and they are inappropriate when used in certain contexts.

Consider the timbrel:

“Timbrel. A percussion instrument that was carried and beaten by hand. Considered inappropriate for the Temple, it was probably played primarily by women (Psalm 68:25). The timbrel may have been excluded from the Temple instruments because of its great popularity with the Canaanite fertility cults. Among the Hebrew people, it was associated with merrymaking and processions (Genesis 31:27). Remnants of timbrels with pieces of bronze inserted in the rim have been uncovered by archaeologists.” ()

Thus, the instrument could be shaken as well as beaten. The timbrel was never allowed in the temple of God for a reason,

and though used at times in Hebrew celebrations; the way the Israelites played the timbrel was never the same way that the heathen played it.

With all the many references to musical instruments in the temple, there is one instrument that is NEVER mentioned: the timbrel! Why is that? The timbrel was a very common instrument in Egypt and in the lands around Israel. Wikipedia says this about the timbrel:

“The Israelites learned to use the timbrel during their sojourn in Egypt, and it has been suggested that as the Egyptians used it to scare away their evil spirit, Typhon, the word is derived from the latter. The tabret or timbrel was a favorite instrument of the women, and was used with dances...It was also used in the valley of Hinnom at the sacrificial rites.”

Can you see why it would have not been used in the worship of the Lord?

Today we see that there is a similar type instrument that has been created and has been used by the unsaved and sacrilegious. The drum set, or otherwise known as the trap set, which originated out of godless rock and roll/blues music, can be compared to the drum in many cultures of voodoo, shamanism, paganism, and magic rituals. The trap set or drum set today has similar dark associations. Consider the following observations that I have collected concerning the drums:

- Miranda Bruce-Mitford in *The Illustrated Book of Signs & Symbols*, (1996, p.80) says, "[The drum] represents the beat of the heart and is played to summon up magic powers."

- Danny Sugerman in *Appetite for Destruction*, (p. 208) says, "The shaman was the original 'long hair', the first rock star draped in leather, dancing POSSESSED to a rhythm banged out on A DRUM."

- Louise Tythacott in *Musical Instruments*, (Thomas Learning, 1995, p. 37) says, “In Siberia, in northern Asia, drums are used in shamanic rituals to heal people. It is believed that the shaman can communicate with the spirit world THROUGH DRUMMING.”

- Lowell Hart in *Satan's Music Exposed*, (Salem Kirban Inc., 1980, p.71) says, "Pagan dances and rituals are always accompanied by the incessant BEAT of DRUMS. Rhythm plays a major role in these demonic activities."

- Little Richard, the self-professed “architect of rock ’n roll,” readily admits Satan’s control and influence in his life and rock music: “My true belief about Rock ‘n’ Roll — is this: I believe this kind of music is demonic . . . A lot of the BEATS in music today are taken from voodoo, from the voodoo DRUMS.” (Charles White, *The Life and Times of Little Richard*, p. 197).

- David Tame writes in *The Secret Power of Music*, “Today's DRUMMER differs but little from the shaman in his incessant beating out of a rhythm, and likewise often enters into a form of trance while performing.”

There are plenty more sources that would describe the origin of the drums and the evil associated with them. I am not saying that drums are *always* evil, but there are significant things to consider with their associations. But let's go back to the three guidelines that make good balanced music: melody, harmony, and rhythm. If any one of these is overbearing, then it is not balanced music. We rarely will have a problem with melody and harmony being over-balanced, but rhythm is a big problem. For most, I believe it is because of its affect on the flesh, and if you're seeking to satisfy a fleshly itch, then the drum is the scratch for it.

Amos 6:1-5 sheds some interesting light on the subject of music and instruments: it states, “Woe to them *that are* at ease in Zion

... That lie upon beds of ivory, and stretch themselves upon their couches, and eat the lambs out of the flock, and the calves out of the midst of the stall. That chant to the sound of the viol, *and* invent to themselves instruments of musick, like David;” John Gill has some interesting thoughts on this verse: “*and* invent to themselves instruments of music, like David: not content with old ones, such as were used in former times, they invented new instruments and new tunes, and new songs to sing to them; as David made songs and invented several instruments of music to sing them upon and to, in religious worship, and for the praise and glory of God; so these men invented new ones to indulge their carnal mirth and jollity, in which they thought themselves to be justified by the example of David.” How interesting that these people who were at ease were not satisfied with what was time tested and proven, but when they were at ease in their spiritual lives, then they seek out new inventions to tickle their fancies.” (Exposition of the Old and New Testaments Dr. John Gill (1690-1771))

There are good rhythms and bad rhythms and good beats and bad beats. A great illustration of this is what is called *music painting*. This is the picture that music paints in our minds when all three of these elements are put together. For instance, in the movie, *Jaws*, the “B-Domp-B-Domp” sound makes you see Jaws coming through the water. Imagine you are swimming in the ocean, and all of a sudden you hear those sounds. It would scare you! We see Hollywood using music to build your emotions to a place where they make you anticipate what will happen next. Consider the soundtracks of love films, horror, and cowboy movies.

In an online article, Alan Ives speaks about *THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN GOOD AND BAD MUSIC*. As I mentioned at the beginning of this booklet, that I compiled much of the information in the booklet over the course of a decade, and the following is not a direct quotation but more of a paraphrase from Alan Ives’s sermon, for when I found the article, I copied certain

parts, added my own thoughts and to go back to the sermon, it would take hours for me to find all the direct quotes I gleaned from the sermon; however I wanted to give him credit for the ideas set forth below:

“Think of the hymn “How Firm a Foundation”: “How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord, / Is laid for your faith in His excellent Word.” If I play those words to the music of “Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star” or “Jingle Bells” with a lot of high notes and a carefree delivery, the mood is wrong for the words. They don't fit. The traditional music for this song is deep, heavy, forceful, and paints the picture of a solid, firm foundation. That is text painting. That is why the song is played with a full, rich, loud type of arrangement. It is talking about God's excellent Word and about unshakable things from God, so it is played with great majesty and power.

Consider the song, “It Is Well with My Soul”: “And, Lord, haste the day when the faith shall be sight, / The clouds be rolled

back as a scroll. / The trump shall resound ...” This is talking about trumpets and the coming of the Lord, and at that point in the song there is actually a fanfare played with the keyboard.

That is music painting. All the notes that the pianist plays have meaning. The timing, notes, and rhythm all have meaning. We could think of so many songs to illustrate this. Consider “Crown Him with Many Crowns,” which is played with a very royal court march-type mannerism because we are speaking of the Lord's Kingliness. Likewise, “I Sing the Mighty Power of God” is always sung with a full, deep, stirring sound.

What if I'm going to sing of the peace of God? Consider “Peace, Peace, Wonderful Peace.” Notice that the keys are played lightly and softly in a restful, gentle manner. Why? It is to depict the peace that the Lord gives! You wouldn't play that with a heavy beat, nor would you jazz that up; it would ruin the picture!

What happens when people take the old hymns and add something to them that doesn't belong? The picture is ruined. Consider, "All that thrills my soul is Jesus, / He is more than life to me." The traditional music paints the picture of quiet, spiritual joy of the lovely, abiding relationship between the saint and his Savior. On the other hand, when that beautiful song is put to a modern beat, the picture is ruined.

The holy relationship between the Christian and Christ cannot be depicted with the world's sensual love music. Today, they are trying to put the sixties sex music into "All That Thrills My Soul Is Jesus" and it doesn't work! Somebody is painting a different picture underneath that beautiful picture of the Lord Who only can cheer the soul of a man. They are thereby making light of it.

Let's face it, the ideas that those sixties bands sang about were referring to having girlfriends who lasted only for a single night, or perhaps a few weeks or months. By

using sixties music with that grand old hymn, they put all that fickle, sensual, lovesick, puppy dog, worldly connotation underneath “All That Thrills My Soul is Jesus.” His love is not fickle; His love is not sensual; it's not that way!”(End of citation/use of Ive’s article (sermon))

Those rhythms as harmless as some people seem to think that they are - are not, in fact, harmless at all. The rhythms appeal to your flesh, and the people that make the music know that. The best guideline I know of would be to use only sound tracks without any drums or guitar that sounds worldly. But here is where the argument comes in that what might not be worldly to you may be worldly to me. How does one draw the line? Who draws the line? Well in the church this must be the pastor because he is the under-shepherd and will give an account of what he permits in the church. In your own life, you must make the decision. You ask, “Is the drum evil?” It can be if it is played in the style of the world. But just because there is a drum in the song doesn't mean that it is evil.

If the drum is from an orchestra and is played unfamiliarly to the world's rock/country/jazz sound, then normally, it is not worldly.

The problem we have is when you have what is called a drum set, which originated from and still is prominent in the worldly rock, country, and jazz music. The conclusion must be that if the song beats to the drum of popular culture or the world, then it doesn't beat for God - because both are contrary to one another. Jesus himself said in Mark 3:25, "And if a house be divided against itself, that house cannot stand." Amos 3:3 adds, "Can two walk together, except they be agreed?" We, as Christians, want to be a bright light for Christ. Let us do it with the right music. Choose that which is good, and do what is right for the Lord.

Conclusion

We have seen the need for the subject to be addressed, as well as the unfolding the deception, and also presenting the right type of music. I have used many personal illustrations and some of my opinions throughout this booklet. I have tried hard to base all my opinions upon the Word of God, but they are still only my opinions and are as good as yours. But the principles of music and the truth of the Bible is not up for debate. I believe that you now have some tools to prepare you to make the right decisions.