

MUSIC ISSUES THAT THOSE IN CHURCH LEADERSHIP FACE

Mt. Calvary Baptist Church

Peter Davis, Spring 2003

The Bible gives no *specific prohibition* against certain musical styles. Therefore, we must look to *general spiritual principles* to determine music standards.

The statements of Rock musicians that the sound and beat of their music is about fornication seems to prohibit certain kinds of music.

The observable effects of some music in a carnal style of dancing seem to prohibit certain kinds of music. (Mt. 7:20, "By their fruits ye shall know them.")

Characterizations of the works of the flesh seem descriptive of certain kinds of music (Gal. 5:17-21, "*and the like*").

Descriptions of a godly thought life seem antithetical to certain kinds of music (Phil. 4:8).

Totally yielded consciences are offended by certain kinds of music (Acts 23:1, Rom. 14:23, John 7:17).

God's holiness seems incompatible with certain kinds of music (Isaiah 6:1-4).

The close association with ecumenism and Charismatism is a problem with certain kinds of music (Romans 16:17).

The world's trends and tastes seem to incriminate certain kinds of music (I John 4:5-6).

The ministry philosophy of CCM seems to violate Romans 12:1-2.

"We will never reach the world with traditional Christian music. Since music styles are morally neutral, we must use the world's music to reach the world. We will call it Contemporary Christian Music."

What does the Bible say about
the nature of man that bears on this question?

the nature of salvation ("reaching the world") that bears on this question?

the "world" that bears on this question?

the nature of sin or evil that bears on this question?

How church leadership may have a positive example in music (I Tim. 4:12):

Exercise direct leadership over the music program, rather than delegating the essential elements.

Be present at and participate in the entire song service.

Comments after songs should magnify the message.

Sincerely depend on the ministry of music for your own soul.

What kinds of music will be in the service?

Purely instrumental music (II Ki. 3:15)

Special music (I Chron. 16:9-36; II Chron. 29:25-28)

Congregational singing (Ephes. 5:18-19)

Who will minister music in the church?

The talent question:

Since talent is not a guarantee of spiritual blessing and power (I Cor. 2:1-4, 4:20), should talent be a criterion for use in the church? If so, how talented must one be to qualify? I Chr. 15:22; Ps. 33:3; Mal. 1:8.

We should also encourage gifted ones with less experience to grow and develop by giving them lower-profile opportunities of service. II Tim. 1:6; John 1:41.

Saints without giftedness proportionate to the size of the assembly seem not to edify (I Cor. 14:26c).

The testimony question:

Since we're all sinners anyway, should a poor testimony prohibit one from serving in music? Amos 5:23-24; I Sam. 16:18.

A person's needs to be blameless in proportion to the prominence of his office. Does the person testimony or character distract from one being able to receive his message in song? I Tim. 3:1.

The tape question:

Should tapes be used for background music instead of a prelude?

Should orchestrated tapes be used to accompany soloists? (Eph. 4:10)

Weddings and Funerals

How will your policies (testimony, grooming standards) be changed by these situations?

Emotions may run high, especially concerning a funeral.

A wedding or a funeral is still a worship service for which we are responsible.

How much money should we spend on the music program?

Should there be a music budget? For personnel, for new print music, for instruments? How much? I Chr. 9:33; I Tim. 5:17; I Chron. 16:42.