

**General Topics :: Rap??****Rap?? - posted by Thommy2 (), on: 2008/6/6 16:32**

<http://www.flame314.com/>

I was just wondering if people could look at this site and give an honest opinion. I am not one who believes a style of music is inherently evil. I do understand slapping a "christian" label on things that do not glorify Christ is sick. But sometimes I think we get upset for no reason. I am young (23) and have only been saved for 2 years. When I was first introduced to Christian music I was disgusted by most of it (still am upset by the lack of biblical theology in most "Christian" music). But give this web-site an honest look...listen to Brother Flames sermons, listen to a song or two (maybe read the lyrics), look at what this brother is about, before an opinion is given.

<http://www.sermonaudio.com/sermoninfo.asp?SID=42208121490> - Also here is Paul Washer preaching to a bunch of rappers/rap fans. His opinion does not validate anything if it's contrary to Scripture but Paul is a brother that I believe to be trustworthy and discerning.

Also if a style of music is inherently evil is it revealed in Scripture? Or is this just a matter of opinion? (again just to clarify this is not an issue a defending crap, empty, garbage music with a Christian Label. I understand that is evil. This is regarding someone who really seems to have a great head and a changed heart, preaching while he is rapping.) Also if rap is evil, what other music genres are/are not, and how can we Scripturally say what is right or wrong concerning genre (not content)?

Re: Rap?? - posted by JRuth (), on: 2008/6/6 17:43

Here is a site that has a few really good sermons on music...it might be a help!!

<http://www.herbsterevangelism.org/Sermons.aspx>

Both of these sermons are really good!!

"What Is Christian Music?"

"God's Philosophy of Music"

Re: Rap?? - posted by TaylorOtwell (), on: 2008/6/6 19:06

I am really familiar with Christian rap and have listened to rappers like Flame, shai linne, Truth, etc.

I think their message is great!

However, I have had some concerns, and they are not really related to the style of music.

I am concerned that in our culture as a whole, very serious things are presented as entertainment, which seems to lower the seriousness and sobriety of the thing presented. I have had some fears that this may be the case with Christian rap.

Often, I don't think the beat really matches the weightiness of the content. Shai linne even made a good comment about this regarding his new CD "The Atonement". He said that you don't play the birthday song at a funeral. He was explaining why he picked such weighty sounding beats to go with his lyrics.

So, FOR ME (notice I am saying this about me personally), I have begun to notice that Christian rap doesn't really promote the kind of clear, serious thinking I want to do about spiritual things. Now, FOR YOU, it may do that. I don't think any one can make a case Biblically that different styles of music are evil and some are good. However, I agree with the idea that certain styles of music can begin to effect our moods and attitudes, and some moods and attitudes are not wise for a Christian to partake of. Therefore, if the kind of music promotes one of those attitudes, it may be best to put that music aside.

Hopefully that was a balanced answer. :-)

Re: RAP & CCM, on: 2008/6/7 0:22

Ques. What should we think of contemporary Christian music (CCM)?

CCM includes Christian rock music, Christian rap music, and Christian "pop" music.

The CCM issue is clearly one of criteria— what criteria should we use to assess music?

What rule or standard or yardstick should we use to measure or evaluate CCM?

Two well-known contemporary Christian musicians have offered their opinion on this "criteria" issue:

"Basically you have to focus on the lyrics, and what the song is saying. That is my criteria to decide whether the song is right or wrong. It has nothing to do with the music style. It has to do with the lyrics. What is the song saying? What are the words saying? As Christians, we can objectively judge it from that standpoint."

"Music is a very powerful force. It has a way of breaking down barriers....But a lot of artists are taking that very powerful tool and putting negative, horrible lyrics to it, and those lyrics are getting into the hearts of the listeners and are shaping their values....Why can't we take that same powerful force— music— put positive lyrics to it and begin shaping values that way?"

If these two are right, then CCM is more than just okay—it is a powerful spiritual weapon that we must use.

I believe, however, that both are wrong. First, they ignore the fact that God's Word offers criteria for evaluating music that is different from theirs. Second, they both assume (and this is an important word) that we must evaluate music solely on the basis of its lyrics. They assume that the music itself apart from the lyrics is morally neutral, or that the music itself apart from the lyrics communicates no message. These are false assumptions. Tunes or melodies communicate messages regardless of lyrics (or, to put it another way, there is always a message implicit in the music). Bad music that contains "good" lyrics still transmits a bad message.

Many CCM advocates may be well-intentioned and may sincerely think that they are doing what is right. Of course, good intentions and sincerity are no guarantees that one is right. And it would be a foolish thing indeed if we blindly assume that at any who make such claims are mature spiritually, or if we assume that CCM is okay simply because we like it.

I. Criteria For Evaluating Contemporary Christian Music

A. Philippians 4:8: Finally, brethren, whatever things are true (or represent truth), whatever things are noble, whatever things are just (or right), whatever things are pure (or untainted by sin), whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report (or good reputation), if there is any virtue (or moral excellence) and if there is anything praiseworthy— meditate (or think) on these things.

This verse obviously applies to music because music is something that we meditate on or allow our minds to dwell upon. Philippians 4:8 clearly has much to say about a song's lyrics. All people— even CCM advocates agree that a song's words must be true, noble, morally excellent, and worthy of praise if that song is to be acceptable.

But Philippians 4:8 also says, good music must be of good report (the New American Standard Bible provides the literal translation "of good repute"). In other words, good music must be of a good reputation, or be wholly disassociated with things that are wrong or contrary to God. If something is okay in itself but it is strongly linked to or associated with something else that is evil, then that thing has a bad reputation. It has a bad report. This is a principle that we all accept. Example: Do you think it is okay for me to go into a store and buy a Coca-Cola? Yes. But do you think it is okay for me to go into a bar or a saloon and buy a Coca-Cola? Even though buying a Coca-Cola is obviously okay, when I buy one in a bar I associate that Coca-Cola (and myself) with things that are evil. It would not be right for me to go into a bar and buy a Coca-Cola because wicked things have given my innocent act a bad reputation or a bad report. Philippians 4:8, then, says that your music must be associated only with good or righteous things. Your music cannot resemble or be linked to things that are evil. If your music is identified with music that is evil or wrong, then your music is not of good report.

Clearly CCM is linked to secular rock, rap, and pop music. Indeed, CCM advocates consciously try to "cross over" and appeal to non-Christian audiences by making their music sound just like that of non-Christians. Many CCM performers dress just like secular musicians. Many male CCM performers go so far as to wear earrings, while some female CCM

performers wear clothing that is by any definition immodest.

No one will deny that secular rock and rap music has a bad reputation. Is CCM linked to or associated with secular rock music? Is it sometimes hard to tell the difference between CCM and secular rock music? Do most people see a connection or a similarity between CCM and secular pop music? The answer to these questions, I think, is yes— which means that CCM is not of good repute and therefore does not pass the Philippians 4:8 test.

B. Philippians 4:8 also says, good music must be pure. This means that good music can not have bad stuff mixed in with it. Music that is 95% good and 5% bad is not pure. Good music, then, must be completely free from contamination or pollution. Does this seem unnecessarily strict? If so, it is only because you don't realize how important your "thought life" is to God. Because your thoughts shape your character, God is very concerned with (and very strict about) what you set your mind upon. That is why your music must be pure. The Bible says that the world taints and makes impure (James 1:27; 2 Peter 2:20). In other words, when worldly things are mixed with or introduced into something, impurity results. Is CCM worldly? Does CCM liberally borrow from the world and adopt the world's practices? The answer, I think, is obvious. This is serious. Romans 12:2 says "be not conformed to this world, but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind." (Compare Ephesians 4:23 and 1 John 2:15-17.) This means that God commands us to not live like everyone else. Our lifestyle cannot match up to or be similar to that of other people. If a kind of music sounds like the world's music, looks like the world's music, and is marketed like the world's music, then that music is worldly (what else could "worldly" mean?). Worldly music is impure music. Is CCM worldly music?

Rolling Stone magazine said of one such 'christian' band, "The band looks and sounds like a bunch of standard-issue hard rockers: polished, guitar-dominated music, shaggy long hair and a flashy stage show."

Rolling Stone magazine also said this about another 'christian' "performer", "Regarding her album covers and publicity photos, which portray her as a sexy, attractive young woman, the Christian pop star says, 'I'm trying to look sexy to sell a record....I feel like a Christian young woman is very sexual.'"

The Saturday Evening Post wrote of another 'christian' "performer", "One of the reasons they attract the adulation of young fans is their thoroughly modern look, sound and style."

Time magazine wrote that CCM performers are "indistinguishable— except for their lyrics— from their secular counterparts."

The above few (there are many) testimonies reveal that even non-Christians recognize that CCM is worldly music. Worldly music is not pure music. Impure music fails the Philippians 4:8 test.

This issue of purity is actually a much larger issue. Yet, some people would argue that it doesn't matter how you reach people with God's truth just so long as you reach them. Any method of proclaiming God's Word is valid, these people say, so long as it works. They are really saying that the end justifies the means— which is a sinister and dangerous principle. Indeed, the Catholic Church adopted this strategy around 300 A.D. with regard to pagan rites and celebrations. Rather than telling their converts that they had to give up their false religions, their idols, their holy days, and their superstitious beliefs, the Catholic Church "christianized" those pagan things and allowed them to remain. This is why the Catholic Church began to worship saints, instituted hundreds of unscriptural (and sometimes demonic) holy days, and developed elaborate ceremonial rituals. Instead of remaining pure and separate from the world, the Catholic Church tried to "baptize" worldly things and then retain them.

We see where this unscriptural strategy took the Catholic Church. CCM does much the same thing. Instead of rejecting worldly music, CCM tries to "christianize" it. A non-Christian scholar and a defender of secular rock music, made this illuminating comment concerning CCM's attempt to use secular musical forms for Christian purposes:

"Some dreamers have hoped to harness rock to propagate the values of transcendent ideologies. Populist Catholics sponsor rock masses, trendy educators produce textbooks using rock lyrics as a vehicle for inculcating traditional values, various Protestant denominations commandeer the airwaves on Sunday mornings to broadcast uplifting advice larded with rock songs to make the message palatable to young ears...But rock is useless to teach any transcendent value. The instigators of these projects merely promote the pagan rites they hope to co-opt. Rock's electricity as much as its pantheistic heritage gives the lie to whatever enlightened propaganda may be foisted on it."

I agree that CCM performers only “promote the pagan rites they hope to coopt.” The musical medium has a distorting influence on the message.

A prominent CCM performer agrees, he admits that “Some art forms have been created to express certain philosophies and are so wedded to those philosophies that they convey that kind of outlook....We can’t assume that we simply plug in a Christian message, and everything will be okay.”

Rock and rap music are so wedded to secular, godless themes that they communicate that outlook regardless of the song’s words.

C. Philippians 4:8 says that music must be morally excellent, noble or something that you could be proud of, and so beneficial that it is worthy of praise. Many assume that this only applies to the lyrics of a song. They imply that a song’s music (i.e., the sound only) does not communicate a message. Is this true? No. A song’s music—regardless of the lyrics—does communicate a message. Many doctors, researchers, and musicians—many of them not Christians—agreed that a song’s music does communicate a message regardless of the words.

One such Doctor writes, “Music is the most powerful stimulus known among the perceptive senses. The medical, psychiatric and other evidence for the non-neutrality of music is so overwhelming that it frankly amazes me that anyone should seriously say otherwise.”

Another non-Christian sociologist writes that “Rock is communication without words, regardless of what ideology is inserted into the music.”

Another says that “The words only let you know what the music already says....The music has its own message.” The primary message of CCM lies in its music, not in its lyrics.

If all music (regardless of the lyrics) has a message, then what is the message communicated by the music of CCM? If nearly all of the effects produced by contemporary music’s beat, repetition, and loudness are negative and is mildly hypnotic and can become addictive then the same is true to a degree with CCM. Such music produces chemical reactions in your body that encourage aggressive and emotional behavior. Those same physiological reactions prevent you from thinking and judging rationally. By the same token, contemporary music’s beat, repetition, and loudness unmistakably convey a mood of defiance, rebelliousness, aggressiveness, and self-assertiveness. Clearly these effects are neither “morally excellent” nor “noble” nor “praiseworthy.” Bad music, regardless of comparatively “good” lyrics, communicates a bad message.

How is it that music can affect me? The music itself, regardless of the words, affects your emotions. Even if there are no words to a song or a tune, it affects you. Everybody knows this. Lullabies put babies to sleep regardless of the words. National anthems can at times create feelings of pride or move listeners to tears. Some of the most powerful music ever written—like Beethoven and Wagner—contained no words. Ask any young person why they like rock music and they always say something about the beat or tempo. They are admitting that, regardless of the words, the music itself is quite powerful.

This is important. It means that “good” words does not make something good music. Regardless of the “good” lyrics, the musical score itself has an impact on the listener. Assessing music as good or bad or acceptable or unacceptable, is not simply a matter of evaluating the words. You must evaluate the tune also, because the sounds themselves affect you.

D. Philippians 4:8 says that your music must not only be “not bad,” but that it must be positively good. In other words, it is not enough for the music to be free of evil—the music must strongly communicate a positive message. Is it true that CCM’s lyrics are positively good? Most CCM, it is true, does not contain profanity, does not talk about sex, and does not glorify violence. But do these songs express deep, meaningful spiritual truths (such as you read in old Isaac Watts hymns)? Does CCM teach good, solid theology? Doesn’t CCM usually express a light, flippant, and shallow view of Christianity?

“Many singers,” writes Christianity Today, “have softened their Christian message in an effort to ‘cross over’ into the secular marketplace. But many now say this practice has damaged their credibility with Christian audiences while blunting their impact on secular customers.”

While it is true that CCM’s lyrics are not filthy, vulgar, or wicked, neither are they positively good. Most CCM lyrics—

especially "Christian rap" — contains a weak message or no message at all. At best, these songs encourage a superficial and flippant understanding of spiritual things. At worst, listeners simply ignore the empty lyrics and allow the sensual, rebellious music to influence them.

E. "Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear. For our God is a consuming fire." (Hebrews 12:28-29) Many, many times we are exhorted by Scripture to fear God and to have reverence for Him. How does this relate to music? If I really fear God, if I really am overwhelmed by His holiness and dignity, if I have great respect for God's dignity, if I am truly zealous for His Name and His glory, then I will make sure that my music is appropriate for glorifying God. Not only must the words be appropriate for the glorifying of God, but the sound or melody must befit the majesty, the purity, and the holiness of God.

Is this music — both words and melody — suitable for glorifying God?
Does this music — both words and melody — cheapen divine things or trivialize spiritual truth? Does this music encourage a non-serious or frivolous view of religion? Might it lead a listener to think that God is Someone that you can play games with or treat lightly?
Does this music — both words and melody — handle sacred truth in a sacred way? Is the music compatible with or complementary of the sacred things of which it claims to speak?

If this music bears Christ's name (as CCM does), then does it — both words and melody — also bear the marks of Christ's character? Does this music reflect His holiness, His righteousness, His purity, and His majesty? CCM fails here. It is not a suitable medium for glorifying God. CCM cheapens spiritual truth and encourages irreverent attitudes toward God. Even in songs where the words are okay or even good, CCM employs a type of music or sound that is not appropriate for worshipping God. The sound of CCM is, at very least, casual and worldly.

I realize that this concern may make little sense to some. We have, unfortunately, grown up in a generation that doesn't understand what it means to fear God. We have no sense of God's holiness. We play with sacred things flippantly. We rarely tremble at the fact that our God is a consuming fire. Incredibly, we think that if something is good enough for us, then it must be good enough for God. But Hebrews 12:28-29 merely alludes to something that is suggested over and over in the Bible: God is so holy that many things, actions, or attitudes are simply not appropriate before Him. If you have low views of God's holiness, then you won't appreciate my concerns here. But the more you appreciate God's sacredness, the more you will be concerned about the appropriateness of your music.

A former CCM performer wrote, "For three years I sat under the sound of biblical teaching and those years revolutionized my life. Very soon I learned what the gospel was, and as soon as I did so doubts arose in my mind as to the suitability of rock as a medium for the gospel....When I saw the seriousness of the gospel I saw the paradox of using a non-serious medium to try to convey it." The musician realized that his "Christian music," despite his good intentions, actually communicated a non-serious attitude.

II. Other Questions To Ask About Contemporary Christian Music

A. When you listen to CCM, what effect does it have on you? What happens when you listen to it? Do you find yourself worshipping God in spirit and in truth? Do you begin thinking about Bible verses or Scriptural truths? Do you think about God? Are you convicted of sins and failings in your life?
Or do you get pumped up? Do you get psyched? Do you simply start "feeling good"? Do you start playing "air guitar" or "air drums"? Do you feel like getting rowdy?
If you listen to CCM because it produces the second effect, then that should tell you that your music is dangerous. Your music is not glorifying God.

B. Who is it that is always defending CCM? Who is most vocal in arguing that CCM is actually good? Aren't CCM's primary defenders a) the unsaved; b) teenagers who, if they are Christians, must certainly be babes in Christ; or c) people who have only a questionable claim to being Christian? I'm struck by how practically no spiritually mature men rally to the defense of contemporary Christian music. In other words, it is the spiritually weak that argue that CCM is good.

CCM tends to make songwriters and performers our spiritual leaders. By listening to their songs, we are shaped by their music. Are CCM composers and performers qualified to be our spiritual leaders? Does the fact that someone can put words to rhyme or possesses a good voice necessarily mean that they are qualified to teach us spiritually? Certainly this is a frightening phenomenon. At the same time when young people increasingly ignore preaching and pastoral counseling

and often find biblical teaching boring — they flock to CCM as their source of spiritual nourishment. Little surprise that our children are not saved, and know so little about the great doctrines of our faith?

III. How Can You Tell If A Piece of Music Is Acceptable or Not?

Where do you “draw the line”?

Based upon the discussion above, and relying heavily on Philippians 4:8, I come up with the following “yardstick”:

1. Good music must have good lyrics. Lyrics must not only be not bad; they must be positively good (i.e., pass the Philippians 4:8 test).
2. Good music must have a good sound. The sound or tune itself can not be conducive of irrational thinking, aggression, or impulsiveness. Nor can the sound communicate a rebellious or defiant mood.
3. Good music cannot be associated with or linked to negative or questionable things. Good music must be pure. Good music cannot be worldly.
4. a) If music claims to be Christian, then (in addition to the above points) it must be music that befits God’s majesty. Christian music must be sober and reverential. Christian music must exemplify or display Christ’s character. b) If music does not claim to communicate a spiritual message (e.g., orchestral music), then (in addition to the above points) that music must be refined, balanced, sublime or subtle, and tranquil.

My conclusion is that much, if not all, of what is today called contemporary Christian music fails to measure up to this yardstick.

(received by e-mail)

Re: - posted by BenK (), on: 2008/6/7 6:32

Hi Thommy2

These theologically rich, Jesus Christ glorifying rappers like Flame, Shai Linee, Lacrae, 116 Clique ,etc...are an amazing blessing. A lot of these guys are street evangelists and open air preachers in their "spare" time. I have been brought to tears at times by the glorious vision of Jesus that they place before me, and convicted by their example of study of the scriptures and passion for the lost.

Wise Virgin said:

"When you listen to CCM, what effect does it have on you? What happens when you listen to it? Do you find yourself worshipping God in spirit and in truth? Do you begin thinking about Bible verses or Scriptural truths? Do you think about God? Are you convicted of sins and failings in your life?"

When I listen to these rappers, I most definitely do.

Re: - posted by JRuth (), on: 2008/6/7 9:56

I think what wisevirgin said is right

Quote:
-----I believe, however, that both are wrong. First, they ignore the fact that God’s Word offers criteria for evaluating music that is different from theirs. Second, they both assume (and this is an important word) that we must evaluate music solely on the basis of its lyrics. They assume that the music itself apart from the lyrics is morally neutral, or that the music itself apart from the lyrics communicates no message. These are false assumptions. Tunes or melodies communicate messages regardless of lyrics (or, to put it another way, there is always a message implicit in the music). Bad music that contains “good” lyrics still transmits a bad message.

Amen brother!!

Thommy2, I gave a link to some sermons that I think will help, IF you only would listen to them!!!

Re: Soul - Music - posted by crsschk (), on: 2008/6/7 10:29

A very good article and was glad to see this component keyed in on;

If all music (regardless of the lyrics) has a message, then what is the message communicated by the music of CCM? If nearly all of the effects produced by contemporary music's beat, repetition, and loudness are negative and is mildly hypnotic and can become addictive then the same is true to a degree with CCM. Such music produces chemical reactions in your body that encourage aggressive and emotional behavior. Those same physiological reactions prevent you from thinking and judging rationally. By the same token, contemporary music's beat, repetition, and loudness unmistakably convey a mood of defiance, rebelliousness, aggressiveness, and self-assertiveness. Clearly these effects are neither "morally excellent" nor "noble" nor "praiseworthy." Bad music, regardless of comparatively "good" lyrics, communicates a bad message.

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Have lost track of how many replies I have stored away whenever this subject is broached. It is very close to me in the sense that for years my whole life was geared around music and my goal in life was to become a musician professionally, a guitar players - guitar player and a 'rock star'. It is a somewhat difficult subject to express rightly from my perspective ..

Probably one of the things that bothers the most to be frank about it is some of the religious outcry from a variety of even good preachers and most not so good pontificating upon the evils of rock music\rap music what have you when they begin extrapolating over it without really having any knowledge of what they are taking about. It is a lot of speculation made fact, it is 'demonic' where it really is just soulish, it is too often exaggerated and made pragmatic to furnish or feed a point . It is the mix of dishonesty with right concern that doesn't need the embellishments. much more could be said.

Recognize this is geared more towards CCM and to be again honest think I have less of a problem with the 'worlds' music in the sense that "they know not what they do" or they are more correctly doing what all of us ever did (1Co 6:11) *And such were some of you: before we were washed,... sanctified, ...justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.* Think there is often more sheer honesty in the secular than in the parroting or "Christianizing" that goes on in CCM.

During all those years spent involved and dedicated to this pursuit of grandeur I was also of the exacting emphasis on the opposite, that it *wasn't the lyrics* but the music, the notes and chords, the musicianship, that the lyrics were secondary though not without import. It puts me in a bit of a predicament now when I must confess that it was a lyric itself from the guitar player of the notorious 'devil' himself, Ozzy Osbourne that finally broke me into repentance, it's part and parcel of my testimony that can be found here ...

All this backdrop only to say this ... The out takes from the article above I think are a key understanding that is too often overlooked. In a word it is manipulation. Music is manipulative in a variety of ways. It is often quite abused especially in Christianity, I am just now thinking of Benny Hinn and his use of playing the "Hallelujah" chorus over and over again (if you have ever been in one of his meetings) it's a conditioning like it or not, a manipulation playing upon the emotions in it's endless repetition, hypnotic, trance like.

Because of my entrenchment and constant piped in music ... I never went anywhere without a Walk-man, it was as much part of my dress as putting on your socks ... any car I ever owned always had a minimum of 6 speakers, amplifiers, equalizers ... I could go on and on with details. Always 'jamming' with our band, after school on weekends ... stereo on constantly, the collection of records had to be upwards of 750 and was constantly making and mixing new tapes ...

Then all of a sudden it just kind of stopped. Must put it that way because I don't know where that point really was. When the Lord arrested me for good things began to ... fall off by degree's. Some were instantaneous, cursing for instance, not by deliberate effort but by that backward notice later on down the line. The music I kept at in the same manner for a long time, interspersing the various CCM products here and there, most of what I found pretty shallow and of poor musicality to be honest. Was already a big Stypper fan for years prior in my confused searching after God, they were an important part in leading me up to and into the Light at last, even if so many years later.

I must stress that hardly a fraction of any of this ultimate leaving off of music was deliberate, I had heard and been bombarded with the Moral Majority, with a nagging brother who used to follow me around to 'witness' at and to me ... all the arguments, all the "devil's music", all the people telling me about bands that I knew so well, had read about and listened to their interviews, everything I could get my hands on, it just fell on deaf ears, they didn't know the first thing they were talking about.

It was hindsight that I recognized that I just couldn't allow my spirit to be played around with like a rag doll any longer. I had already left off unaware before this recognition came about. I didn't like being manipulated emotionally and uncontrollably even if I had given myself to it. It was no different than the drugs that were all part and parcel and combined into it. Could well go into all that as well, there is a demonic element to be sure that you open yourself up into by allowing something, someone else to conduct your thinking for you ... but that is another subject entirely.

This soulish aspect needs more scrutiny I believe. It is unfortunate that the argument almost always goes in a tit-for-tat momentum when discussing music, the lyrics or the music -ignore one or the other, defend one or the other, argue one or the other. Legalism comes into play as well as conscience and perhaps even development along the way, growth and learning the knowledge of the Lord. "Others may but you cannot" the great article that has been posted here frequently .. . I could no more press my experience or convictions upon another than anyone else, just the concern over this over looking of what we might allow ourselves to be manipulated by. The things we put into our ears and those that we allow our eyes to gaze upon, the tweaking of our spirits, the soulish appeal, that lower nature aspect ... It is often very subtle these things that condition and tweak with our minds, body, soul, spirit.

Re: Rap?? - posted by ginnyrose (), on: 2008/6/7 12:05

Thommy2,

I have a question for you: is there a possibility the Holy Spirit is working to teach you something in this area of music but you want to get others' opinions on it *first* before you make a decision? It has been my experience in life that the HS's method of teaching me something usually begins with questioning whether something "is right?" Initially, I will disregard the question but am learning to take these seriously now....

Just something to consider...

BTW, you did get some good responses to your question.

Blessings,
ginnyrose

Re: - posted by Compton (), on: 2008/6/7 14:42

I can't see a strict formula or set of rules on this issue. (edit: I am thankful to have recently discovered (<http://www.bluefishtv.com/ProductDetails.aspx?cid1005&id1843&fs1m&cc&csc&ldr&samena%20brown>) Amena Brown's poetry.) Still, there might be a side issue here to review... the way anything that is considered 'street relevant' gets a blank charter. If we are concerned about the message of our music, some artistic, if not common sense, might be in order.

Quote:
-----A prominent CCM performer agrees,he admits that "Some art forms have been created to express certain philosophies and are so wedded to those philosophies that they convey that kind of outlook....We can't assume that we simply plug in a Christian message, and everything will be okay."-----

For myself regarding this topic, I am reminded of the insight by the secular writer Marshall McLuhan who observed that in today's culture, "The medium is the message." His point here is that the message you are trying to deliver to people is greatly influenced, or even overshadowed by the delivery system.

Much noise is made over the street relevancy of rap. I can certainly understand this, however I do think we need to be careful with this logic.

Cultural relevancy in the church has become a magic carpet ride to go anywhere and do anything.

(edit)There is no formula I know of to make this issue clear cut. However, it seems clear cut to me that some music styles function as a cultural message overshadowing any rhetorical message they may contain. We notice that in popular music, while the singers are giving demonstrations and instructions about fornication, greed, or violence, they use a particular musical vocabulary. Now if we use that same musical vocabulary to try and deliver the Gospel message, we run the risk that the medium will obliterate the message.

So, while being concerned for the world, we should guard against too many sophisticated arguments on cultural relevancy. Today we could fill the Grand Canyon with religious books bloviating on and on about how to be 'authentic' to our culture.

Only desire to be simple and pure hearted...and we will be authentic. Music cannot achieve this for us. Never let our love for Christ be suppressed or muted in our heart or conscience. Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbour as thyself. The irreducible heart of the Gospel is being replaced with the humanistic idolatry of seeker-sensitivity, all under the banner of 'love' for your neighbour. The question for me is where does the my love for the lost begin...from my heart or from God's heart? If we neglect the heart of our First Love, how can we be sure we really serve others with that love and not with our own self-interest? These are especially convicting and challenging words to myself brother.

These are just my opinions,

MC

Re: - posted by Thommy2 (), on: 2008/6/9 10:09

Hey Everyone!! Hope y'all had a great weekend.

I have not yet listened to the sermons and will do so at some point today. There was a lot posted and I thank you for taking the time to post on my inquiry. Two main points beamed through while I was reading

1. The beat/style/genre is or can be related to worldly things
2. The feelings the music can produce

Well just some quick q's

1. I love hymns...Holy, Holy, Holy,..Blessed assurance, How Great Thou Art, Doxology.....here's a problem...3 of the 4 mentioned above are regularly sang in Roman Catholic Churches. Now if I can relate a hymn to an EVIL place...should I throw it away? My fiance hates when we sing certain hymns in our church b/c she grew up Catholic and when she hears them it reminds her of the evil that was in her church. Also I was not around when hymns started (again only 23) but when they did start were there pagan religions that used the same beats and riffs? So if Christian Rap is evil now will it outgrow this evil and eventually become the new hymns? Is our view of music culturally moved and not biblically moved...?

Also in other countries would we consider their style of worship evil b/c of the instruments or the sounds they produce? Again CULTURAL or BIBLICAL.

(Also someone had an analogy of a soda in a shop or a soda in a bar....How about a Rabbi with prostitutes. If being seen in an evil place makes one evil...?)

2. Feelings the music produces...any and everything produces feelings. Football games (huge Packer fan) the zoo, kissing, praying, working, etc. all create feelings. You hear the beginning of "It is well" and you are affected. You hear the theme song of Gilligans Island and it brings back feelings and memories. God created us to "feel". If we are using feelings to create a "spiritual experience" that's obviously not proper, but God did create us to experience, and it's not evil to feel. The very fact that Christ touched and was moved with compassion shows feelings can be a gift from God. So to say a certain kind of music makes someone feel is an extremely unbiblical defense.

(also again I am not defending music that does not bring biblically rich lyrics to their music)

Well God Bless and I'll give those sermons a listen.
Thommy

Also so i do not have to start a new thread.
I am getting married July 12th and would just like prayer THANKS

Re: - posted by JRuth (), on: 2008/6/9 11:10

Non-Christians, when they hear "Christian Rap", don't listen to the words, they listen to the music. And that music is the same thing as what the world plays. If we knew what that music says, I don't think we would listen to it or want others to!!
!

We are praying for you!!!

Re:, on: 2008/6/9 11:12

If we took all of christian music and put it on a scale between 1 and 10 according to that which leads to repentance, sanctification and a hungering more for God I would stay with that which is at the higher end of the scale. Why compromise with anything else that falls in between?

Re: - posted by JRuth (), on: 2008/6/9 11:17

Very good way to put it Rebecca_LF! I totally agree with you!!!

Re: - posted by Thommy2 (), on: 2008/6/9 11:28

Non-Christians, when they hear "Christian Rap", don't listen to the words, they listen to the music. And that music is the same thing as what the world plays. If we knew what that music says, I don't think we would listen to it or want others to!!
!

This is not about Non-Christians. This is about we as Christians seeing if it is unbiblical to listen to any genre of music. If it were about non-christian we could use the argument you used for any genre, country, rock, hymns, and so on. And if you were to look at the lyrics or listen to the lyrics of some of this rap, or some pop..whatever we would want to listen to it, b/c it could be very edifying. Example is I know flame has a rap on how to exegete scripture...that is edifying

Re: - posted by JRuth (), on: 2008/6/9 11:55

I have had the privilege of growing up in a christian home and being taught the side effects of wrong. As we would be traveling, as we did alot, when we would pull up next to a vehicle that had their music going, rap or rock or whatever they happened to have, my dad would point out to us children what the music was causing that poor soul to do. And he would say only one sentence, "the natives are restless."

As I grew older and read stories of natives and what they did when they were restless, I grew to understand that there is much more behind music then tones and words. Music is a tool of worship - I pray that I will NEVER use the music of the world (the enemy of God) or of Satan (the defeated foe) to try to praise my Savior who gave His life for my sins so that I could live to praise him!

I would urge anyone to evaluate whether the music they are using for worship is acceptable in the sight of a Holy God, or whether it is only acceptable to the god of this world. ~Jerusala

Re: - posted by Thommy2 (), on: 2008/6/9 12:10

What style is biblically allowed??? Is this truly a biblical thing or is this a cultural or (in your case) a family influential thing?

What if God HATES organs and pianos???? How do we BIBLICALLY discern which style of music is allowed in worship?

Re:, on: 2008/6/9 12:25

Quote:

Thommy2 wrote:

What style is biblically allowed??? Is this truly a biblical thing or is this a cultural or (in your case) a family influential thing?

What if God HATES organs and pianos???? How do we BIBLICALLY discern which style of music is allowed in worship?

When I first became a christian I listened to contemporary christian music but it wasn't until I began hungering for more of God that my music style changed. Contemporary music is full of fillers for instance the beat of the music, the many chords and the progression all to appeal to your flesh man. If you were to strain all of those fillers out you would get what is left. It's that which is left that I want more of. It was a sanctifying process in my life and I want to be ever changing towards that which glorifies God.

Re: - posted by Thommy2 (), on: 2008/6/9 13:02

"When I first became a christian I listened to contemporary christian music but it wasn't until I began hungering for more of God that my music style changed" -Rebecca_LF

Above is a very subjective experience, and not necessarily based off Biblical authority

Here's a thought

I take the historical-grammatical approach to Scripture. I believe that the reason Cain and Abel were giving sacrifices to the LORD were b/c God had shown his creation (post-fall) that sacrifice was a part of worship.

Now by the time Jacob rolls around sacrificial worship is found in every pagan religion. Pagans are having an almost identical "mass" or "worship service" as that of those who worship the true and only LORD.

So when Jacob anointed the rock, and set up an altar, and put on his "worship service" he was not doing what would have been uncommon to his surrounding culture. Possibly the only overwhelming difference between his service and that of the pagans within earshot was the NAME he proclaimed. He proclaimed the name of the LORD to differentiate his praise from that of onlooking pagans.

Could we carry this same thought into worship? Would it be biblical to play a polka worship song? Or a bluegrass worship song? Or again is the distaste of a style of music a cultural issue and not a biblical issue?

(Just to re-emphasize I am not defending "christian music" that tries to hide the message in the music, or music that is not theologically rich)

God Bless you guys :)

Re: - posted by JRuth (), on: 2008/6/9 15:19

Looking at holiness:

2 Chronicles 20:21

And when he had consulted with the people, he appointed singers unto the LORD, and that should praise the beauty of holiness, as they went out before the army, and to say, Praise the LORD; for his mercy endureth for ever.

Psalm 93:5

Thy testimonies are very sure: holiness becometh thine house, O LORD, for ever.

Psalm 96:9

O worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness: fear before him, all the earth.

Psalm 97:12

Rejoice in the LORD, ye righteous; and give thanks at the remembrance of his holiness.

Zechariah 14:20

In that day shall there be upon the bells of the horses, HOLINESS UNTO THE LORD; and the pots in the LORD's house

shall be like the bowls before the altar.

Hebrews 12:14

Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord:

Musical instruments:

1 Chronicles 16:42

And with them Heman and Jeduthun with trumpets and cymbals for those that should make a sound, and with musical instruments of God. And the sons of Jeduthun were porters.

2 Chronicles 5:13

It came even to pass, as the trumpeters and singers were 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;

2 Chronicles 7:6

And the priests waited on their offices: the Levites also with instruments of musick of the LORD, which David the king had made to praise the LORD, because his mercy endureth for ever, when David praised by their ministry; and the priests sounded trumpets before them, and all Israel stood.

2 Chronicles 34:12

And the men did the work faithfully: and the overseers of them were Jahath and Obadiah, the Levites, of the sons of Merari; and Zechariah and Meshullam, of the sons of the Kohathites, to set it forward; and other of the Levites, all that could skill of instruments of musick.

Nehemiah 12:36

And his brethren, Shemaiah, and Azarael, Milalai, Gilalai, Maai, Nethaneel, and Judah, Hanani, with the musical instruments of David the man of God, and Ezra the scribe before them.

Psalms 98:6

With trumpets and sound of cornet make a joyful noise before the LORD, the King.

Psalms 150:4

Praise him with the timbrel and dance: praise him with stringed instruments and organs.

Zechariah 9:14

And the LORD shall be seen over them, and his arrow shall go forth as the lightning: and the LORD God shall blow the trumpet, and shall go with whirlwinds of the south.

Matthew 24:31

And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

1 Corinthians 15:52

In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

What our songs are to be:

Ephesians 5:19

Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord;

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.

Principle:

Psalm 119:1

Blessed are the undefiled in the way, who walk in the law of the LORD.

James 1:27

Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world.

Re: - posted by Thommy2 (), on: 2008/6/9 15:43

So with all of these quotes above are they "prescriptive" or "descriptive"?

Also we have instruments mentioned, but not genres. If a Rap song had awesome lyrics, singing, used a trumpet, and a harp...would it be ok?

I'm asking b/c being young people definatley blow me off as if "I'll grow up and hate all music that the rest of main stream Christendom hates." I don't want to hate what man hates, I want to hate what God hates. We circle believers with an americanized moral ideology and stamp the name of the Lord on it to give it authority. (obviously morals are a huge issue. Many things "Christians" deem acceptable are evil and wicked I am not saying "Live outside of a Biblical boundry..Run be free).

So how would the Bible verses stated above build a case against a certain genre of music?

Thanks Y'all brothers for texting back and forth with me!

Re: - posted by Compton (), on: 2008/6/9 16:48

Quote:

-----We circle believers with an americanized moral ideology and stamp the name of the Lord on it to give it authority.

I thought rap and hip hop already is an expression of an americanized moral ideology. 8-)

MC

Re: - posted by Thommy2 (), on: 2008/6/9 17:01

:oops: :-P Compton...that made me chuckle quite a bit

Re:, on: 2008/6/9 17:08

Hi all,

I've been following this conversation and have decided to share an article on

(http://www.reformationsa.org/articles/reforming_music.htm) reforming music from (<http://www.frontline.org.za/>) Peter Hammond.

On the side, I think an understanding of music theory is needed in regards to rap music. This is more than preference, cultural or just style. It's more about what is 'good' music and what is 'bad' music. What are the essential parts of good music?

Just type in 'the effects of rock music on rats' in a google search and start reading. There has been scientific research done on music and the effects it has on the mind. Check out some of the experiments in this article. Mike B brought up some excellent points on the manipulation of music. There is good manipulation and bad manipulation. Harp music or Handel's water music has a very soothing effect on the mind. Consider king Saul and how David's harp playing brought relief. In the same way, a strong rock beat will have negative affect on the body of the listener, whether it's fully realized or not.

So, with rap music, the question must be asked...is rap music good for us to listen to? Our bodies are the temple of the Holy Spirit, we are not our own, we're bought with a price. These things must be considered in light of this discussion.

Well...I was only going to post the article but I guess I did have some things to say. This is a multi-faceted discussion, and I'm only bringing another facet of it.

I hope this will be of some help for you, Thommy, and that you keep seeking the Lord on this. One more thought... we really do condition ourselves to what we listen to. I listen to music that has the melody first, harmony second, and rhythm last, i.e., classical, hymns, etc. And so when I hear rap, it totally turns me off because all I hear is annoying racket, with someone talking (Forgive my bluntness...I hope that doesn't offend anyone...but that is really just the way I feel about it). It doesn't sound melodious or harmonic. We all make choices, consciously or unconsciously, what we condition ourselves for, and that is where we need to have knowledge and understanding as to what is good and what is bad. And I think that is what you're seeking after here, brother.

Btw, welcome to SI! And congratulations on your upcoming wedding. May the blessing of Jesus Christ be with you and your fiance during this time!

~Joy :-)

REFORMING MUSIC by Peter Hammond

“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.” Colossians 3:16

Frequently one hears the refrain: “The Bible doesn’t give any guidelines for music. It’s all a matter of taste and preference.” However, the Bible speaks to all areas of life, and music is no exception.

“Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in Psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ, submitting to one another in the fear of God.” Ephesians 5:17-21

Music is to be melodious. We are to sing as unto the Lord. It is to be wholehearted. The content is to be Scriptural, with the Psalms predominating. It is to be in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ, and thanksgiving for all things to God the Father in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ is to characterise it.

“The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusted in Him, and I am helped; therefore my heart greatly rejoices, and with my song I will praise Him.” Psalm 28:7

“Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous! For praise from the upright is beautiful. Praise the Lord with the harp; make melody to Him with an instrument of ten strings. Sing to Him a new song; play skillfully with a shout of joy.” Psalm 33:1-3

Worship is the natural response of a Christian. When we are saved, God puts a new song in our heart, and we cannot help but rejoice and praise the Lord, with melody, with instruments, skillfully, and with a shout of joy.

“I will praise you, O Lord, with my whole heart; I will tell of all Your marvellous works. I will be glad and rejoice in You; I will sing praise to Your Name, O Most High.” Psalm 9:1-2

Music is to be the overflow of a regenerate heart, it must be wholehearted, it must focus on the marvellous works of our great God and Saviour, and it should be characterised by rejoicing.

“Be exalted, O Lord, in Your own strength! We will sing and praise Your power.” Psalm 21:13

“I waited patiently for the Lord; and He inclined to me and heard my cry. He also brought me up out of a horrible pit, out

t of the mud and clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my steps. He has put a new song on my mouth praise to our God; many will see it and fear and will trust in the Lord." Psalm 40:1-3

And the Lord is to be praised even in the worst of circumstances. Paul and Silas, even after having been seized and attacked by a mob, and beaten with rods, unjustly thrown into prison, their response was to sing praises to God. "But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God and the prisoners were listening to them." Acts 16:25

"I will sing a new song to You, O God; on a harp of ten strings I will sing praises to you." Psalm 144:9

"I will sing with the Spirit, and I will also sing with the understanding." 1 Cor. 14:15

"Make a joyful shout to God, all the earth! Sing out the honour of His Name; make His praise glorious. Say to God, 'How awesome are Your works! Through the greatness of Your power Your enemies shall submit themselves to You. All the earth shall worship You and sing praises to You; they shall sing praises to Your Name.'" Psalm 66:1-4

EVALUATING OUR MUSIC

In the light of these clear Scriptural principles, how does our music measure up? Does the praise and worship in our congregation meet the Scriptural standards? And what about the music we listen to in our home, or while travelling?

"WE SOLD OUR SOUL FOR ROCK 'N ROLL"

Far from praising and honouring our Lord Jesus Christ, many of the popular secular bands openly blaspheme Christ, exalt the breaking of every one of the Ten Commandments, and some, such as Black Sabbath, openly proclaim their allegiance to Satan. One of the albums of Black Sabbath is entitled: "We Sold Our Soul for Rock 'n Roll". One of the lyrics in their song Nativity In Black is a love song from Satan: "Some people say my love cannot be true, please believe me, my love, and I'll show you, I will give you those things you thought unreal...your love for me has just got to be real...look into my eyes, you'll see who I am, my name is Lucifer, please take my hand!"

ANTICHRIST ARTISTS

Kurt Cobain has been reported to have decorated his home with blood spattered baby dolls hanging by their necks. The inside of his band, Nirvana's, album, In Utero has pictures of chopped up babies. Cobain has been reported to have spray painted "abort Christ" and "God is gay" around his neighbourhood.

Jefferson Aeroplane produced a most blasphemous song "The Son of Jesus" which spews out their hate of the Lord Jesus by claiming He was involved in the occult, had illegitimate children by Mary Magdalene, and that God the Father was sexually attracted to Jesus' daughter! These are just a few examples of the many multiplied thousands of blasphemous, anti-Christ elements pervasive in secular Rock, Hip Hop and Rap.

COPYING THE WORLD

But what about contemporary Christian music? Incredibly, many contemporary music performers sing songs from these very secular artists, and adopt and adapt songs from them. Many even copy the world's looks and lifestyles.

"WE HAVE CREATED A MONSTER"

Stan Moser, former head of Word Records, and CEO of Star Records, was one of the pioneers and most important executives in contemporary Christian music. After 26 years in the industry, he walked away from contemporary Christian music and in an article in Christianity Today (We Have Created a Monster) Mr. Moser freely admitted: "There is a growing chasm between CCN and the Church between what's actually happening in the real world of ministry, or even in the music ministry of the Church, and what we're doing in Contemporary Christian Music. In fact, I would probably be more inclined to call the industry commercial Christian music rather than Contemporary Christian Music...To be candid, I look at the majority of the music I hear today and think it's virtually meaningless...we as an industry weren't running away from the Church at that time, but I do think we walked away...so we could still basically, get rich. Materialism, a lot of it, crept in and started affecting our values..." (Christianity Today, May 20, 1996)

Michael Card acknowledges: "...we started with little root in the Church, and now we're bearing the fruit of that sep

aration...there's a big accountability gap in the industry as a result of the lack of connectedness to the Church." (Christianity Today, Can't Buy Me Ministry, May 20, 1996)

MASS MARKETING MUSIC

In an interview in Christianity Today, Michael Card was quoted as observing: "The lyrics of a good number of the songs don't portray anything specifically Christian - ...not a lot of the big songs are identifiably Christian...what happens to the message when we start giving the music to as many people as possible? There is an essential part of the Gospel that's not ever going to sell. The Gospel is good news, but it is also bad news: You are a sinner and you are hopeless. How is a multi-million dollar record company going to take that? That's a part of the message, too, and if that's taken out and it frequently is in Christian music it ceases to be the Gospel." (Can't Buy Me Ministry)

THE PRAISE OF MEN VS THE PRAISE OF GOD

The great Reformer Martin Luther warned of this nearly 500 years ago: "We should praise God with both word and music, openly proclaiming the Word of God through music...he who believes earnestly cannot be quiet about it. But he must gladly and willingly sing and speak about it so that others may come and hear it. And whoever does NOT want to sing and speak of it shows that he does not believe it."

"They did not confess Him...for they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God." Jn 12:42-43

It is clear from the Scripture that all music should be for the praise and glory of God. However, it seems that many Christian concerts seem to be everything but that. Here are a few reports of reactions to some major Christian artists and bands: "As teenager shrieks fill the Dallas Convention Centre moments before DC Talk took the stage Friday night, one of the relatively few grownups in the sold out crowd observed this is just like The Beatles!"; "His concerts draw hundreds of thousands of fans each year, mostly teenage girls who scream out their affection for him non-stop throughout...to his fans, Smith is the absolute greatest there is bar none..." (Inside Music)

IDOLATRY IN MUSIC

As Keith Green wrote: "Why do we idolise Christian singers and speakers? We go from glorifying musicians in the world to glorifying Christian musicians. It's all idolatry!...Satan is getting a great victory as we seem to worship these ministers on tapes and records and clammer to get their autographs in churches and concert halls from coast to coast." (So You Wanna Be A Rock Star? by Keith Green)

"Now, the industry is celebrity driven. The song is almost irrelevant. The focus is on the person and songs have become disposable...the direction and value system are getting worse faster than any of us can imagine." (Can't Buy Me Ministry)

"Sometimes people give us a hard time because we don't mention God on stage...but we feel that our calling is to get people interested in our music, interested in us..." (Ghoti Hook, HM magazine)

"God knows your hearts. For what is highly esteemed among men is an abomination in the sight of God." Luke 16:15

There is tremendous power in music, and whenever any minister of the Gospel questions a form of music or challenges popular trends in music, he will experience much abuse, hostility and an explosive reaction.

"For do I now persuade men, or God? Or do I seek to please men? For if I still pleased men, I would not be a bondservant of Christ." Galatians 1:10

THE MESSAGE, THE MUSIC AND THE MUSICIAN

Christian music should always emphasise the message the Word of God not the music, nor the musician. Christian music is not meant to be entertainment, it is not a performance, a concert or a talent show. Music is to be worship, a ministry as unto the Lord.

Dr. Frank Garlock has written: "Contrary to popular opinion, sacred music is not for entertainment. Christian music is first and foremost a vehicle for praise unto the Lord." (Music In the Balance)

Church father, St. Augustine, observed: "When I am moved by the voice of him that sings more than the words sung, I confess to have sinned."

However, much of what is presented as Christian music today not only emphasises the musician, but the medium completely overwhelms the message. In all too many cases the message is vague, ambiguous, obscured or incomprehensible.

Martin Luther emphasised the importance of avoiding worldly influence and ensuring that the message is clear: "But I would like to avoid any new words or the language used at court. In order to be understood by the people, only the simplest and the most common words should be used for singing; at the same time, however, they should be pure and apt; and further, the sense should be clear and as close as possible to the Psalm."

SOUNDING LIKE THE WORLD

Fanny Crosby, a prolific Hymn writer who produced over 9,000 songs of praise, despite being blind, was only converted at 45 years old. Before this she wrote many secular songs. This is what Fanny Crosby wrote about mixing Christian hymns with worldly music: "Sometimes I need to reject the music proposed for my songs because the musicians misunderstand that the Fanny Crosby who once wrote for the people in the saloons has merely changed the lyrics. O my, no. The Church must never sing its songs to the melodies of the world." (What's Wrong With Christian Rock)

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things are become new." 2 Corinthians 5:17

"When Christian music carries the beat, instrumentation, and exact sounds of the lost crowd, it results in confusion and shame...it is shameful to use musicians who in shallow songs daze instead of praise, who entertain instead of train...that transfer the worship owed to Christ to concert hopping, money hungry entertainers who have never left the world far enough behind to stop sounding like it..." (Shame, By Dr. Hal Webb)

DEFINING MUSIC

Music is composed of three main components: Melody, harmony and rhythm. By definition, if any of these three elements are absent, then it is no longer music, but noise.

MELODY

Webster's Dictionary defines "melody" as: "An agreeable succession of sounds; a succession of sounds so regulated and modulated as to please the ear. To constitute melody the sounds must be arranged according to the laws of rhythm, measure or the due proportion of the movements to each other...to make melody in the heart, to praise God with a joyful and thankful disposition, ascribing to Him the honour due to His Name."

Amadeus Mozart declared: "Melody is the very essence of music." (Wordsworth Dictionary of Musical Quotations)

"Melody is the main thing; harmony is useful only to charm the ear." Joseph Haydn (Wordsworth Dictionary)

Melody is the horizontal line the notes follow on the music score. Without the melody line, there is no music.

HARMONY

Webster's dictionary defines "harmony" as: "That union of different sounds which pleases the ear; or a succession of such sounds, called chords." Harmony is the vertical line where the notes meet on the music score.

RHYTHM

"Rhythm" is defined by Webster: "Variety in the movement as to quickness or slowness...the proportion which the parts of the motion have to each other." Rhythm is the movement in music, the beat that holds everything together.

NOISE MASQUERADING AS MUSIC

Webster defines "musical" as: "Melodious; harmonious; pleasing to the ear..." By these definitions, much of what passes for music today would be more accurately described as noise.

The greatest musicians in history have agreed that melody is the very essence of music, but in much of contemporary music the rhythm, or the beat, has taken over and the melody and harmony has either become obscured or vanished.

"The rhythm in Rock is the dominant part of the sound. The heavy emphasis on the beat is what distinguishes Rock from every other type of music." (Frank Garlock, Music In the Balance)

Even Mick Jagger of the Rolling Stones has been quoted as admitting: "It's a noise we make. That's all. You could be kind and call it music." (The Rolling Stones An Illustrated Record, by Roy Carr)

"I'M A SLAVE TO THE RHYTHM"

"The sexuality of music is usually referred to in terms of its rhythm - it is the beat that commands a directly physical response." (Sound Effects, Youth, Leisure and the Politics of Rock 'n Roll)

"Rhythm is the element of music most closely allied to body movement, to physical action. Its simple patterns when repeated over and over can have a hypnotic effect on us." (The Enjoyment of Music by Joseph Macklis)

When rock star Michael Jackson was asked why he made filthy sexual hand gestures on stage he replied: "It's the music that compels me to do it. You don't think about it, it just happens. I'm a slave to the rhythm." (The Evening Star, 11/2/93)

While Rock music emphasises the beat, the Bible emphasises music as melody (Isaiah 23:16; Isaiah 51:3; Ephesians 5:19).

CELEBRATING UGLINESS

Instead of focussing on attractive, uplifting and beautiful sounds and themes much of the modern industry celebrates ugliness.

"...popular music seems terminally hostile to any sound traditionally associated with music." (Hole In Our Soul The Loss of Beauty and Meaning in American Popular Music, by Martha Bayles)

THE VOODOO CONNECTION

The predominance of the drums in Rock music is noteworthy. Rock music emphasises hard driving beat. The drum is central in Rock, Rave, Rap and Hip Hop.

"Drums represent the beat of the heart and are played to summon up magic powers." (Marinda Bruce-Mitford, The Illustrated Book of Signs and Symbols)

"Pagan dances and rituals are always accompanied by the incessant beat of drums. Rhythm plays a major role in these demonic activities." (Satan's Music Exposed, Lowell Heart)

"The idea that certain rhythm patterns or sequences serve as conduits for spiritual energies, linking individual human consciousness with the gods, is basic to traditional African religions...Rock 'n Roll can ultimately be traced back to African music of a primarily spiritual or ritual nature. In a sense Rock 'n Roll is a kind of voodoo..." (Rock 'n Roll An Unruly History, by Robert Palmer)

"Today's drummer differs but a little from the shaman in his incessant beating out of a rhythm, and likewise often enters into a form of trance while performing." (The Secret Power of Music, by David Tame)

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." (The Life and Times of Little Richard, by Charles White)

INSTRUMENTS FOR WORSHIP

It is noteworthy that while the Bible lists many kinds of instruments for music, drums are never mentioned. "...for the music in the house of the Lord, with cymbals, stringed instruments and harps for the service of the house of God..." 1 Chronicles 25:6

"Praise God in His sanctuary...praise Him for His mighty acts; praise Him according to His excellent greatness! Praise Him with the sound of the trumpet; praise Him with the lute and the harp! Praise Him with the timbrel and dance; praise Him with stringed instruments and flutes! Praise Him with loud cymbals; praise Him with clashing cymbals! Let everything that has breath praise the Lord." Psalm 150

The drum was a very common instrument in Egypt and the lands around Israel at that time and yet drums are never mentioned as instruments for believers to use in worship. Christian music should emphasise the melody, not the beat. Christian music should feed the spirit and not the flesh. Christian music should be rooted in Scripture and focused on glorifying God.

PLEASING GOD

"Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Who then, therefore, wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God." James 4:4

"For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the Law of God, nor indeed can be. So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God." Romans 8:5-8

"God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth." John 4:24

"Therefore come out from among them and be separate says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, and I will receive you. I will be a Father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty." 2 Corinthians 6:17-18

"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God." Romans 12:1-2

"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. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do all in the Name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him." Col. 3:16-17

"Praise the Lord! Sing to the Lord a new song. And His praise in the assembly of saints." Psalm 149:1

Re:, on: 2008/6/9 18:17

Quote:

Thommy2 wrote:

So with all of these quotes above are they "prescriptive" or "descriptive"?

Also we have instruments mentioned, but not genres. If a Rap song had awesome lyrics, singing, used a trumpet, and a harp...would it be ok?

I'm asking b/c being young people definatley blow me off as if "I'll grow up and hate all music that the rest of main stream Christendom hates." I don't want to hate what man hates, I want to hate what God hates. We circle believers with an americanized moral ideology and stamp the name of the Lord on it to give it authority. (obviously morals are a huge issue. Many things "Christians" deem acceptable are evil and wicked I am not saying "Live outside of a Biblical boundry..Run be free).

So how would the Bible verses stated above build a case against a certain genre of music?

Thanks Y'all brothers for texting back and forth with me!

Thommy,

I don't think you are going to find anything Biblically against a certain genre of music that you can build a case (for you to confront possibly and argue with people about).

If I may ask, are you black or white? Did you grow up around rap/hip-hop music? What culture are you from? Irish? - celtic type music? American Indian - flute type music? Southern - southern type gospel music? Jewish? Italian? I do not like opera! But those who grew up with it, love it! I don't see people getting upset about Christian operatic (sp?) type music!! I've heard it, it's out there!

Personally, I'm white and I like listening to some Christian rap music. But my tastes change, I used to love southern gospel music, now I rarely listen to the stuff. I do like the snappy tunes from the Gaithers but other than that, I don't listen. I even had a neighbor once tell me that those who didn't listen to southern gospel music was going to hell. He condemned me right there.

Let me ask you this ... How did you come across this woman you are going to marry? From the time you laid eyes on her, what appealed to you about her? Her smile? Her walk? Her body type? Her hair? Her eyes? Her laugh? There is not too much Biblical about those things, are there? LOL But God knew what you liked and sent her your way. "Every good and perfect gift comes from the Father above!" After initially being attracted to her, then you got to know her, correct? Then you knew if she loved Jesus or not. If God cares about what you like in a woman, why wouldn't He care about what kind of music each of us like?

I understand you wanting to hate what God hates. I don't know about music but I know that God hates the sin in my life and your life. If we work on getting the lust out, getting the hate out, getting the selfishness out and love our neighbor as we love ourselves and we trust Him, I believe that God will take care of the rest!!

Re:, on: 2008/6/9 18:25

Did you look around flame314's site? Here is an excerpt from a couple of his article's:

Just How "Christian" Are You Anyway?
by The Ambassador

Whether we claim to be a "Christian rapper," a "Christian hip hopper," or just a "plain Christian," the question should be asked of us, "just how Christian are we?"

The best Christian rappers are not just good rappers but, good Christians. The best Christian hip hopppers are not just cool hip hopppers but, good Christians. The best "plain Christians" are not those who have perfect church attendance, but those who live all of their life submitted and obedient to Jesus Christ. This is my burden and focus in 2007—the amping up of real Christians who are potent in their Christianity! Will the real Christians please stand up and stand out? Christian crowds are now easier than ever to amass. We've got our own celebrities, our own festivals, our own award shows, etc. Through the right marketing and promotions we can "do it big" these days, but in the midst of all of this I'm still plagued with the question, "just how Christian are we?"

This almost sounds like a trick question because it seems impossible to judge something like this. How do you judge how Christian someone is, or how Christian you are? I'm not sure that a "right answer" will be agreed on, but certainly we should be able to answer how much of the essentials of Christ's character and concerns are easily detected in us? Out of the darkness of secular culture God has clearly snatched for himself individuals and placed them into a union with His Son Jesus Christ. After this transfer, a lifestyle change is supposed to visibly and tangibly demonstrate the difference being in Christ makes. Christ is supposed to take over a person and live his life out through them. Therefore, I look to my generation and ask "just how Christian are you?"

and one about pornography:

Killing the Enemy of Pornography
submitted by FLAME

I write to you with deep concern and compassion. I recognize that this will be a fight over time for those who struggle in this area. If you do not struggle in this area, I recommend that you stay clear of it.

The first thing I want to encourage you with is that God has not left us alone in this area. He has given us the Holy Spirit and a new nature to help us combat this temptation. Our responsibility is to fight and trust God. We do this by disciplining our bodies and bringing it into submission (1 Cor. 9:27).

The Bible tells us that "No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man, but God is faithful who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it" (1 Cor. 10:13). So don't fret my friend, God has already made us free from this bondage to pornography and has made us slaves to Him (Rom. 6:22).

Be encouraged my brothers and sisters you can defeat this!

Re: - posted by Compton (), on: 2008/6/9 21:56

I think Intens4Him has given us some good perspective here. Listening to her is better than asking someone like me to load you up with my heavy freight of legal opinions and complex justifications. ('Cause I'll do it!)

We should strive to be simple and honest with God and ourselves about these things. Our best arguments about the merits of retaining cultural relativity often overlook the sin in that culture! All our cultures, from wall street to bourbon street, are awash in depravity; so 'cultural relativity or authenticity' does not make something acceptable to God. In fact, my culture may very well provoke his judgment.

In Christ we have richer exhortations to give one another, than legal opinions about our different cultures. Oh how poorly we seem to comprehend the New Covenant! Our minds seem hard-wired for legalism with a nervous need to fit everything into neat categories of right and wrong.

If only I could say that love is the engine of all my actions! I like the way this whole burdensome question (of whether I should maintain a liberality or a closed mindedness towards the various cultural inventions of man) is effortlessly bypassed in the song lyrics "Turn your eyes upon Jesus,...and the things of earth will grow strangely dim,." Ahhh, no technical questions, law opinions, or complex justifications...not the slightest scent of legalism. Just love unfettered for the glory of God and for the saints of God. May we, who are from different cultures, grow and exhort one another to gather together into this entirely new culture from heaven.

Blessings,

MC

Re:, on: 2008/6/10 7:17

I think as with anything else with a Christian tag on it, you need to be careful. I know a lot of Christians **love** to declare anything even remotely resembling rap music to be inherently evil.

Sometimes I wonder if racism is really behind that.

My two older kids (ages 12 & 13) are starting to develop their own tastes in music. Their mother and I do dictate what music is acceptable in our house, and what will not be tolerated.

What I have found in Christian rap is, for the most part, a very bold declaration of Jesus Christ. Bolder than any other style of Christian music. What's coming out from Cross Movement, and the artists on that label, actually is very deep theologically. **Very** deep.

One artist I would caution people about is T-Bone. He's one of the most popular ones. Some of his music is quite good, but I have heard some of his stuff where he's bragging about the cars he drives and all that... as if he's trying to out do his secular counterparts. He brags too much about himself... and he promotes the outer limits of the Charismatic movement & Word of Faith.

General Topics :: Rap??

But a lot of Christian rap, lyrically speaking, is actually much better than most Christian music.

I would recommend Cross Movement, and the artists associated with them. Lecrae, Da' T.R.U.T.H., The Ambassador, et c.

Christian Rap will never be accepted by the hard core rap fans. Ask any record label and they will tell you the people buying Christian rap are *mainly* Christian middle class white teenage boys. So evangelistic it is not... but it can be very encouraging and uplifting for those are into it.

Tell ya what tho... I really dont like rap music as a style. It doesnt do anything for me. TobyMac is as close as I get to liking rap music, and his stuff is actually a mixture of many different styles.

Oh, I forgot about KJ-52... I like that guy. Good tunes, good sense of humor. I can tolerate him in small doses.

Can I just say something here.... whenever the topic of music comes up it gets pretty dicey around here. But one thing that bugs me is that those who are against Christian music tend to post these lengthy tomes that they've cut and pasted from some corny website... full of quotes that wont give you the name or reference... etc... please dont do that, y'all. All I care about is hearing YOUR opinion on the topic. What does scripture say to YOU about it. I dont care about what Dial-A-Truth Ministries has to say about it.

Krispy

Re:, on: 2008/6/10 7:25

Quote:
-----I'm asking b/c being young people definatley blow me off as if "I'll grow up and hate all music that the rest of main stream Christendom hates."

I heard that when I was a kid too, even tho I wasnt in church. Ya know what? I still love the same style of music I did when I was a kid. I no longer listen to the same bands because I wasnt saved back then... but stylistically, I still love it. I'm 40.

However, I will say this... my taste in music has expanded greatly the older I get. Back in the day I was into only 1 style of music, and everything else was junk. Well, I was wrong. Now I like just about everything except Opera, and really bad Christian music (and there is a lot of really bad Christian music).

Krispy

Re:, on: 2008/6/10 7:33

Quote:
-----What if God HATES organs and pianos????

I think He does hate it. Here's why: I have the Spirit of God living inside of me, I have the mind of Christ, and I am a new creature... and I still hate organ music. Therefore I conclude that God hates organ music.

(tongue planted firmly in cheek!)

Krispy

Re: - posted by TaylorOtwell (), on: 2008/6/10 8:47

The God Man Jesus Christ crucified for sin/He died to win triflin' type of men -- like me....

--shai linne

The Holy Jehovah dove in clothed with skin, broke in and atoned for sin then rose again/so odious rodents and homeless roaches can approach His throne and hold closer to Him, and won't be condemned!

--shai linne

Re: - posted by Thommy2 (), on: 2008/6/10 9:48

Thanks again for posting.

Just a background.

I am 23 white, live in Milwaukee, love hymns and opera, more than rap, and for future reference I am a pretty laid back guy. If it sounds like I am getting angry or upset there's a really good chance I am not (unless you are coming up against the deity of Christ...then I'm mad).

It has been awesome to read all of the posts (or cut a paste the really really long ones to give them a shot when I have time). I still see this debate as a matter of opinion and a "pet doctrine" issue rather than a true Biblical issue. Well have a great day and be blessed!

Re: - posted by Compton (), on: 2008/6/10 13:34

Quote:

-----I still see this debate as a matter of opinion and a "pet doctrine" issue rather than a true Biblical issue.

While this may or may not be the case, if this is all you take away from this discussion, it hasn't been very fruitful.

MC

Re: - posted by henmar, on: 2008/12/3 9:21

Hello,

Just a few thoughts of our own.

Romans tells us to not be conformed to this world and that includes its many sub-cultures such as "hip-hop" does it not? These are some questions that we have:

Is any genre of music sanctified because the words are theologically sound?

What about the identification with and the acceptance level placed on the whole genre culture?

The whole culture of heavy metal, hip-hop or country western always carries things with it that are not to be found in the life of the sanctified, the "set apart" unto God, such as the "style" of our outward appearance, the slang and jargon that seems like we are still living in the "old life". Is it not true, that by keeping so many of the elements of the culture that we are saved in, we fail to see the birthplace and origin of that culture, namely the heart of satan or the god of this world?

While we believe that people can be saved in the midst of any style or culture, does that mean that we conclude that the genre, or cultural influence is neutral itself, or if we add Jesus to it that it is sanctified?

Where do we learn how to dress from? The fallen cultures around us?

Why do we want to look like a culture that has such negative and sinful messages flowing out of it? Who taught the fallen culture to dress, what cars to drive, how to talk?

General Topics :: Rap??

Christians who want to pattern many of their "tatses" after their old idols, will admit that they simply like the style of music , the dress and the outward of it all, but not the words. Why do we like the rest though? Where are we looking for acceptance in this world? From the world?

Are we hoping to create a "new world", within a "fallen world", that follows that fashions of the fallen world, so that we can have Jesus in our life and still make provision for, and fulfill the lusts of our flesh, wherein dwells no good thing?

How much of what we are doing in the name of, "Jesus saved me and tells no one to judge me or others" is an excuse so that we can fulfill the secret desires of our flesh?

These are some of our honest questions.

Re:, on: 2008/12/3 9:59

Quote:
-----Why do we want to look like a culture that has such negative and sinful messages flowing out of it? Who taught the fallen culture to dress, what cars to drive, how to talk?

I agree... so why would Christians want to wear a suit and tie and look like all the corruption on Wall Street, Washington DC and corporate America?

Krispy

Re: - posted by narrowpath, on: 2008/12/3 13:43

You can argue about taste and style, but I think we have to look at what is inherent to any type of Music, Art, Outfit, Entertainment. We would like to have rules, but it is far better to listen to your conscience and the Holy Spirit. Some things are ok for most Christians, to others it is unclean.

We should not ask how much do I get away with before I sin but rather what pleases God.

Philippians 4:8
Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—^{if anything is excellent or praiseworthy}—think about such things.

2 Timothy 2:22
Flee the evil desires of youth, and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

Re: - posted by hmmhmm (), on: 2008/12/3 14:12

Quote:

KrispyKrittr wrote:
Quote:
-----Why do we want to look like a culture that has such negative and sinful messages flowing out of it? Who taught the fallen culture to dress, what cars to drive, how to talk?

I agree... so why would Christians want to wear a suit and tie and look like all the corruption on Wall Street, Washington DC and corporate America?

Krispy

I think a suit and tie generally is looked upon maybe as "decent" and good to wear? I mean for example if you are going to meet the president of America you would like to dress in a way that doesn't offend and in a way that is appropriate for the occasion.

It is true one can look appropriate and modest and nice and yet be full of corruption on the inside. It is hypocrisy and false. God will deal with that.

But I would like to suggest though, that the above danger we all know of, probably have experienced in some way, but I would like to say that it is utterly impossible to be worldly and with the fashions of the world and be Holy on the inside. How can we be corrupt on the outside and holy on the inside?

So we have both these things, one can look Holy, and be a devil. But I don't think we can look like the world and sound like the world and talk like the world, and yet be holy inside. It is impossible.

I think God is dealing with his children cleansing out one by one in us, music, culture, country, in all these are fleshly lust and pride in other things than Christ. And it is sin and we detest it to little.

As with music styles and clothes, there are soft nice melodies that are diabolic in lyrics, and I have heard rap music with very excellent lyrics.

But I do not think we should take the tune of Babylon and mix it with the song of Zion as Fanny Crosby said.

Another thing with rap among others, is the baseline and heavy beat, it is interesting that when offering to Moloch it was to the sounds of drums, probably to drain out the children screaming in the fire and to work up some emotion of flesh pleasing in the ones who sacrificed their child.

The thing with rap for me is it very much appeals to my flesh, it "gets me going" so to say. But I think this is one of those issues we have to come to realization for ourselves.

I feel a bad chill down my spine when hearing some music labeled Christian. I think we should keep our worship music clean and undefiled.

I think rap is very applauded and esteemed by the wicked of the most wicked people on earth. That for one should make us depart from it.

As someone said the "set apart" for God should be our motivation in all things, even if it means no music at all. Music is good and can be used for the worship of our God and our praises to Him.

For myself I find music as sung by (<http://www.sermonindex.net/modules/mydownloads/viewcat.php?cid631>) brother Jeff is as close we will come to heavenly worship as we sojourn through this life.

God bless you all

Re: - posted by Koheleth, on: 2008/12/4 7:57

Quote:
-----I have a question for you: is there a possibility the Holy Spirit is working to teach you something in this area of music but you want to get others' opinions on it first before you make a decision?

That is a good one. I have seen that happen a lot in my own life, as well as others'. May we all regard God before man. I guess the question that comes to my mind for my own life is, "Where is the one who will follow the Lord, only the Lord, wholeheartedly"?

Re: - posted by Koheleth, on: 2008/12/4 8:02

Quote:
-----Quote:

What if God HATES organs and pianos????

I think He does hate it. Here's why: I have the Spirit of God living inside of me, I have the mind of Christ, and I am a new creature... and I still hate organ music. Therefore I conclude that God hates organ music.

(tongue planted firmly in cheek!)

Krispy

We would agree that this is a tongue-in-cheek point, but there is actually some truth here. What I see behind the scenes is that God is not as usually polarized, as uncompromisingly for or against something, as we can tend to be. Doesn't matter whether it is against all instruments or pianos are the only way. Substitute your favorite issue, we can become so convinced our way is God's way. Not so, usually.

This is not to say there are not unholy things, music and otherwise. Of course there are. We just need to be careful to only make issues out of what God makes issues out of.

Re: - posted by Koheleth, on: 2008/12/4 8:05

Quote:
-----Quote:

Why do we want to look like a culture that has such negative and sinful messages flowing out of it? Who taught the fallen culture to dress, what cars to drive, how to talk?

I agree... so why would Christians want to wear a suit and tie and look like all the corruption on Wall Street, Washington DC and corporate America?

Krispy

It's a good point in itself, however I would never condemn any man of God who wears a suit and tie. While a suit and tie may be really unnecessary, I think God wants to get rid of a lot more worldliness in the church first.

Re: - posted by rbanks, on: 2008/12/4 8:46

I believe that when in pursuit of God, we need to be well pleasing in proving his good, acceptable, and perfect will. We don't need to let others or things distract us from our passion to please God.

For instance, We will give ourselves to the Lord and not be conformed to this world. We are to abstain from anything that is used from the lifestyle of the ungodly or that would have a tendency to lead to ungodliness.

On the other hand we are not to let others rob us of our virtue in the Lord in something that is common decency.

For instance, the disciples in the bible were also called christians but yet there are some people who are called christians that do ungodly things. This has caused some believers to not want to be called christian. I refuse to let this distract me from a word that is biblical and ok to be called. Also there are people who have always dressed nice with a suit and a tie on special occasions. I don't really think any of us would agree that the suit and tie has caused anybody to be corrupt. I think there are some things that are neutral and we can't just label others because of what they wear as long as they are not provocative.

(Ps. There was also a time when you could call a person gay and would be meaning that they were happy. I think the original meaning of that word has been ruined.)