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Does Music Matter?

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I was born in 1949, and although I was saved when I was eight years old, grew up in the world's schools and out of church. I grew up when America was eagerly welcoming rock music—the generation known as the "hippy generation" and the "baby boomers." Rock music is the devil's perversion of music, just as alcohol is the devil's perversion of drink. Along with Hollywood, nothing has done more to destroy generations of young people than rock music, and now we see the true church accepting this kind of music!

The importance of music to the devil should not surprise us, since Satan was created as a musical being—*Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God; every precious stone was thy covering, the sardius, topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle, and gold: the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created, till thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till thou wast perfected in iniquity was found in thee. Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness: I will cast thee to the ground, I will lay thee before kings, that they may behold thee.* Ezek. 28:13, 15, 17

In my family I learned to sing and listen to Godly music around the age of fourteen, rock music became very appealing to me. At this age, there is an increase in another type of fleshly desire, which is rock music pleasures. For a Christian, salvation does not change the body and it's wrong desires. The old nature is alive and well, although this nature has a new spirit to help it control. *For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.* 1 John 2:16 **For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing** : for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not. Rom. 7:18 As a teenager, I liked the beat of rock music. It made me feel good, and it pleased me. It was (and still is) a fun style of beat that pleases the flesh. In a way, I worshiped as I was worshipping myself by using the world's music to make me feel good—to lift up my spirits. I wanted more rock music and of course had little interest in reading God's Word. All I cared about was the beat of the music—provided by the electric guitar, the drums, or both. I had no interest at all in the words the singer was singing. Had "Christian" rock been available in the 60's I would have liked the music and ignored the words. Rock music is the devil's music. It's all about pleasing the old nature—the sensual, sexual nature.

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Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord. Ep. 5:19 Christian music is to have only one purpose; it is not for entertainment—to make us feel good, but it is only purpose is to worship the Lord. That cannot be done with the world's rock beat, no matter how wonderful and emotional it may sound to the listener! And, true worship cannot be done while we are pleasing the flesh. *So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.* Rom. 8:8 *For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that the Spirit would.* Gal. 5:17 Music for Christians should not in any way resemble the music of the world. *And he hath put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God: many shall all see it, and fear, and shall trust in the LORD.* Ps. 40:3A *new song*—a different song, one that sings praise unto our God. A new song is not dance music, be-bop music, jazz, soft rock, country, or music in which the singer hugs the microphone and acts like she's singing to her lover—all those have one purpose, and that is to entertain the flesh of unsaved people. Music in many churches has turned into a grand performance, and the singer gets their reward—applause when they are finished. Applause is the giving of praise to the one who has performed, and this is the opposite of the real purpose of Christian music.

I would be lying to you if I said that my flesh (old nature) doesn't like rock music (although I stopped listening to it almost 30 years ago), and I can assure you that my flesh, judging from what I have already heard, would be very pleased with CCM. I've never tried alcohol, and even though it smells bad, I'm quite sure that my flesh would be very attracted to it! I have never smoked, but I'm quite sure that my flesh would enjoy it. I have not used drugs, but I know that my flesh would crave more of the same if I once tried it. Wrong things I have done have always included the pleasures of sin for a season. Heb. 11:25 What I like or what feels good to me is not to you; it is to you, but you have nothing to do with what is right! In the Christian life we have a Book which clearly gives us

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standardstoliveby. *Lovenottheworld,neitherthethingsthatareintheworld.Ifany manlovetheworld,theloveoftheFatherisnotinhim* .1John2:15

Assoonasyourparentstellyoutodosomethingthatdoesnotpleaseyou,youhavetofightthedesiretodoyourownthing—toput"self"first.Youwillhavetoadmitthatdoingwhatiswrongwouldfeelbetter!Theolderyougetthemorethefleshwilltemptyouinmanyareas.Icantruthfullytellyouthatrockmusicdidnothinggoodforme,norwoulddisobeyingyourparentsdoanygoodforyou.(Gal.6:7,8)Theunsavedunderstandthisquitewell—butChristiansseemtohaveosome troubleseeingthis.Rockmusicfromthebeginninghasrepresentedsex(aperversionofsex),drugs,andrebellion(Thefirstknown"rockconcert"tookplaceinExodus32:17,18, anditwascoupledwithrebellion againstGodandidolworship.Youcanseeonething thismusiccausedinverse25).

Nowthepresentgenerationthinksthatrockmusicis"right"forthechurch,butit's *still* thesameungodlymusic!Themovieindustryusesmusicicto"paintatext."Background musicforasceneinadarkalleyatnightisquite differentfromahappydaylightscene withtreesandflowers.Musicasjustasmuchmean ingandmessageasthewords—even thoughmanyChristianssaythemusicdoesn'tmatter (andtheysaythisonlybecausethey wanttolistentothefleshlyrockbeatortheboogy-wogogysound)."Christian"rock appealstotheunsaved *becauseit'stheirmusic* (no,theydon'tcareaboutthewords). Youcanplay"Christian"rockinabar,butyou'll quicklyemptythebarifyoustart playingtheold(andnotallnewmusiciswrong)tr additionalhymns ofthefaithlike "AmazingGrace,""HowFirmAFoundation,""Blessed Assurance,"etc.Theworldhates thiskindofmusicbecause1)itdoesn'tpleasethe fleshand2)itexaltsandworshipsour LordandSaviorratherthanthesingerand3)itte achesdoctrinaltruththatmakesan unsavedpersonuncomfortable.

Sadly,theworldtodayunderstandsmusicmuchbetter thanmostprofessingChristians. Herearejustafewquotesabouttherockbeatedused inCCMtoday(writtenbyrock musicians):

"**Thegreatstrengthofrock'n'rolliesinitsbea** t...itisamusicwhichisbasically sexual,un-Puritan...andathreattoestablishedpa tternsandvalues"(IrwinSilber, Marxist, *SingOut* ,May1965,p.63).

Whencomplaintsweremadeaboutthiserotic[sexual] behavioronstage,JimiHendrix replied:" **Perhaps[myrockmusic]issexy...butwhatmusic withabigbeat isn't?** " (Henderson,'ScuseMeWhileIKisstheSky,p.117) .

In1970,PaulMcCartneystated,"Weprobablyseemtobeanti-religious...noneofus believesinGod"(*HitParader* ,January1970,p.15).In1966,JohnLennoncreate da furorbyclaiming:"Christianitywillgo.We'remore popularthanJesusnow" (*Newsweek*,March21,1966).

"Rock 'n' roll marked the beginning of the revolution... We've combined youth, music, sex, drugs, and rebellion with treason, and that's a combination hard to beat" (Jerry Rubin, *Do It!*, 1970, pp. 19, 249).

"My true belief about Rock 'n' Roll—and there have been a lot of phrases attributed to me over the years—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. If you study music in rhythms, like I have, you'll see that is true. I believe that kind of music is driving people from Christ. It is contagious" (Little Richard, quoted by Charles White, *The Life and Times of Little Richard*, p. 197).

"I was directed and commanded by another power. The power of darkness... The power that a lot of people don't believe exists. The power of the Devil, Satan" (Little Richard, quoted in *The Life and Times of Little Richard*, pp. 205, 206).

It is very dangerous for us to try to understand things by ourselves—apart from the Word of God. It is dangerous for me to listen to music and decide if it is right according to how much I like it. *The way of a fool is right in his own eyes; but he that hearkeneth unto counsel is wise*. Prov. 12:15 Proverbs 3:5 tells us to **leannot unto thine own understanding**. It is not within your flesh (the body and emotions) to be able to tell right from wrong! *OLORD, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps*. Jer. 10:23 Each Christian cannot have his own opinion of which music is right or wrong. During the time of the book of Judges this did happen, but for knowledge of God's Word it was one of the darkest times for God's people. Judges 17:6 *In those days there was no king in Israel, but every man did that which was right in his own eyes*. Today it seems that there is no Bible in America! *And also all that generation were gathered unto their fathers: and thereafter arose another generation after them, which knew not the LORD, nor yet the works which he had done for Israel*. Judges 2:10

Excuses abound for uses of the world's music by Christians. "A lot of unsaved teenagers came to church." "There was an invitation given at the end (what I accomplish) never justifies the means (how I get there). If I get a good grade on a test, does that make it all right that I cheat? Although I may share the Gospel with a neighbor, is it right to tempt him to come and talk with me by offering him a beer? If it is right to use the world's music to bring people to Christ, then it is just as right to open a "Christian" bar, a "Christian" sex club, etc. to sell people about Jesus Christ! *Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you*. 2 Cor. 6:17 We are also commanded to *learn not the way of the heathen*. Jer. 10:2 Rock music is the heathen's music. Adding good words to the devil's music does not make the music good!

When I joined a good church after many years of listening to rock music, I was open to what the Lord wanted to teach me. I sincerely wanted to know what was right according to the Bible, not according to what I liked. To be honest with you, my flesh likes all the things you are talking about. The flesh, including you emotions, is not capable of

determining right from wrong! *For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing; for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not.* 2 Cor. 6:17 If you really want to know what is right, the Lord will show you. If you just want that which feels good and pleases yourself, then you won't understand or agree with anything that has been written here! *Follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness* –things only found through diligent study of the Word of God! 1 Tim. 6:11

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1. **To encourage and help Pastors and the local church and their children to live for and serve God (Proverbs 22:6, Ephesians 6:4).** **in training their families**
2. **To provide literature, cassette tapes, and videotapes to churches and families from an independent-fundamental, Biblical, Baptist viewpoint that encourages godly families.** **esto churches and families view point that encourages**
3. **To provide a magazine (under construction) dealing with family issues that encourages godly living and provides practical Biblical training for the home. This will be a subscription-based magazine.** **ing with family issues tical Biblical training for the ine.**
4. **To hold Family, Missions and Bible conferences in the local church. These can be one or two day conferences. Pastor Coomer is available on a limited basis for these conferences, as we believe this is a great and forgotten mission field. We will have a book table with godly family literature available during the meetings. Our booklet *For the Love of the Family*, a practical guide on rearing children spiritually to actually grow up and serve God will be available at the conferences. Some Pastors have placed orders for these books to give to each family in their church. Please contact us at the address, phone or e-mail address above to schedule meetings or order *For the Love of the Family* \$5.00 each, order**

25 or more and the cost is \$4.00 each. See the order blank on our website
www.fortheloveofthefamily.com.

5. To be Ambassadors for Christ (II Corinthians 5:20) to the forgotten mission field the "American Family."
6. To see the salvation of families and to see families learning to serve God.
7. To have a website www.fortheloveofthefamily.com for the Christian family to obtain godly family information in this apostate hour.
8. To provide other godly literature to Pastors, local churches and families.
9. To provide e-mail articles to a list of people, who want to have regular, practical, Biblical, godly family articles provided for them. If you or someone you know would like these articles on a regular basis please send the e-mail address to TLCOOMER@juno.com. To be removed from the list do the same.

As a Pastor for many years I have become greatly concerned and greatly burdened over the number of children who grow up not to serve the Savior from Christian homes. There seem to be a real lack of practical, spiritual, Biblical training going on in this apostate hour. I am also greatly concerned about the number of Christian families that are blowing apart and the tragedy that results from these lives. It is the desire of this ministry to help, encourage, and to provide training of families to not lose their children and for parents to know what it means to be godly parents, husbands and wives. Please feel free to contact us for more information. Contributions and support are appreciated to provide for the work of the ministry.

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Tongues Speaking in the Book of Acts and I Corinthians, by Pastor Terry L. Coomer. This is an in-depth study of all the passages dealing with this subject in Acts and I Corinthians. Easy to read and great to have available to give to people who are confused about this subject. One missionary who read the booklet commented, "I graduated from Bible College and I have never heard this subject presented in such a Biblical common sense way as these booklets are available for \$4.00. Pastor Coomer has presented it. Great material." These booklets are available for \$4.00 per booklet or order 25 or more they are \$3.00 each.

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