

**K.P. Yohannan:**

But what is the situation now? Satan, who stepped into Eden, controls the horizon of music. This topic needs a serious discussion.

Statistics shows that the suicide rate is increasing in Western countries. I read a piece of news about five students committing suicide in a room in their school in the United States. All of them were aged between 17 and 19. This was sensational news at that time.

A group of people did an investigation about it. In their studies it was revealed that all the students who committed suicide listened to a particular kind of music. This music affected them deeply. They found ecstasy in death; their veins were filled with a desire to die. They sang songs, danced and embraced death. Once in England people listened to a certain song and jumped to the river Thames to commit suicide. The song asked the young people to embrace death and find happiness.

The influence of negative music is not limited to Western countries. Slowly it's growing in India. Not only in the metro cities like Mumbai, Delhi, Chennai, Kolkata and Bengaluru, but towns like Kottayam and Cochin in Kerala also fall prey to it. Many thousands of youngsters use alcohol, heroin and marijuana under the influence of this music.

We read in the Gospel according to John, chapter 10, verse 10, that the thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy.

The demonic power can sneak into human minds through the area of music and enter deeply into our minds. It influences our thoughts deeply. It affects our thoughts, desires and decisions.

In the book of Proverbs, chapter 4, verse 23, it says like this, "Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it." From there comes the decision to live or to die.

Brother or sister, what type of music do your children listen to in your home? Think about it. Have you ever noticed the change in their behavior?

Let me tell you a real example. One college-going person had an ambition to maintain good conduct throughout his life. But his friends compelled him to listen to a particular type of music. Through the cassettes they gave him he started listening to a particular type of song. In the midst of all these things he was going to church, attending prayer and trying to obey his parents. But his heart was filled with the thoughts of sin. He couldn't control himself. Slowly his nature started changing.

At this time he visited a pastor and opened his heart in front of the pastor. The pastor was a person who talked about Christ among college students.

After listening to his problems, the pastor asked the students:

"Do you listen to music? Do you have such a habit?"

His answer was yes.

"What type of music do you listen to?"

He explained the type of music he usually listened to.

The pastor said, "Your problem is the music you were listening to."

In a serious manner the pastor explained things to him: "Consider your heart is like a big white paper. And the music you listen is the tip of burning match stick. Think of what will happen when a match stick falls on your heart. A part of the paper burns. Some parts will get scratched by the smoke of the match stick. Like this your heart, your mind, gets deformed with the scratches. It loses its natural innocence, holiness and creativity. Due to that people become the owner of deformed personality and disgusting behavior."

Hopelessness, distress, fear, vengeance, cruelty, perverse thoughts, suicidal thoughts, hatred for society, an affinity for evil, isolation, disobedience and ungratefulness to parents, worshiping Satan and a mindset to do anything for their own gain: do these things now define our new generation? I don't want anybody's help, I can do everything. The negative music which this generation listens to is causing this type of arrogant thoughts and making people slip into a virtual world far removed from reality.

Deuteronomy 31:22 says, "So Moses wrote down this song that day and taught it to the Israelites." Music had an important place in the Word of God. Psalm, Proverbs, Song of Songs, Lamentations—all these are songs. In the first part of the 98th Psalm it asks us to "sing to the LORD a new song."

**How Music Can Boost the Quality of Your Daily Life**

Does your family lack peace? Is happiness lost in your family? Are you living in a condition where you have lost your well-being, lost the aim of your life? In the deepest part of your heart, does this haunt you? There is an important thing which you have to do in your life and family. Stop listening to the music which is against the will of God. When you turn on the radio, you are the one who decides which station to tune in to; you are the one who decides which song to play.

There is one thing which you can do always. You can always sing the songs of gratitude to God in your heart. If you try, you can make some rhymes by yourself. Learn by heart some songs which praise the Lord. This will give you relief and courage, your heart will be pure and that purity of heart will make you happy.