



CURRENT ISSUES: CHRISTIAN MUSIC

Why discuss music in relation to RBC?

- It is an area where there are a lot of questions, opinions, and disagreements; it is important to know what is biblical.
- It is pertinent to our church family.
- It is an issue that is not going away and is becoming more complex. Discernment is needed.
- It is critical that we pass on biblical Christianity, not something else, to the next generation.

My Purpose

Build on, grow and mature in, unite around truth

Truth – Understanding – Application

- Descriptive truth – tells us *about*
- Prescriptive truth – tells us *to*

NT Texts on Christian Music

Prescriptive – tells us what to do

- Ephesians 5:19
- Colossians 3:16
- 1 Corinthians 14:15, 26

Ephesians 5:19

Christian Music:

- Starts with God.
- Arises out of genuine Christian experience.
- Is a form of communication.
- Is for the good of the church.
- Exists in a variety of forms.
- Is for private devotion and corporate worship.

- Has as its ultimate audience the Lord.

Our Practice – We endeavor to use music that has the following qualities:

- Biblically true and Word-rich
- Accessible to the majority of the congregation
- Blend of old and new music
- Style = conservative, current, not rock-and-roll
 - driven by truth and values rather than trends
 - melody strong, supports, carries, reinforces text of song
 - rhythm moderate, not distracting
 - keyboards, orchestral instruments, percussion; guitar and other folk instruments as appropriate
 - not anachronistic, frozen in a past culture, stale
 - fresh, intentional, appropriate to the community, culture and time in which we minister
 - continue to selectively use music with good texts and tunes from various sources; use doesn't indicate support of what the source does or represents, or the style in which it originated or is presented by others

PRINCIPLES

- Relationship with God
(Matt. 22:37; Gal. 5:16)
- Relationship with the Word
(Col. 3:16; Rom. 12:2; John 17:17)

ABOVE ME

- Glory to God (1 Cor. 10:31)
- Slave of Christ (1 Cor. 6:19-20; Rom. 6:12-23)
- Submission to authority
(Eph. 6:1-2; Prov. 1:8; Heb. 13:17; 1 Pet. 2:13)
- Counsel from others (Prov. 11:14; 12:15; 24:6)

AROUND ME

- Testimony – How I represent God (Matt. 5:16; Rom. 14:16)
- Example – How I influence others (1 Tim. 4:12; 1 Cor. 4:16; Rom. 14:13; 1 Cor. 8:9, 13; 10:24)
- Worldliness (Rom. 12:1-2; 1 John 2:15-16; James 4:4)
- Association (1 Thess. 5:22; Rom. 14:16)

IN ME

- Conscience (Rom. 14:14, 23; I Cor. 8:10)
 - Temptation (Rom. 13:14; 2 Tim. 2:22; 1 Cor. 10:12)
 - Control (1 Cor. 6:12; 9:24-27; 2 Tim. 2:22)
 - Motives (Jer. 17:9; Prov. 16:2; Matt. 6:5; 1 Cor. 10:31)
 - Effect (Prov. 6:27; 1 Cor. 15:33)
 - Timing (Eccl. 3:1; Eph. 5:15-16; 1 Cor. 10:23-24)
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- **Vibrant and alive**
 - **Common ground**
 - **A balanced variety of forms**
 - **Thought- and heart-engaging**
 - **Presented, not performed**

OUR PRACTICE – We endeavor to teach and do the following regarding personal music choices:

- Disciple to know, understand, and apply truth.
- Equip people to make biblically informed, Spirit-led, discerning choices.
- Respect as well as help one another in making biblical choices.
- Be considerate and gracious toward others.
- Teach the next generation to do the same.