

Music Is A Language

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2 Chronicles 5:12-14 Also the Levites which were the singers, all of them of Asaph, of Heman, of Jeduthun, with their sons and their brethren, being arrayed in white linen, having cymbals and psalteries and harps, stood at the east end of the altar, and with them an hundred and twenty priests sounding with trumpets;) 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; So that the priests could not stand to minister by reason of the cloud: for the glory of the LORD had filled the house of God.

1 Corinthians 14:7-8 And even things without life giving sound, whether pipe or harp, except they give a distinction in the sounds, how shall it be known what is piped or harped? For if the trumpet give an uncertain sound, who shall prepare himself to the battle?

1 Thessalonians 5:21 Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.

Ephesians 5:10-11 Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord. And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them.

1 Peter 2:5 Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.

Proverbs 10:32 The lips of the righteous know what is acceptable: but the mouth of the wicked speaketh frowardness.

Jeremiah 6:20 To what purpose cometh there to me incense from Sheba, and the sweet cane from a far country? your burnt offerings are not acceptable, nor your sacrifices sweet unto me.

- I. Music is a language.
 - A. Our spoken language with which we communicate is made up of characters, which represent sounds. (alphabet)
 - B. Music is made up of notes, which represent sounds.
 - C. Letters of the alphabet are arranged in a certain order to communicate certain thoughts, ideas, and feelings.
 - D. Musical notes are arranged in a certain order to communicate certain feelings and desires.
 - E. Not only notes, but music is made up of three parts – melody, harmony, and rhythm.
 1. The way these are arranged and combined also communicate and excite feelings and emotions.
 - F. Music is an intricate part of the creation and is from the mind of God, but Lucifer was the archangel who was created to make music.
 1. Since his fall from heaven he has used it very skillfully and effectively in his efforts to destroy the crown of God's creation – man.

- II. Music excites and creates feelings and desires.
- A. Since the heart is the seat of our desires and emotions music speaks directly to our heart, without being processed through the mind first.
 - B. Jesus said that all the evil that defiles us comes forth and proceeds from the heart, so that clearly makes music a moral issue – not something neutral or amoral.
 - 1. So it is the duty and responsibility of everyone that names the name of Christ to be discerning and careful in the matter of music.
 - 2. Including what they listen to and what they use to worship God.
 - C. The letters of the alphabet have no moral significance, but they can be arranged into words that do.
 - 1. Likewise, the fluctuation of the voice and the tone sometimes changes the meaning of what we are saying, and makes it profane. (suggestive)
 - D. Likewise, musical notes have no moral significance standing alone, but they can be arranged to convey a message that does.
 - E. This makes music a very powerful tool both for evil and for good.
 - F. Since music has this power it can easily be used to break down morality, or to strengthen it.
 - 1. Music itself can calm and steady your soul.
 - 2. Music itself can stir your soul to anger, to violence, to step over the line into immorality.
 - G. Music affects our mood
 - 1. It can in fact CHANGE our mood.
 - 2. It can CREATE our mood.
 - H. Music affects our attitude.
 - 1. Toward others.
 - 2. Toward God.
 - 3. Toward ourselves.
 - I. Music affects what we believe. (big-time)
 - 1. True words, put to song, are a powerful influence for good the rest of our life.
 - 2. False words, put to song, are also a powerful influence that can warp our thinking and cause us to be deceived for the rest of our life.
 - 3. Many (if not most) people put as much authority in what a song says as they do what the Word of God says.
 - 4. But this is something that is subtle and happens almost without their consent, because the music communicated it to their heart, circumventing their mind, so they are unaware how they came to believe what they do.

III. Musical instruments are pipes, strings, and percussion.

- A. The Bible teaches that we are to praise God with all these instruments.

Psalm 150:3-6 Praise him with the sound of the trumpet: praise him with the psaltery and harp. Praise him with the timbrel and dance: praise him with stringed instruments and organs. Praise him upon the loud cymbals: praise him upon the high sounding cymbals. Let every thing that hath breath praise the LORD. Praise ye the LORD.

- B. But what about unnatural instruments? Fuzz boxes? Synthesizers?
- C. Acoustic guitar simply means a normal guitar without the electronic distortions that make a completely different sound that is associated with worldly and wicked things.

IV. The prevailing attitude and mindset of a culture does influence its taste in music.

- A. We seek after the music that matches our inward desires.
- B. There are prevailing desires, feelings, and attitudes in every generation, and in every different culture that are related to the times they are living in.
 - 1. The 1950's followed WW2 and the Great Depression – it was a time when everyone was happy and things were prosperous again.
 - 2. The music of that time was upbeat and made you want to dance – while they sang about breaking down the morals of the past generations.
 - 3. The 1960's was a time of rebellion and the total collapse of morality.
 - 4. The music of that time degenerated into electronic instruments that distorted the natural sound of music and was accompanied by drugs and blatant public immorality.
- C. The following decades continued the decline of popular music to the point it is today, where it is not even music anymore, but nothing more than noise to drown out the thoughts that are tormenting the minds of the people of this generation.
 - 1. To find anything that can be truly called music we pretty much have to go back a few decades.
 - 2. That's why the "oldies" are still popular.
 - 3. If everything continues, what will the "oldies" of this generation be?
- V. So if we care about truth and we are concerned about doing what is acceptable in God's sight we must be honest and discerning in the matter of music.
 - A. We must accept the fact that music communicates – it is a language; the language of emotion.
 - B. We must recognize its power for good and for evil and resist the evil and do the good.
 - C. We must recognize its power to influence our own heart and seek that which is good to the edifying of the body.
 - D. Just like every other part of our life and walk, the music we allow, listen to, and participate in must be holy.
 - E. If you are really a sheep you know the voice of the Shepherd and the voice of a stranger you will not hear.