

## **60 Reasons Why a Christian Should Refuse to Attend Churches that Promote Worldly Music and Worship**

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### **#1**

Because attending a church that promotes worldly worship makes me become a participant with something that is unholy (Eph. 5:7; 1 Tim. 5:22; Rev. 18:4; 1 Cor. 10:20-21 – note the words “fellowship” and “partaker”). 1 Corinthians 10:20 warns against participating with anything that reflects religious pagan worship (pagan religion, pagan music, pagan dancing). When we “fellowship” and “partake” of those things that are wrong, we become one with the error, wrongdoing and worldly worship. The words fellowship and partake would indicate that if we worship in places that condone impure worship, we actually partner, share, endorse, cooperate, or sanction this worldly music and worship by our presence. In short, we become guilty by a wrong religious association with something that is pagan.

### **#2**

Because I do not want to participate with a type of worship that reflects the pagan culture (Romans 12:2 – “Be not conformed to the world”). We are talking about the world’s culture that is against God and does not reflect His holiness. Contemporary Christian Music (CCM) is worldly/fleshly by design and nature and reflects the unchanged/rebellious way of life in our culture (1 John 2:15-17; Rom. 12:2; 2 Cor. 7:1). CCM reflects the music of rebellion (Numb. 13:9) and “rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft” (1 Sam. 15:23). This music of rebellion is used for evil purposes in our culture and centers itself on bad subject matter (rebellion, immorality, drugs, sex). Leviticus 19:26-31 and 21:5-6 speaks against copying the evil and pagan customs that are connected with society. Jeremiah 10:2, “Thus saith the Lord, Learn not the way of the heathen ...” For this reason, the Christian should have no association with a pagan style of worship in any fashion – sounds, words, and places of worship where it is being played (Eph. 5:11). We are commanded to “touch not the unclean thing” (2 Cor. 6:17) of pagan worship or worship that is impure and repulsive to God’s holiness. Remember: The music of rebellion produces the fruit of rebellion. Above all else, God’s House, where His people meet with Him, must remain pure.

This principle has been brought out in both the Old And New Testaments (Jeremiah. 7:11; Lev. 23:35-37; Matt. 21:12-13; Luke 19:46; Rev. 2:2, 14-15, 20).

### **#3**

Because I want to honor the holiness of God in my time of worship (1 Peter 1:15-16). God demands that we be holy “in all manner” of living. This includes the area of music and our expressions of worship. Our music and worship must not be adapted to the world’s musical patterns or styles which Satan uses for his own evil purposes. The question is not, “Does it work” but “Is it holy?” God can only honor and use holy things that uphold His character and name. Everything else is deemed worthless in God’s sight and work. We must always remember that God wants us to be holy in our expressions of worship. Psalm 29:2, “Give unto the Lord the glory due unto his name; worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.” Psalm 96:9 adds, “O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness: fear before him, all the earth.”

### **#4**

Because of the working of the leavening process in our own lives. Leaven has a permeating and defiling effect upon God’s people. The leaven of unseparated living being practiced by the lives of others can have an adverse affect on our lives (1 Cor. 5:6) and the sound separated teaching we once embraced (Gal. 5:9). We must remember that our lives can become corrupt by wrong companionships. 1 Cor. 15:33 says, “Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners.” This leavening or corrupting process can occur in our lives when we fail to separate from those churches that play worldly music and promote other unseparated agendas (ecumenicalism, Charismatic teachings, etc.). The leaven of error and worldliness will eventually corrupt our own lives if we keep attending those churches that repudiate the doctrine of separation and who are corrupt in their form of worship and practice. Then too, we must remember that just “a little leaven” in our time of worship leavens “the whole lump” (Galatians 5:9, I Corinthians 5:6). This means that a little bad music will in some degree sour the whole musical presentation and time of worship, which is to be centered upon godly and pure music.

Many Christians who are into the Christian rock scene will immediately ask, “Well, how much rock beat or emphasis can I get away with in a song

without it being worldly?” Right away they have the wrong attitude. It’s not how much can we have but how far we need to stay away from this corrupted sound. The scripture sets the standard: “A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump.” A little yeast can soon permeate the whole dough. In short, a little false teaching, a little sin, or a little worldly rock sound will permeate the entire song and make it worldly in nature. You would never add a little vinegar to a glass of milk and expect that glass of milk to be the same. Beware of “the little foxes, that spoil the vines: for our vines” (Song 2:15).

### **#5**

Because of the process of gradualism that occurs in our lives when we attend churches that cater to carnal worship and a worldly program. Gradualism occurs when we weaken our stance and former position (Hebrews 2:1 – “slip”). This might also be called the “principle of drifting” from a former position and losing truth that was once embraced – even the truth of Bible separation (Jer. 2:2-5; 14:10-11; Ezek. 6:9). Don’t forget: Insensitivity toward errant teaching or any sinful departure from God’s holiness eventually leads to compromise with it. When we become cozy with error and begin to associate with places, people and programs that lean toward a New Evangelical viewpoint, we can find ourselves gradually adopting the philosophy of infiltration and subtle compromise.

Gradualism occurs in our lives when we begin to view compromise on a small scale. It happens when we begin to befriend a spirit of compromise in some church setting where worldly music is played. It happens as we slowly become comfortable with compromise. We might say that gradualism occurs when we fail to hate evil and love the good (Ps. 97:10; 119:104, 128; Prov. 8:13; Rom. 12:9). Beware of gradually drifting to the place where you no longer view certain actions and music as being corrupt and carnal in nature. We can become desensitized to unholy actions and our minds can become desensitized to worldliness. Beware of a leaky sewer system in the basement of your soul! Gradualism can eventually get the best of us.

### **#6**

Because God has called His people to be different. The very name “church” (1 Tim. 3:15) means that we are to be a “called out” assembly of people from the world. This means that we are to be different in lifestyle and

practice. We are the people of God, a holy people, who are to manifest a difference from the unsaved. This does not mean we are to be different in an oddball way but different in a holy way that reflects God's character of holiness. We live in the world but we are not to be of the world. Exodus 11:7 says: "... that ye may know how that the Lord doth put a difference between the Egyptians and Israel." God's people are always to be different than the world's people. God's Word always assumes that His people are to live differently than the world's people who are under sin's bondage (Eph. 2:2; 1 Pet. 1:14; 4:4; 1 Cor. 3:3).

This is the main problem among many evangelical Christians today. They do not want to be seen as being different or living any differently than the unsaved world (1 Cor. 3:3 – "are ye not carnal, and walk as men"). Blending in with society and not possessing a willing heart to stand out among the lost is a sign of carnality. The very core of New Testament Christianity is the new creation emphasis (2 Cor. 5:17). The believer is to be different than the unbeliever. "Be not ye therefore like unto them" (Matt. 6:8). The world thrives on conformity but it gags on diversity. The believer is called to a radical difference in lifestyle for the sake of conformity to Christ (Heb. 1:9; 2 Cor. 3:18). We cannot live like "chameleon Christians" who try to blend in with everything that goes on within society. The world is not to be our model for Christian living. M.H. Reynolds said: "As Christians, we must be committed to being outwardly different. Our lifestyle, our philosophy, our standards and our conduct must be distinct from that of the world in which we live."

Today many modern churches try very hard to imitate the world in order to show that Christians are not really so different after all. But this flies in the face of true Christianity and the new creation emphasis (2 Cor. 5:17). Many today want a golden-calf kind of Christianity that pretends to worship God and live for the Lord without changing very much. Christianity is supposed to change people, but churches have allowed the world to change Christianity. As a result, the church does not change people; rather the people of the world change Christianity. Instead of Christianity advancing on the world, the world advances on the church, and blurs the distinctions between the lifestyles of the saved and unsaved.

## #7

Because righteousness cannot mix with unrighteousness during a worship service (“for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness” - 2 Cor. 6:14). **Righteousness** demands that I do not worship with pagan music. These opposites (righteousness & unrighteousness) create an incompatible realm of existence in God’s mind or holy way of thinking. These two contrasting realms cannot coexist together without righteousness being excluded. This is an inappropriate and unsuitable relationship that offends God’s holiness. There is a vast difference between these two opposing forces and attempting to unite them together during a church service offends God’s holiness. It is unholy, illogical and unreasonable to unite these two opposing realm together (Satan’s rock sound with God’s work) while attempting to worship the Lord.

## #8

Because Light cannot mix with darkness in the realm of worship (“what communion hath light with darkness” - 2 Cor. 6:14). **Reality** demands that I cannot participate with worldly or a pagan style of worship. When the light shines darkness flees. The reality that darkness and light are not compatible in the same realm of existence is understood by natural creation. According to God, when these two opposing spiritual forces seek to be united together (Satan’s rock music with God’s work) they create an incompatible and unsuitable relationship. So this spiritual reality keeps me from participating with a church service where light and darkness are trying to be united together.

## #9

Because Christians should not participate with pagan or worldly worship. **Reason** tells us that two opposing parties and programs cannot fellowship together (“I would not that ye should have fellowship with demons” - 1 Cor. 10:20). The spiritual should not be united with the pagan. This is what Paul is saying. Paul was chiding the Corinthians for fellowshipping and identifying with pagan religious services in the temple restaurant. Any form of paganism that is related to Satan’s realm and cause must be forsaken. No fellowship with paganism is permitted in the Christian life and God’s house of worship! It’s not that demonism is involved in every contemporary church service today. But the principle applies across the board. The

spiritual should not be united with the pagan for this becomes a serious breach of God's holiness. So reason and common sense keeps me from participating with a church service where the pagan and spiritual forces are being united together.

#### #10

Because Christ has no agreement with anything (even worship) that remotely reflects Satan and his evil kingdom ("And what concord hath Christ with Belial?" - 2 Cor. 6:15). **Opposition** demands that I don't participate with worldly worship. Those things that reflect Satan's workings are opposite of Christ's work. They are North and South poles apart. This is an incongruous relationship according to God. Satan's workings cannot be identified with Christ's workings in any way. This principle keeps me from participating with a church or worshipping in a church service that is promoting Satan's sound which he has historically used to promote rebellion, sex, and drugs in the lives of people.

#### #11

Because we are the temple of God and must honor God's temple (dwelling place) by not participating with any form of worldly or pagan worship ("And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols: for ye are the temple of the living God" - 2 Cor. 6:16). **Ownership** by God demands that we must follow God's holy plan and not participate with worldly or carnally-based worship. God dwells in our body through the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 6:19). God's ownership of our body (His holy temple) speaks of two things: 1) We should honor His holy presence in all that we do with our body — where we go, what we do, how we worship, what we listen to. 2) We should allow God to possess or control our body by following His will for our lives. This means that we will separate from churches that promote worldly worship instead of following the fleshly and carnal way of worship when identifying with a church service that dishonors God's holiness. Since God lives within us, we should live a life that is holy and in harmony with His indwelling life and personal presence, and refuse to participate with worldly practices or places which would misrepresent His holy character and keep us from doing what is right. Because God indwells and owns our body we must allow our bodies to be used for His holy purposes and completely controlled by Him. 1

Corinthians 6:20, "For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's."

This means that we will allow God to control our lives in every area and follow His holy path. It means that we will refuse to participate with those church services that in some measure dishonor and misrepresent His holiness. Because God owns us, we should want to do what is holy and right. We should want to obey His will and purpose for our lives and not follow the path of rebellion and carnality that is reflected in worldly worship. Rebellion in the realm of worship goes against the principle of God's ownership. We want to use our bodies for His holy purposes and not for worldly, fleshly, and greedy purposes. We don't want to be out of place by identifying with any movement or ministry that would misrepresent the holy presence and character of the God that indwells us.

### **#12**

Because we want to abstain from the appearance of evil or every form of evil in our time of worship (1 Thess. 5:22 - "Abstain from all appearance of evil"). This calls for separation from all services that are worldly in nature and practice. We do not want to take on the appearance that we accept, endorse, and promote this type of debased style of music. The word "appearance" speaks of taking on the "form" of something that reflects impurity, whether it be false doctrine, corrupt music, or some unsanctified manner of living. We are to make it a point to not convey the message of acceptance and endorsement by our presence and practice.

### **#13**

Because we are told to "reprove" or correct that which is wrong (the unfruitful works of darkness) and not endorse worldly worship in any way. Ephesians 5:11, "And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them"). This calls for separation from that which is unholy in the realm of music and worship.

### **#14**

Because God has called us to cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh (outward actions) and the spirit (inward corruption). "Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all

filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God” (2 Cor. 7:1). This should motivate us to remain pure in relation to our musical selections, our worship and religious associations.

### **#15**

Because the Biblical traditions that we have been taught must be adhered to and obeyed. 2 Thessalonians 2:15 says, “Therefore, brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle.” These “traditions” refer to the teaching the apostles which were derived from the revelation of truth that God had given to them. Biblical traditions are Biblical commands and precepts that are used to regulate our conduct and overall living. Biblical traditions encompass the overall precepts and principles of holiness that were taught in the inspired epistles by the apostles. Biblical “traditions” include New Testament commands, which teach general truth about separation (Rom. 12:2), sanctification (1 Thess. 5:3), or worldliness (1 John 2:15-17). These types of general commands and many other regulatory teachings in Scripture about behavior and godly conduct (1 Cor. 10:31; Phil. 4:8; Phil. 1:10) are designed to aid believers in their holy living and conduct (John 15:3; 2 Tim. 3:16-17).

There is no direct command in Scripture that says, “Thou shalt not play music in the church that sounds like the world’s music.” However, there are clear Scriptural commands and Biblical regulatory principles (Scriptural traditions) that help us to make the right choices about these key issues of worldliness that are presently connected with church ministry. In short, Biblical “traditions” will enable God’s people to live godly and help them to make decisions connected with multitudes of areas not specifically mentioned in the Scripture. Of course, one of these key areas involves the decision to separate from those churches that are openly endorsing and promoting worldly music and pragmatism in their assemblies. The Bible is timeless and its teachings can be applied in every age and in every culture. This is because principles never change.

### **#16**

Because the believer should want to be part of a worship service that is Bible based and true in its reflection of God’s will and purpose. Many Christians no longer have a Biblical basis for the kind of music they listen to



and worship with. They ride on their subjective feelings instead of objective truth. They worship their worship instead of being obedient to God's truth about separation. The Christian should be Biblically-based in all areas of his living (Psalm 119:97-105). The Bible is our bridge to the mind of God and will correct us in wayward living, which includes bad musical tastes and choices (2 Tim. 3:16-17). The hymn writer wrote: "How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord, is laid for your faith in His excellent Word." Haldor Lillenas said: "I will plant my feet on its firm foundation, for the Bible stands." CCM Music is theologically and Biblically bankrupt because it cannot be supported by any solid Biblical commands or principles.

True sanctifying worship comes from the application of Biblical truth to our time of worship (John 17:17, 19) which would include the truth of Bible separation from cultural contamination and the doctrinal teaching of holiness (Rom. 12:2; 2 Cor. 6:14-17; 1 Pet. 1:16). Too many Christians today have the cart before the horse in that they begin with their feelings and experience and gauge truth and their expression of worship according to how they feel (existentialism). Let me clarify something. The feelings and experience in worship do not justify the expression of worship; the expression of worship must be justified by the Bible, which teaches separation from the world system (1 John 2:15-17). Worship in itself does not cause any person to automatically become sanctified. It's adherence to the Word of God that causes God's people to possess their bodies in sanctification and honor (1 Thess. 4:4) and therefore practice holiness in their time of worship. Holy worship is not based upon the culture but upon the eternal and unchanging truths of holiness, separation from the world, and honoring God's character (the glory of God).

Jesus said in John 4:24 that all worship is to be done in "spirit" (the work of the Spirit of truth) and in "truth" (the Word of truth). Worship should not be induced by a certain sound or type of music as so many seem to suggest by the marketing terms – "praise and worship music." For many Christians today worship has become a selfish experience that needs to be accompanied by a certain sound, rhythm, or beat of music. We must remember that the changing culture should be irrelevant in our time of worship. We must continue to maintain worship that is Biblical because it reflects purity, holiness, orderliness, separation, and God's unchanging

character. Only when we worship in a Biblical manner can we truly glorify and honor God's character, or who He really is, as we give back to Him in our time of worship (1 Cor. 10:31).

### **#17**

Because Christians are New Testament priests. This means that we should offer up to God those expressions of worship that are wholesome and pure and which truly honor God's holiness (1 Pet. 2:5, 9). This should motivate us to only participate with holy worship and music that honors God by reflecting God's character of purity, instead of attempting to worship with a style of music that reflects the pagan culture of rebellion. We want to offer up to God holy and "spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God" (1 Pet. 2:5) because God has called us "out of darkness into his marvellous light" (1 Pet. 2:9). We must remember that God does not accept all forms of worship (Lev. 10:1-2).

### **#18**

Because Jesus said we are to be the salt of the earth. "Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men" (Matt. 5:13). Salt needs to maintain its basic character if it is going to be effective and not lose its purpose for existence. First, salt preserves and hinders the spread of corruption. God's people are to be salty and serve as a preservative of what is right in the midst of a society that is without God and which pushes that which is wrong. As we live the Christian life, we must maintain purity in our living, doctrine, and time of worship and not compromise God's holy standards. We must remember that the practice of separation from churches that promote worldly music is for the preservation and practice of God's truth, righteousness, and holy ways. This is why the subject of living righteously was mentioned in the previous verses (Matt. 5:10-11). The salty way of living is the holy and righteous way of living.

Christianity is to preserve truth and the holiness of God in every way, in both doctrine and righteousness practice, which would include holy and consecrated worship. If we are going to make an impact upon the lives of

people, we must preserve God's righteous and holy ways, so that the world sees a difference in our lives.

Second, salt speaks of making others thirsty. Jesus' followers should be like salt in that they create a thirst in the lives of others for greater spiritual information. As we seek to live holy and preserve righteous living in our actions, attitudes, and aspirations of living, this will have a positive impact on the lives of others. When one sees a person who possesses superior qualities in specific areas, he desires to discover why that person is different. So salt makes others thirsty. But remember this, if salt loses its flavor, it is good for nothing! If it fails to be salty, it has lost its purpose for existence and should be discarded. This means that when we become like the world in our worship and living our lives lose their effectiveness to attract the lost. In short, we become good for nothing and lose our effectiveness to impact the lives of other people. Only as we preserve truth and holiness can we make a positive and holy impact upon a lost world.

### **#19**

Because Jesus said we are to be children of light that reveal truth, holiness, and God's life to a world that is influenced by paganism and false teaching. Matthew 5:14, "Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid." This would include being children of light (reflecting God's holiness) in every area of our lives - even our worship. God is light (1 John 1:5) and we are to walk as children of light in the midst of a dark world and reflect God's holiness instead of the world's rebellious pattern of music (Eph. 5:8; 1 Thess. 5:5). When Christianity becomes like the world in outward practice, it loses its holy testimony of light and its effectiveness at making people interested in God's plan of salvation and new way of life. Jesus said in Matthew 5:16, "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works ..." (not your pagan practices).

In short, when Christians become like the world they lose their testimony of light because they no longer preserve God's holy and righteous path of separation and maintain a pronounced difference between light and darkness (2 Cor. 6:14). In the end, the lost world sees no difference in the lives of God's people and sees no reason to become a Christian. So, Jesus says that we must let our light of righteousness, holiness, and transformed

living shine brightly (Matt. 5:16), instead of hiding it under a bushel (Matt. 5:15), since failing to reflect light brings shame and reproach upon the cause of Christ. Hiding our holy light under a basket is another way of saying that we lose our effectiveness in convincing and winning others to Christ and impacting their lives in a positive way. We lose the holy impact that we can have in the midst of a world without Christ.

## **#20**

Because we are told to “prove (test) all things” (1 Thess. 5:21) which would include the carnally-based and culturally-contaminated songs of CCM and other unholy patterns of worship, which reflect the spirit of the age and which are being promoted in many churches today. Philippians 1:10 states that we are to “approve things that are excellent” (superior in quality). The word “approve” (dokimazo) refers to the ability of the saints to sift or test a certain teaching or practice and then recognize its worth and put their stamp of approval upon it. The Bible says that we must “approve” (discern or test with a view to endorse or approve) what is right and best for our lives, what is according to God’s truth and holy way. This is something we must learn do as we attend church services. If a church does not pass the test of truth which include the timeless Biblical principles regarding separation, holiness, and glorifying or upholding God’s character in musical expression and worship, then we should not attend this church.

## **#21**

Because God hates a mixture in our time of worship (Lev. 10:9-10; Ezekiel 22:26; 44:23; 1 Peter 1:14-15). Leviticus 10:10 states the unchanging and enduring principle well: “And that ye may put difference between holy and unholy, and between unclean and clean.” CCM mixes the holy with the unholy and this results in a strange unholy mixture or brew that God is not pleased with. This is because light and darkness and righteousness and unrighteousness should never be joined or united together as we seek to do God’s work (2 Cor. 6:14). The results of such a mixture can produce mixed results and man’s results (Isa. 3:8; 55:8; Prov. 14:12; 16:25) which include unrepentant responses regarding a person’s sinfulness before God (Matt. 13:20-21). Jesus came to “save his people from their sins” (Matt. 1:21) - not to keep them in their sins. Music that caters to the sound of

rebellion does not reflect repentance and can breed confusion regarding a person's need to repent before God.

Other detrimental results of CCM includes Christians adopting the musical rebellion of worldly Christianity and allowing it to become a normal part of church life and ministry (Rev. 2:14; 1 Cor. 2:12), which results in God's people becoming corrupted in their time of worship (Mal. 1:13; John 4:24). Let us not confuse the bitter for the sweet. Isaiah 5:20 says, "Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!" The principle behind Isaiah 5:20 declares that those who support CCM are calling evil good. They are claiming that darkness (sin) is light (holy) and choosing the bitter (distasteful) over the sweet (tasteful). Many Christians arrive at these conclusions by saying that they actually hate or despise traditionally accepted music that was once in their churches and that they cannot stand to worship with hymns and songs which are not loud, overbearing, and addictive in nature. This is choosing the bitter over the sweet, as a result of being repeatedly exposed to that which is evil, and failing to separate from it. Remember that almost any behavior or practice begins to look and sound normal if you are exposed to enough of it!

Mixing good words with unholy and disorderly rhythmic style and the perverted sound of a rock culture, which is against God, is a travesty or mockery of God's holiness and the whole principle of Bible separation. God demands a distinction between light and darkness and righteousness and unrighteousness (2 Cor. 6:14). This practice of mixing the holy (pure words) with the unholy (perverted sound) distorts the clear and obvious difference between evil and good, darkness and light, and the bitter and sweet. It is a total reversal of God's order and a distortion of His purity. Distorting the clear and obvious difference between evil and good, darkness and light, and failing to put a marked difference between the bitter and sweet is a mockery of the nature of God's holiness. God hates a mixture! We need to remember that some things are simply not acceptable to God (Rev. 2:6). We are to live our lives in the fear of God, which means that we want to reverence Him, and not displease Him by our compromises with sin and uncleanness. "The fear of the LORD is to hate evil" (Prov. 8:13).

## #22

Because God has called us to Christian liberty. This means we can worship Him in holiness and truth (John 4:24) without adopting the pattern of a sinful and worldly culture in our time of worship. Christian liberty does not mean that we can do as we please without putting parameters around our life and worship. It means just the opposite. The believer's liberty stems from being freed from sin's bondage and practices (Romans 6:18; 20-22; 8:2; 1 Cor. 7:22). Jesus taught in John 8:36, "If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed." We have been given the liberty to do what's right and enjoy our freedom from all sinful, pagan, and lustful practices. True Christian freedom is God's enablement to do His will. Freedom is the privilege and power to become all that God wants us to become. Freedom is not an open invitation to do anything that we want to do without restraints. Liberated living is not unrestricted living. Biblical freedom is the joy of living free from sin's power through the divine influence of God upon the life (2 Pet. 1:3). It's a freedom to live without the shackles of sin that we were once bound to in Adam.

Freedom to live for God and liberty from sin's bondage is something that we could not possess before we were saved (Eph. 2:1-3; 2 Peter 2:18-19). The separation or holiness practiced by the child of God is true freedom! To be able to live holy in every area of our lives, even our worship and musical expression, is God's true gift of freedom. Separating from all expressions of carnality and sin, even in our times of worship, is a liberating response to the loving Master who has freed us from all sin and iniquity (2 Tim. 2:21; 1 Cor. 7:22-23). We now are at liberty to give our lives totally and unreservedly to God (Rom. 12:1-2) and serve Him as our Master, since we have been set free from the old spiritual forces that once ruled our lives (Eph. 2:1-2). Christian liberty is actually the freedom to do what is right! Disobedience to Scripture can lead to bondage. Obedience to Scripture and truth is real freedom!

## #23

Because worshipping where worldly and carnal music is presented in song, as an acceptable form of worship, does not cater to sound and Biblical conviction. God has called us to "hold fast" to truth with unwavering conviction (Rev. 2:25; 3:11). If we want to embrace the truth of separation

unto God (Rom. 12:1), which calls for separation from the paganized form of Christianity and heathen practices, then we must develop sound and Biblical convictions based upon God's truth. Conviction is when we internalize truth in our hearts and allow it to rule and possess our thinking and lives. A Christian must strive to make Biblical convictions the basis for all his actions and worship. We must remember that a spiritual conviction is a principle that one holds that is based upon the absolute and unchanging truth of God's Word. A conviction is a personalized truth, which should be based upon Biblical commands or principles (2 Thess. 2:15). Biblical convictions do not change with every wind that blows and every new style of music that is adopted by the culture and in the church (Eph. 4:14). All Christians must strive to make Biblical conviction the basis of their actions (Rom. 14:22-23). Developing Biblical convictions regarding godly music and rejecting forms of pagan music is very important. When we possess these convictions, we will not allow CCM to overcome our hearts and churches.

#### **#24**

Because God rejects pragmatic worship which is the attempt to use unholy things, or recover things from Satan's realm and kingdom, and use them for His glory (Duet. 32:4). Psalm 145:17 says, "The LORD is righteous in all his ways, and holy in all his works." God is righteous in everything He does – even His methods. A. W. Tozer said: "Heresy of method is just as evil as heresy of message." It's never right to do wrong in order to do right. Remember this; our worship may be directed to God but it must also be *acceptable* to God (Rom. 12:1-2). We want our worship to be pleasing to a holy God. This means the believer needs to have both a right motive and a right method in his approach to God.

#### **#25**

Because God cannot use anything in our time of worship and the end does not justify the means (Rom. 3:8 – "Let us do evil that good may come"). God cannot use anything (Prov. 6:16-19; 8:13; Zech. 8:17; Rev. 2:6, 15). God hates certain things and will not use them in His work. Many conclude that if good comes out of something (getting people into the church), by using something that may be questionable (such as the use of the rock culture in evangelism), that God can turn this evil around for good and use it for His glory. Can God use anything? Can good come out of something that is

inherently evil and wrong? Let us take this argument and run away with it. Can God use Crack Cocaine? Should we use cocaine as a legitimate method to win people to Christ? Can God use pornography? Should we use pornography as an acceptable method to win people to Christ? Can God use gambling? Can God use terrorism? If some good acts of humanity came out of people's lives following the 911 tragedy, does this make the action something that is useable and acceptable to God? If a Christian woman could witness to people and win people to Christ by becoming a prostitute would that make her actions and method acceptable to God? If people were saved in concentration camps does this mean that this method becomes an acceptable practice that can be legitimately used by God and justify the evil of such a practice?

The argument that God can use the sound of a perverted rock culture to glorify Himself is ludicrous to say the least. God cannot be glorified with something that is unholy, since this does not reflect His character of purity (Hab. 1:13). Good does not come out of evil. Good can only come out of truth and righteousness (Isa. 5:20). Furthermore, to conclude that "all things work together for good" (Rom. 8:28) for God's people, even when they use the sound of rock music in worship, is taking this inspired text out of context and turning it into a pretext to suit ones own personal agenda in life. Roman 8:28 is talking about how the believer's trials work together for good. So, the "all things" mentioned here do not promote a license to do what is wrong in order to achieve good results. In trying to do wrong in order to do right, you tempt God (Matt. 4:7) and become unfruitful in your living and practice (2 Pet. 1:8-9). Romans 8:28 has nothing to do with using wrong patterns of worship so God can miraculously turn them around for His good and glory. God does not bring good out of pagan practices and a party spirit that mimics the world system. Good comes out of good, bad comes out of bad, and never the twain shall meet. Do right!

## **#26**

Because clean things cannot come out of unclean things in our time of worship ("Who can bring a clean thing out of an unclean? not one" - Job 14:4). This principle teaches the impossibility of clean things coming out of those things that are inherently unclean. This means that only spiritual methods can produce true spiritual results. Jesus taught in John 3:6 "That



which is born of the flesh is flesh” and cannot be born clean and redeemed. There needs to be a total rebirth and newness. In principle, this is true about anything. The pragmatic worldly methods and music of rebellion that is being used to supposedly win people to Christ cannot produce spiritual results. This ideology defies all Scriptural commands and principles that separate light from darkness and righteousness from unrighteousness (2 Cor. 6:14-16; Isa. 5:20). Rebellion breeds rebellion (1 Sam. 15:23). Righteous things produce righteous results. Bad things produce bad results. Therefore, when the righteous (the Gospel message) is joined with unrighteous methods (rock music) we can be sure that no good will come about BECAUSE of the musical rebellion. The Gospel may produce seed but not the rebellion of rock music. In short, the so-called Christian Rock Music of today does not and cannot produce righteous results. This defies all Biblical logic and facts. Whenever the unclean is introduced beside the clean the results become skewed in many ways and unclean things inevitably come out of the unholy alliance between the clean and unclean. This is because something that is inherently unclean cannot produce something that is pure or clean.

## #27

Because we should not use the sound of a perverted and pagan culture in our time of worship to bring people into the church. Acts 2:42 says, “And they continued stedfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.” The Bible does not say they continued in rock concerts and adopted cultural methods to reach the heathen during their church services. The early apostolic church was not interested in what the unsaved heathen world thought about their church services. We are told to go into the world to preach the Gospel but not bring the world or debased culture into the church (Mark 16:15). The early church turned the world upside down (Acts 17:6). Today the world has turned the church upside down by incorporating this type of music in its hallowed halls. We must remember that the church is to be “the pillar and ground of the truth” (1 Tim. 3:15) and not adopt pagan culture into its ministry and church life (Rev. 2:14-15, 20; 2 Cor. 6:14-17). The church never was instructed to entertain the heathen in their own type of rebellion and sin. Furthermore, where in the Bible do we see Paul the apostle walking down the streets asking unsaved pagan people what they would like to have

in the church? This defies all spiritual sanity! Christians are so concerned about what the unsaved think of their services that they no longer take stock in what God thinks!

When the church tries to accommodate the unsaved in its time of worship, the church end up offending God's holiness. The oft-repeated phrase "all things to all men" (1 Cor. 9:22; 1 Cor. 10:33) does not refer to adopting heathen customs in our time of worship so we might please the unsaved crowd. This statement by Paul speaks of a loving response toward people but not a worldly, pragmatic, and compromising response. Paul is talking about sacrificing his own personal agenda in life, or his own personal interests, so that he might not offend others in his outreach ministry. This loving action of Paul involved forsaking certain personal liberties in his own life that had to do with eating certain meats and following other Jewish customs. These were *amoral* issues - not *worldly* issues. These issues did not include adopting new methods of worship that were carnal and contrary to God's holiness in order to please people. The apostles never sought to conform to the low standards of people (1 Cor. 3:3; 1 Pet. 4:3-4) or please people at the expense of God's holiness (1 Thess. 4:4).

## #28

Because God does not need any help in saving souls by trying to use methods which are unscriptural and unholy in our time of worship. God is the "Lord of the harvest" (Luke 10:2) and not man. It's God who gives the increase and not man (1 Corinthians 3:6-7). Man needs to get out of the way and let God convict the sinner of his lost estate and sinful ways without trying to cover them up by allowing him to embrace his own worldly perverted sound. It's God who gives the increase and not the pragmatic schemes of man ("I will build my church" - Matthew 16:18). Furthermore, a certain type of music (CCM) does not save souls. It's the presentation of the Gospel in the proclamation of the Word of God that saves souls (Rom. 1:16; Titus 1:3; 1 Thess. 1:5; Heb. 4:12). Romans 10:17 says, "So then faith *cometh* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." Some will conclude that the unsaved can hear the Gospel presented through rock music and this is the only way they will be able to hear the message. Of course, this simply is not true. Frist, this idea insults the sovereignty of God which is what brings people to faith in Christ (John 6:44) – not the perverted sounds

of a rock culture. Second, this theory forgets that people were won to Christ through the preaching of God's Gospel – not singing about the Gospel (1 Cor. 1:18; 2:1-5).

Here is the point. The power is in the Gospel message. It is not in the methods of man! Pragmatism attacks the power and sufficiency of God's word in evangelism. It sends the message that we need something more than preaching so that people will come to Christ. 1 Corinthians 15:11 says, "Therefore whether it were I or they, so we preach, and so ye believed." Titus 1:3, "But hath in due times manifested his word through preaching, which is committed unto me according to the commandment of God our Saviour." 1 Corinthians 2:4-5 says: "And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power: That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God." This means that hearing the truth of the Gospel is all that is needed to bring people to faith in Christ. Worldly music is not a necessary evangelistic tool to supposedly draw people to Christ. It's Christ who draws people to Himself (John 12:32) — not the worldly methods of man.

There is a tragedy that comes about through all these manmade pragmatic gospel presentations, which undermines the simplicity of preaching and the clarity of the true Gospel, and which mixes the emotional element of entertainment with the message of the Gospel. The tragedy is that man's faith may stand in the "wisdom of men" instead of the "power of God" (1 Cor. 2:5). We can very easily have converts to pragmatism instead of converts to the Savior! The simple truth is this; God has not called us to evangelize through religious entertainment!

Christ never violated God's will when witnessing. Evangelism without commitment to holiness is a flawed approach to evangelism that many times will produce manmade results and breed confusion in the lives of people (Isa. 3:8; 55:8; Prov. 14:12; 16:25; Matt. 13:20). In addition, CCM is designed to create comfort for the sinner instead of conviction. By adopting a style of music that the world listens to, CCM singers and musicians attempt to make the sinner comfortable in his sin. Most have forgotten that the Gospel message and evangelism should create conviction, not comfort

in the sinner's life (Acts 2:37). Again, music is never used in Scripture as a means to win the lost (1 Cor. 2:4-5; Rom. 1:16; 10:17). We cannot sing people into a saving relationship with Jesus Christ. We must communicate the Gospel message to them clearly through the Scriptures.

The passage in Psalm 40 that is allegedly used to promote evangelizing people with their own rock culture (CCM), in order to win them to Christ, does not teach evangelism via music. Psalm 40:2-3, "He brought me up also out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, *and* established my goings. And he hath put a new song in my mouth, *even* praise unto our God: many shall see *it*, and fear, and shall trust in the LORD." This text is speaking about David being delivered from his troubles as a believer and how his entire change of life would impact others in a positive and spiritual manner ("many shall see it, and fear, and shall trust in the LORD" (Psalm 40:3b). The emphasis in this text is not just on hearing a song but seeing an overall change of living. The text is actually talking about people seeing an overall difference in David's life ("and established my goings") because of what God had done for him. The text actually says, "many shall see it" – not "many shall hear it." You can't see a song. You can only hear it. This is speaking about a total life change – not merely a musical change. It's a person's total transformation in life that impact others.

In addition, the "new song" that David was talking about is not some kind of new contemporary sound, or new twist on music, but is actually a timeless song of God's deliverance and blessing that fills the hearts of God's people in every age. It certainly cannot be new if it reflects the pagan culture. It can only be new if it reflects the "newness of life" principle (2 Cor. 5:17), if it reflects purity and God's character. The "new song" is the type of music that reflects the character and nature of the God that we worship and serve, who is a God of holiness, beauty, peace, and order. There is no room in the renewed Christian life for any song that represents the old way of life (the way of worldliness and carnality). One of the greatest distinctions of Christianity should be in its music, because the music God gives is not the music the world gives. God gives His people a new song, a different song, a distinctive song, a purer song, and a more beautiful song than anything the world can produce.

The point needs to be stressed by Psalm 40 that people should see a difference in our Christian lives (a difference in our living, appearance, music and worship) and this will have a profound spiritual impact upon the lives of other people, even those who need the Lord. It's not our *sameness* in music (perverted rock sound) that will make an impact in the lives of other people but our *difference* (spiritual music) that will make an impact. CCM reflects the same sound of a perverted culture stooped in rebellion and will not allow people to see the true difference between God's people and themselves. People today need to see a total difference in lifestyle – "many shall see it." There needs to be a total transformation of our life and song (words and sound) before a lost world if we are going to have a real spiritual impact in their lives.

We must also remember that the medium or way that we present the message is part of the message. So, the medium must be holy and different. Tim Fisher said: "We must abandon the notion that we can reach the world with a spiritual message by using a fleshly medium." The world cannot see a difference in our lives when we attempt to impress them with the same kind of perverted sound that feeds their old nature and which keeps them in bondage to their own sin. The church needs to demonstrate by its godly music and worship that it has come "out of a horrible pit" (Ps. 40:2). Much of the sound associated with CCM still reflects the noise associated with the pit.

## #29

Because the Christian is to have a new song (renewal song) which is a purer and nobler song reflected in both sounds and words (Psalm 33:3; 40:1-3). I've made this a distinct point because of the importance of the "new song" emphasis that is repeatedly made in Scripture (Ps. 40:3; 96:1; 98:1; 144:9; 149:1; Isa. 42:10; Rev. 5:9). The "new song" of Psalm 40:3 is not a prophecy about some new kind of rock sound that is fitted to Christian words which will sweep the church in the last days. Let's get real! This interpretation is huckstering the Bible and defies all Biblical commands to be different than the world. The word "new" indicates that this song is something that is fresh and changed in its quality and character. The "new song" is a renewal song, which by virtue of its name, demands freshness and difference in every way, both in words and musical sound. In fact, the Spirit's control or

filling is evidenced by godly music (“spiritual songs”) that reflects God’s own nature and character (Eph. 5:18-19) in both lyrics and sound. The most visible identification of a new believer is the new character of music present in his life after salvation (Ps. 40:3).

### **#30**

Because we are commanded to hate every false and evil way (Ps. 119:104; 128; 97:10) and depart from evil ways (Ps. 34:14; 37:27; Isa. 7:15; Jer. 18:11; 2 Tim. 2:19), even in our time of worship. CCM is a false and erroneous type of perverted sound that Satan uses for his own end and this type of music, borrowed from the rebellious world of the hippie generation, must be hated, despised and forsaken. This means we must not attend or participate with those church services that cater to this perverted sound. Romans 12:9 says, “Abhor (detest) that which is evil; cleave to that which is good.”

### **#31**

Because God does not merely look at our heart in the time of worship (1 Sam. 16:7); He also looks at our obedience (1 Sam. 15:22). Many quote 1 Samuel 16:7 (“the LORD looketh on the heart”) but forget about 1 Samuel 15:22 (“Behold, to obey *is* better than sacrifice”). We should want to obey God and do what is right and holy in our time of worship. A right motive of heart never should become an excuse for disobedience. God may accept your heart but He may reject your worship. We should want to obey God by worshipping God properly. 1 Samuel 15:22 speaks of the importance of obedience in our time of worship. Obedience should be valued over worship and be integrated into our time of worship, realizing that the true worship of God is born out of an obedient heart.

What we must understand is that obedience is the greatest and purest form of worship. To be obedient to God and His Word is a better gift to God than to worship Him in our flesh (“to obey *is* better than sacrifice”). Cain chose to worship in his own way rather than to incorporate obedience into his time of worship (Gen. 4:3-8). And if you want to know how important it is to keep worship Biblical and holy, just ask Cain! Cain knows how high standards should be part of our time of worship. God delights when we surrender our worship to Him. We must come to God on His terms, not

ours! We cannot choose to worship God on our own terms. We must remember that it's not enough to do a right thing (worship). We must also do it in the right way! Scripture makes it very clear that it is not enough simply to do the right thing; we must also do it in the right way (2 Tim. 2:5 – “lawfully”).

The idea that is being promoted today is something like this. “Even if one is disobedient at times, God still loves him, and so it should not matter how we worship, since God knows our heart and will always love us.” Of course, this is an unbiblical idea and mindset. God’s love for us as His children is not conditioned upon our obedience or disobedience (Rom. 8:38-39). However, our expression of love toward God is connected with our obedience to Him and what is right (John 14:15; 1 John 5:2). Worship can become entertaining and outwardly showy in display (1 Cor. 14:15-16; 27-33), disorderly (1 Cor. 14:33, 40), self-seeking (1 Cor. 14:2, 6, 12-16), carnal or fleshly in its purpose (Matt. 6:7, 16; 23:5; 1 Cor. 11:20-21), manward in its focus (1 Cor. 3:3-4), ignorant in its knowledge and outward practice (John 4:22; Acts 17:23), and convenient but not correct (1 Kings 12:28-30). Jeroboam made worship convenient but certainly not correct. Worship can become tailored or designed to fit what people think is right and what they want (self-made worship), rather than what God’s Word says is correct or holy worship (Col. 2:23). We must be obedient in our time of worship by reflecting God’s character and following Biblical principles of order and decency. If Christians are not careful, they can begin to “worship their form of worship” instead of worship the true and living God. I’m afraid that this is happening today.

### **#32**

Because placing sincerity and love over obedience to the truth and what is right, during our time of worship, becomes wrong for us as God’s people. This is because sincerity and love is always linked to the truth and doing what is right. Joshua 24:14, “Now therefore fear the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in truth: and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the flood, and in Egypt; and serve ye the LORD.” 1 John 5:3, “For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.” The devil is sincere, but he is sincerely wrong! Sincerity is not a mark of spirituality unless it is grounded in right doctrine and actions, which are glorifying to God. Let us be sincere about

remaining holy and pure in all of our living—even our time of worship [Ps. 45:1 – “My heart is inditing (stirred up) a good matter...”]. I’m sure that Cain, when offering the fruit of the ground to God, was very sincere? I ’m sure Uzzah in steadying the ark was sincere in what he did. But both of them were sincerely wrong! God said that these methods were forbidden. We might be sincere in what we are doing but still dishonor God. Sincerity is always linked to truth and doing what corresponds to God’s absolute standard of truth (2 Cor. 2:17). A practice may be sincere but it also must be holy and acceptable to God in order to pass God’s test (Rom. 12:1-2). In addition, true Biblical love is always linked with the truth and doing what is right. 1 Corinthians 13:6 says that love “Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth. Many verses reveal how love and truth are inseparably bound together (Eph. 4:15; 2 John 1:1; 3 John 1:1; Rom. 12:9). Sincerity, love, and obedience to truth are a common triplet that appear together in Scripture. They cannot be separated. To try and express sincerity and love without being obedient to truth becomes a kind of oxymoron or contradiction. Therefore, we should seek to maintain high Biblical standards in all of our methods and worship, so we might do God’s work in God’s way.

### #33

Because true unity is based upon truth, holiness, and what is right — not on carnal worship experiences, compromise and what is spiritually flawed. Believers are to be unified in the truth (Eph. 4:13 – “the unity of the faith;” 2 John 1-4). Charles Spurgeon said: “I am quite sure that the best way to promote union, is to promote truth.” Part of this truth is the doctrine of Bible separation. Bible separation is a doctrine that is included in “the faith” (Jude 3). Truth must unify people and not experience, emotions, or contemporary worship that ignores God’s call for Bible separation. Believers should be unified by possessing the same mindset concerning basic Bible separation, holy living, and worship.

True unity is to be expressed on the local church level. It cannot be expressed in some kind of ecumenical gathering where truth and God’s holiness is not vindicated and where error is not exposed. Today separatists must band or unite together and encourage one another in their stance for truth and godly music (2 Chron. 20:3-4; 12-13). Remember that we are never told to make unity. Rather, we must “keep” the unity that we already



have in Christ as a result of the Spirit's baptizing ministry (Eph. 4:3). This is done by upholding truth at all cost, since blessed unity is always found in the realm of truth (Psalm 133). Obedience to the truth is more important than an artificial or imaginary unity built on disobedience, compromise, and corrupt worship.

We must also remember that the true schismatics are the false teachers and "any man" who seeks to divide the saints by false teaching and worldly methods or actions. This type of person is labeled a "heretick" (Titus 3:10). Those who have introduced new doctrine and worldly entertainment into the church are the ones who have changed and become divisive in the body of Christ. Worldly and fleshly actions in church gatherings bring division among God's people (1 Cor. 3:3-4; 11:18-22). The biggest area of division in the church today is worldly music. This carnal and paganized form of so-called Christian music, along with pragmatism ("If it works, use it"), has created a huge divisive wedge between the saints, which in all likelihood will never be repaired. And whose fault is it? It's not the fault of the separatists. They have not changed. It's the fault of unseparated carnal believers who have lowered the standards of church music in order to cater to their own fleshly wants (Gal. 5:20-21).

It's the worldly Christians who want to listen to a perverted and pagan sound in church services, and those who want to be entertained through 21<sup>st</sup> century worldly pragmatism, which have become the divisive and schismatic generation. The Bible teaches that those brethren who do not walk in a Biblical and orderly fashion, according to the apostolic teaching or Biblical traditions found in the New Testament epistles, must be separated from in the context of a local church setting (2 Thess. 2:15; 3:6). This is because God's holiness and honor must be maintained at all cost. To attend a church that harbors worldly music and caters to compromise with the new wave of ecumenicalism in these last days ("Everyone's Doctrine is Okay") results in dishonoring God and His truth. God calls is for correction (Eph. 5:11) and separation (Rom. 12:2). There are actually healthy and necessary divisions that must occur in the body of Christ even though they are not always easy to implement.

### #34

Because the type of music we use in our worship is not amoral or neutral in its effect over our lives. CCM is not neutral in its sound and effect that it can have in our lives (Ex. 32:15-19; I Samuel 16:14-23). The teaching that music is amoral is Satan's lie. The Scriptures teach us that music is not neutral in its sound. It's an absurdity to claim that music (sound) is neutral, amoral, or void of communication by itself. The only people who have said that music is neutral in its sound are the Christian artists of the past 30 years who want to make money off of their worldly albums. Even secular rock stars know that music is not neutral. Ask them? If music is neutral why don't rock artists use orderly hymn styles, classical music, and march beats at their rock concerts? Why do they consistently use rock beats and loud, repetitious, addictive music? The witness against the neutrality of music is overwhelming. Music always affects us because music is not neutral.

I Samuel 16:14-23 is a remarkable passage that tells us how musical sound affects us. David played music before Saul and he was affected in several ways. Saul's reaction to what David played (not sang) gives us some Scriptural reminders on how musical sound affects us. First, it affects us physically (vs. 23 -- "refreshed"). This means that Saul was refreshed or relieved physically. Second, it affects us mentally (vs. 23 -- "well"). This means to be relieved from a mental condition of fear, doubt, confusion and worry. Third, it affects us spiritually (vs. 23 -- "evil spirit departed"). Saul was troubled by the evil spirit's presence. The music that David played actually spoke to Saul's heart and drove the evil spirit away from him. Thus, he was relieved and uplifted spiritually by the spirit's departure. This tells us that there are certain sounds that evil spirits are not comfortable with! Remember that this was just the sound and not the words, which had a profound effect on Saul. The Christian today must become musically sensitive, which includes becoming sound sensitive, if he is going to maintain a pure musical life of worship before God.

In Exodus 32:17-18 we read how Moses and Joshua knew that God's people were corrupted by the kind of sound coming forth from the camp. What kind of sound was it? It was a type of singing that was warlike in its sound because it created a distinct sound of confusion and distress in the ears of Moses and Joshua when they heard it. It was said to be like the "noise of

war in the camp” (Ex. 32:17). It was the kind of singing which Moses actually called the “noise of them that sing” (Ex. 32:18). This particular singing produced a loud shouting sound (noise) that was evidently out-of-sync with the normal flow or pattern of the God-ordained musical pattern for singing. It did not have the normal order or arrangement of musical singing and was confusing in its design and sound. This is why it was heard to be different and considered to be noise. It evidently was a type of perverted musical sound, which was loud and full of unnatural accents and beats. It was a sound that created confusion and distress in the ears of Moses and Joshua. It was a noisy, unnatural, and perverted sound that these men heard as they came down from the mountain. Because God is a God of order and not confusion (1 Cor. 14:33, 40), He has created music that has a distinct flowing order and design.

Music should always reflect the nature of God’s holiness, peace and order (Ps. 29:3; 96:9; 99:9; 1 Cor. 14:33-34; Romans 15:33; 2 Thess. 3:16; Heb. 13:20). Music cannot glorify God if it does not reflect God’s nature. This is why all good music has universal qualities and a distinct design of good melody and rich harmony without overriding loudness, excessive syncopation, the pounding of untraditional beats (backbeats), and the overall sound of discord and confusion. God is not the author of confusion (1 Cor. 14:33) but He is the author of “every good gift and every perfect gift” (Jam. 1:17). Good music should always imitate the orderliness of the Creator. This means that the melody should be pleasant and easily discernible. The harmony should create a sound void of tension and discord. The rhythm should be predictable and not heavily syncopated nor should the rhythmic flow shy away from the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> beats and emphasis placed upon the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> beats. This creates confusion and disorder. God is a God of order and since He created music, it too should have order, which is God’s universal musical order that He built into all music as the original Divine Composer.

Rock and Christian rock music is a type of worldly music that is loud, repetitious, and full of unnatural accents and beats. It lacks good melody and harmony and sometimes neglects them altogether. It is a type of disruption and confusion that is added to the naturally established pattern of flowing music. It’s a type of music that creates rhythmic confusion and

chaos. This is done by its heavy emphasis on the second and fourth beats and its abused syncopation. This music is evidently a type of music that creates rhythmic confusion instead of peace and harmony, which is in accordance with God's character of peace and order. It is musical distortion that goes against the divinely prescribed order of music and tries to create an atmosphere of confusion and noise instead of dominant melody and rich harmony (agreeableness of sound).

The rock sound is a fleshly and sensual sound because it generates a type of fleshly response from man's base nature. In other words, listening to rock sound feeds the old nature. This is why Rock Music leads people back to acts of rebellion. Think about it. Much so-called Christian music of today goes against God's holy design and order for music (peace, order, beauty). The rock sound is designed or created by rock artists for sensuality and gives emotional, mental, and physical responses that produce carnal enjoyment and addiction. Personal highs and emotional and artificial highs, physical gyrating responses, mindless escapism and the desire to experience certain feelings of goodness and euphoria are all fleshly responses to music and is a sign that you are catering to the flesh instead of the Spirit's control (Eph. 5:18). This sounds like a drug addict experiencing a high while taking drugs. But let us remember this. Rock sound is a drug addiction! A drug addict is addicted emotionally, physically, and mentally to drugs. In a similar way, there are emotional, physical, sensual, and mental addictions or dependencies to the rock sound of a perverted culture.

Godly music, as revealed in Scripture, is designated as the activity or work of the Holy Spirit (Eph. 5:19). Godly music is a response to the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives. All true worship that reflects God's nature is the work of the Spirit, whereas the works of the flesh are opposite of the Spirit's working (Gal. 5:19-23). The Bible teaches that when "we walk in the Spirit" we will not "fulfill the lusts of the flesh" (Gal. 5:16) which craves for an emotional, physical, and mental responses through a perverted rock beat or sound. In other words, we will not have to listen to a certain type of sound to escape reality or depend upon some particular sound to produce artificial fulfillment and help in life. All of these things can be supplied by the ministry of the Spirit. Most Christian music (CCM) is listened to for fleshly and personal excitement (artificial highs, physical gyrating

responses, mindless escapism, and the desire to experience certain feelings or euphoria) instead of spiritual edification (1 Cor. 10:23 - "all things edify not").

Many Christians listen to music for worldly entertainment, personal gratification, and other self-seeking purposes instead of worshipful surrender to God's holy will (Rom. 12:1-2). They need to feel something, hear something, or experience something when they worship or else they conclude that they did not really worship God. However, all these reactions are physical responses that keep people worshipping their own feelings or experience instead of God. They are not spiritual responses triggered by the Spirit's control (Eph. 5:18).

### #35

Because God does not accept just any kind of worship! God only accepts holy worship that honors His name and represents His holy character (1 Cor. 10:31). Sinful things cannot glorify God or who He is in His eternal character and being (holy, just, pure, and righteous). That God rejects certain kinds of worship cannot go unnoticed. This is demonstrated in God rejecting the worship of Nadab and Abihu (Lev. 10:1; Numb. 3:4). The Bible clearly says that God reserves the right to reject the worship of His people. Malachi 1:7, "Ye offer polluted bread upon mine altar (inappropriate worship); and ye say, Wherein have we polluted thee? In that ye say, The table of the Lord is contemptible (disgraceful, disrespectful)."

Many contemporary pragmatists are offering polluted bread or their polluted worship up to God, and are so entrenched in their worldly ways of worship, that they ask, "Wherein have we polluted thee?" Malachi 1:8 responds, "And if ye offer the blind for sacrifice (unholy things in the time of worship), is it not evil? and if ye offer the lame and sick, is it not evil?... saith the LORD of hosts." God said that the people should know better than to worship in such a way as this but they still practice this type of contemptible worship. They were offering the blind, crippled, and diseased animals on the altar. This kind of offering was a disgrace to the holy God. Much of what is being offered up to God today in contemporary worship is blind and diseased worship.

In Malachi 1:10, God concludes by saying, "... I have no pleasure in you, saith the Lord of hosts, neither will I accept an offering (your unholy worship) at your hand." Today the church is trying the same thing with its worldly, pragmatic offerings of worship, which are directed toward God. The contemporary music of a perverted rock culture is being offered to God as a form of holy and acceptable worship. But God is saying the same thing He said to His people many years ago. "I don't want your blind and unholy worship. The table of the Lord is polluted and contemptible (Mal. 1:7, 12). It is full of disgrace and disrespect. I despise such offerings." Malachi 1:8 asks us this timeless question: "Will he be pleased with thee or accept thy person?" The point is this, God will never be pleased with His people or their worship, when it reflects a rebellious and pagan culture. Lastly, the desire of every Christian should be to please the Lord (1 Thess. 4:1).

### #36

Because we want to glorify God in our time of worship by reflecting God's character and give a total picture of God's nature (1 Cor. 10:31). We must reiterate this once again in this point. The glory of God involves the outward manifestation of God's character to the world. To glorify God would mean to do those things that would exalt, honor and magnify God's attributes such as His holiness, righteousness, patience, and love. The Christian is to be an accurate reflection to the lost of the glory of God. When our actions, decisions, eating, work and worship are showing or expression God to the world, it's then that we are glorifying Him, since we are demonstrating God's very likeness to the world through our own life. God's nature is one of justice (Gen. 18:25; Psalm 84:14; Jer. 23:5; Zeph. 3:5), righteousness (Ex. 9:27; Ps. 11:7; 19:9; Rev. 16:5; 2 Tim. 4:8), holiness (Ps. 29:2; 99:9; 1 Pet. 1:16; 1 John 3:3), peace, and order (1 Cor. 14:33-34; Romans 15:33; 2 Thess. 3:16; Heb. 13:20). This is what real worship is all about. We must become aware of the danger of *misrepresenting* God in our time of worship. Contemporary Christian music gives an incomplete or distorted view of who God is – a God of order, peace and beauty.

Many times we fail to understand that music can dishonor God's holy and righteous character and person. Psalm 48:10 says, "According to thy name, O God, so is thy praise unto the ends of the earth: thy right hand is full of righteousness." Christian music must be according to God's name or

properly represent His character. Punk, Jazz, Blues, Country, and CCM often reflects the character of Satan and cannot come close to reflecting God's character. Think of how God is pure (1 John 1:5; 3:3). This means that our music must be pure. Now what does rock music, even it's sound portray? It conveys the message of sexuality and rebellion against God. Therefore, God's people cannot possibly glorify God (who He is) when adopting this rebellious sound of a perverted culture. The music that is holy and beautiful reflects God's holiness and beauty. Psalm 96:9 says, "O worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness: fear before him, all the earth." God is beautiful and His music should reflect this fact. A sound that reflects Satan's world of drugs, sex, and rebellion does not and cannot reflect God's purity, holiness and beauty. Music should also reflect God's righteousness if it's going to glorify Him (Psalm 98:5-9; Rev. 15:3).

The rebellious sound and music of CCM distorts the true picture of God who is righteous, truthful, peaceful, orderly, and holy. In reality, CCM artists cheat their audience by not giving the full picture of the true God. Music must reflect a total picture of God's nature. The rock culture with its musical sound of rebellion and confusion defies and overlooks important facets of God's character and as a result cannot truly glorify God. By using the world's music as a means of "worshipping" God, we insult God's character. Marketing and physical attraction many times is the goal of CCM music instead of God's glory. Our concern should be to reflect the character of God in our music. When we worship both corporately and privately we are sending a message up to God. We are saying, "This is what we think of You (God), and this is how we want to act before You (God), and this is the message we want to convey to You as our God." Worship that does not reflect God's holiness or purity is deemed as unacceptable worship and becomes like "strange fire" being offered up to God (Lev. 10:1; Numb. 3:4; 26:61). It seems that many people today are worshipping their feelings and distorted pictures of God instead of really worshipping the pure, holy, and righteous God or High King of Heaven.

True worship does not involve personal gratification and self-seeking but giving back to God (Ps. 29:1; 95:6; 96:8; 106:1; 107:1; 136:1; 138:2; 1 Chr.16:29; Ex. 28:1,3, 41; 34:14). For many people worship is simply the creation of an atmosphere of feelings produced by some specific sound or

gyrations. The end result is that a certain type of music and a person's feelings and personal wants can become what they worship, instead of God, and who He is in His eternal being and character. Music in worship should not become a carnal exercise of personal taste, entertainment, and self-fulfillment but an outward expression of giving to God. We are never commanded to worship so we might, as the Scripture says, "consume it upon your lusts" (James 4:3). Worship is not a personal agenda that seeks to satisfy personal tastes, styles, and wants.

When thinking of the music issue in the church today, we need to consider the *cause* and *effect* of worship. As a result of knowing and understanding God's revelation of Himself (the cause) worship can then be expressed through music (the effect), but true worship is not caused by music or initiated by some particular foot tapping or rhythmic sound. In other words, Biblical worship is not determined by some particular style of music ("Praise Songs," "Praise and Worship," or "Contemporary Christian Rock Music"). Worship is initiated by the inner joy of salvation and the Christian life (Ps. 40:3; James 5:13), the Spirit's presence and filling (Eph. 5:18-19), and the indwelling of God's Word (Col. 3:16; Ps. 119:62). This is the true cause or origin of all true worship. Sound and specific beats do not initiate worship. Worship may be expressed by music but it is not caused by music.

Again the secular sounds of foot stomping and dance-band rock beats are not the cause of worship. Nowhere in the Bible do we see that true worship is induced or triggered by some particular music or sound. If this were the case deaf believers could not worship God!! Rather, we see that worship is a response to the inward revelation that God has given to us about Himself and the promises of His Word (see Psalms 86:9; 95:6-7). Furthermore, to claim that the Holy Spirit needs a certain sound in order to get people worshipping is ludicrous. It must also be understood that the Holy Spirit does not cause people to have emotional, mental, and physical dependencies to a rock sound that is being promoted by a perverted culture. The Holy Spirit gets credit for many things He is not doing! We must remember that He is the Holy Spirit and the Spirit of truth (1 John 4:6; 5:6). He is not the spirit of rock and roll, or rebellious music, but the Holy Spirit of godly and spiritual music (Eph. 5:18).



### #37

Because we want to maintain order and reverence for God's House when we worship (1 Cor. 14:40 – "Let all things be done decently and in order"). Hebrews 12:28, "Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear." Reverence for God must be maintained as we seek to worship and evangelize the lost. The church has digressed to the point where things, which were once deemed as unholy in God's house and in God's sight, are now seen to be holy and acceptable to God. There was a time when those things, such as the perverted sound of a rebellious rock culture and dancing, were reprehensible, shunned, and not permitted in God's House. This was done out of reverence or respect for God and His house. To bring worldly dancing, rock music, and power teams into the church, so we can accommodate the lost, demonstrated a lack of reverence toward a holy God and His House.

We are reminded of the principle found in the Old Testament for the meeting or gathering together of God's people. Psalm 89:7 says: "God is greatly to be feared in the assembly of the saints, and to be had in reverence of all them that are about him." The meetings of God's saints were to be "holy convocations" (sacred assemblies - Lev. 23:2, 4, 37). Lehman Strauss has said: "But many of the saints are disturbed and concerned about some of the self-styled, flashy combo groups who move from church to church with a new dress and a new beat that has no serious and reverent sense of God."

### #38

Because there are times God's people are called upon to be negative. People often accuse the separatist of being negative, legalistic, pharisaical, and unloving because he obeys God's Word. We can state without apology that words such as "Be ye not unequally yoked" and "Come out" and "touch not" (2 Cor. 6:14-17) and "have no fellowship" (Eph. 5:11) are negative points. But we must remember that there is power in negative thinking! There is also victory in negative living! Refusing to practice certain activities and shunning those things that God forbids provides victory and blessing. We must understand that God wants us to think and live in a negative fashion, at times, so we can honor His truth, holiness, and not aid

worldly worship and error. Dr. Fred Moritz said: “We should not be afraid of healthy, biblical negativism when it is combined with godly, biblical positivism. We must keep them both. Even the electricity in your home needs both the positive and negative poles.”

### #39

Because we don't want to sin and be part of something which dishonors God and His holiness. Sin is anything that does not conform to God's holy standard or law (1 John 3:4); that which misses the mark of God's perfection, and offends God's holiness. Sin is rebellion against God (1 Sam. 15:23). Sin is when we take charge instead of allowing God to have charge of our lives. 1 John 2:1 says: “My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not ...” Anything from moral failure to religious compromise and acceptance of false doctrine, and even worldly or paganized worship, must be confessed as sin before God and made right (1 John 1:9). We must remember that when we sin we are ultimately sinning against God (Psalm 41:4; 51:4; Jer. 14:7). This should make all sin very grievous to our hearts. God wants us to understand about the exceeding sinfulness of all sin (Rom. 7:13). We dare not take it lightly or dismiss our guilt frivolously. When we really see sin for what it is, we must hate it. Ezekiel 20:43 says, “And there shall ye remember your ways, and all your doings, wherein ye have been defiled; and ye shall lothe (to feel grief and detest) yourselves in your own sight for all your evils that ye have committed.”

Sin is also deceptive. Hebrews 3:13 speaks of “the deceitfulness of sin.” Sin deceives us by defiling our human conscience (1 Tim. 4:12) to the point that it can harden our human heart. And a sin-hardened heart grows evermore susceptible to temptation, lust, pride, and every kind of evil. Let's not forget that “The heart is deceitful above all thing, and desperately wicked: who can know it?” (Jer. 17:9). When people love their sin, they can very easily become deceived by sin, and go to great lengths to rationalize it and defend it. They will also treat any sense of guilt or blame as a threat and adversely react to it. Someone has remarked: “Some people are so strongly devoted to their wickedness that when conscience troubles them about it, they will rack their brains to find arguments to stop the mouth of conscience and make themselves believe they may proceed lawfully in a sinful manner.”

#### #40

Because we must separate from disobedient brethren in church settings and times of worship who persistently violate clear Scriptural principles in worship. 2 Thessalonians 3:6, “Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly, and not after the tradition which he received of us.” 2 Thessalonians 3:14-15 adds: “And if any man obey not our word by this epistle, note that man, and have no company with him, that he may be ashamed. Yet count *him* not as an enemy, but admonish *him* as a brother.” Separating from erring brethren on a church level does not mean we do not love the brethren and count them as brethren. What this means is that that we cannot in good conscious promote their errant religious practices, their perverted and pagan rock sounds, or their alleged sanctified worldliness which occurs in their church services. We must obey God above all else (Acts 5:29). This causes us to break fellowship with the saints in their religious services and those ecclesiastical (church) settings which in some measure promote paganism and practices that run contrary to God’s holiness.

#### #41

Because Jesus has called us to take up a cross and follow Him in absolute surrender and sacrifice (Luke 9:23; 14:27). A follower of Christ is willing and ready to do the Master’s will and bidding in every area of living, including the musical and worship choices he makes in life. A follower of Christ, who is fully yielded to the cross life, will not sanctify worldliness in his life but give up selfish ambitions, goals, rock music, and expressions of worship that do not square with God’s holiness. The follower of Christ will count the cost (Luke 14:28) and surrender to God’s plan for Bible separation. This means to separate from all that is unholy in worship and practice. God wants us to attend a church which seeks to maintain separatist Biblical commands and principles that honor God’s holiness. We are not to attend the church of our choice but the church of God’s choice!

#### #42

Because one aspect of spirituality maintains a distinction between right and wrong. Spirituality does not mean that I am strong and mature enough to accept things that I disagree with. 1 Corinthians 2:15 states: “But he that is

spiritual judgeth (discerns) all things, yet he himself is judged of no man.” Harry Ironside said this about the spiritual man: “He is able to see the difference between what is of God and what is of man, what is of the flesh and what is of the Spirit, what is of the new and what is of the old nature.” The spiritual Christian who is led by the Spirit seeks to forsake sin in his life and practice only wholesome actions and holy expressions of worship (Rom. 8:1, 4). As we seek to live a spiritual life, we will refuse to identify with those church ministries that are defiantly compromising God’s holy standards.

### #43

Because we want to be discerning in our approach to living and worship, so that God’s holiness is honored in all of our expressions of worship, and when we attend church. Hebrews 5:14 says that we are to have our “senses exercised to discern both good and evil.” Discernment involves good judgment and understanding. It means to examine, scrutinize, judge, investigate, sift or question. Discernment is linked to a seasoned, developed, and Biblically informed mind (Psalms 119:66, 104, 130). Discernment can only flourish in an environment of faithful Bible study and teaching. We must never lose our will to discern between right and wrong, error and truth, and between holy and unholy actions. Why? It’s because we have too much to lose when we lose our will to discern!

When the Christian fails to discern, he will eventually be swallowed up by the world system. 1 Chronicles 12:32 says, “And of the children of Issachar, which were men that had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do; the heads of them were two hundred; and all their brethren were at their commandment.” We need to have discernment today in light of the spiritual deterioration and compromising times in which we live and understand what is taking place within the world, the church, the CCM movement, and then practice Biblical separation. Today the boundaries and definitions are changing but the discerning believer will be able to sort through the changes and continue to see God’s holy path. Blessed are those who can see issues and trends from God’s perspective. Blessed are those who can see what is happening. Blessed are those who separate from it (Psalm 1:1).

#### #44

Because Jesus has called us to righteous judgment (“judge righteous judgment” – John 7:24). This means I can judge Contemporary Church Music and assess its purity and practice in relation to God’s Word. This judgment that Jesus spoke about involves judging on the basis of what is right; judging with true Biblical commands and principles in view, instead of by hypocritical, unwarranted, and unbiblical judgments (Matt. 7:1). Righteous judgment involves personal judgment (1 Cor. 11:31; 1 Pet. 4:17), judging between truth and error (Heb. 5:14-15), judging all false teachers (Matt. 7:15; Rom. 16:17), judging corrupt living (Matt. 7:16-20); judging worldly and unruly actions of brothers (2 Thess. 3:6-7, 14; 1 Cor. 5:11; 2 Tim. 4:10) and what is being taught and promoted as truth (1 Cor. 14:29). Generally speaking, righteous judgment involves a natural and constant assessment of what is right and wrong in daily living (1 Thess. 5:21 – “prove all things”).

As we go through life, we will necessarily make assessments on what is right and pleasing to the Lord. This kind of judgment is right and spiritual (1 Cor. 2:15). It is to be a natural part of our daily living, as discerning believers, while passing through our normal day-to-day routines. Philippians 1:10 says, “That ye may approve things that are excellent; that ye may be sincere and without offence till the day of Christ.” There is a place for righteous judgment. It can be done in grace (Eph. 4:6) and with uncompromising allegiance to truth and holiness. God wants us to judge what is wrong and hate every false way (Psalm 119:104, 128). Therefore, we must judge carnal and worldly worship on the local church level and obey God’s commands to separate from those churches and brethren who are not walking according to Biblical traditions (2 Thess. 3:6).

#### #45

Because we want to be a good steward in our time of worship. 1 Corinthians 4:2 says, “Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.” This means we want to be faithful in promoting and supporting the kind of music and worship that does not dishonor God and disgrace His holiness. A faithful steward of music and worship will not offer up to God “strange fire” during a church service (Lev. 10:1; Numb. 3:4). As previously mentioned, God may accept our *motive* but not our *means* of

worship. So, both the motive and means of worship must be kept pure. A faithful steward of worship will maintain a pure motive and pure manner of worship by only participating with, and supporting, those church services that are promoting holy and acceptable worship to God. To attend churches that promote carnal, canned, and contemporary worship, which reflects the pagan culture around us, causes us to neglect or disregard our stewardship responsibilities before the Lord, which also extend to the area of music.

#### #46

Because what is a popular method of worship is not necessarily right. We must remember: "What is popular is not always right and what is right is not always popular." This means that those Christians who embrace the truth will not always be popular with the culture and even with the vast majority in the church, who have adopted the hippie rock culture of the 1960s and 1970's. Luke 6:26 says: "Woe unto you, when all men shall speak well of you!" We will not always be popular when we live a separated life and take the stand that we need to take against the prevailing culture and compromises occurring in the local churches.

The Bible says "For Demas hath forsaken me" (2 Tim. 4:10) and "Only Luke is with me" (2 Timothy 4:11). Many in the church have jettisoned Biblical and moral principles that relate to sanctified musical choices and expressions in worship. They choose style over Scripture, feelings over the factual statements in the Bible, and a rock rhythm over real music that reflects godliness. 2 Timothy 3:12 says: "Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution." This means that we should not allow Saint Critic to disturb those of us who are opposing the unrighteousness of contemporary music and those who are promoting it. Philips Brooks once said: "To set one's heart on being popular is fatal to the preacher's best growth." God has not called us to be popular and get along with everybody. This means we must refuse to attend those churches and cooperate with those brethren who are bent on promoting worldly worship.

#### #47

Because we do not fear if we are not up-to-date (contemporary) and successful in the eyes of man as we worship God. The Bible teaches that “the fear of man is a snare” (Prov. 29:25). Many today are caught up in the “success syndrome” and view successful church ministry by the world’s standards of bigness, prosperity, sales, and acceptability. But God views spiritual success as staying true to His Word and reaping the true spiritual blessings and harvest that flows from being obedient to His Word. Joshua 1:8, “This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.” This is true Biblical success! As we have seen, God has called us to be faithful (1 Cor. 4:2) - not successful in the world’s eyes. God does not measure success by numbers and acceptability among the broad spectrum of the church, but by faithfulness and commitment to His truth. By the way, if numbers in a church service are an indication of success, then one must conclude that a convention hosting 1,500 Jehovah’s Witnesses with their false doctrine is also a success!

#### #48

Because we do should not feel compelled to worship like the majority of Christendom. The majority has always been wrong on spiritual matters. The majority was wrong in Jesus’ day (“fear not little flock” – Luke 12:32). The majority was wrong in Noah’s day! The majority was wrong when the twelve spies voted to not enter the Promised Land (Numbers 13). Also, the entire congregation endorsed the wrong decision! The majority crucified the Lord. God has never been impressed with the majority. Remember one thing: “Never confuse the will of the majority with the will of God.” This is especially true in view of the fact that the majority of Christians today embrace and promote CCM. Someone said: “The problem lies not with the faithful minority but with a compromising majority.”

#### #49

Because we want to follow the principle of excellence in our time of worship. We are to strive for the very best things that please God! Philippians 1:10 one again says, “That ye may approve (discern, test, allow) things that are excellent; that ye may be sincere and without offence till the

day of Christ.” This is one of the most importance principles that we can apply to our lives today. In whatever we do, we should strive for excellence! This is where many Christians fail, especially in regard to their musical choices and entertaining worship. The primary thrust of the word “excellent” means “to differ.” The excellent things are different because they excel over other things and are superior in their design and quality. In a very practical way, this means we should not see how close to the line we can get. It means we should not see how much we can get away with, as believers, hoping that God will not frown upon our manner of living, conduct, or questionable worship. Rather, if we are striving for excellence, we will embrace and practice the very best things that please God! We must approve the very best kind of music and worship that honors God. We should not possess a half-hearted approach and lackadaisical attitude toward our music and worship. Instead, we should follow Biblical, godly, and holy standards that relate to music and worship, and strive to get as far away from the line as he can get. We should always strive for excellence and superiority in all that we do and how we live. Excellence certainly applies to our musical choices and worship.

In all realms of life, some things are good and others are better. The good can often become the enemy of the best. For example, good Christian words joined with the pagan and perverted sounds of our culture is not striving for excellence. Also, attending a church that promotes worldly contemporary worship is not striving for excellence in your own Christian life and time of worship. The believer should strive for excellence by attending, promoting, endorsing, cooperating with, and sanctioning a church ministry and worship service that honors God’s holiness and truth regarding Bible separation.

### **#50**

Because we want to know that we are fully honoring God in our time of worship. God’s honor is important and is a good enough reason to refuse attending those churches where worldly worship and entertainment is being promoted and glamorized. Isaiah 58:13 says that we must remember to “honour him, not doing thine own ways, nor finding thine own pleasure, nor speaking thine own words.” We could add by way of application – “nor playing your own Contemporary Music!” Please notice the importance of



honoring God instead of doing our own thing, going our own way, seeking our own pleasure, and speaking our own thoughts or mind on any matter, even the matter of how and where to worship God.

The application of this verse to our present musical crisis in the church is important. We should not become caught up with promoting and practicing our own selfish and carnal appetites in worship and forget about whose honor is at stake! God's honor must trump our own ideas and feelings. Furthermore, we should not assume that we can attend just any church to worship God without dishonoring God and His name. God told His people to "not defile my sanctuary, and to profane my holy name" (Lev. 20:3). Today the church with its pragmatic marketing techniques has become so worried about offending man that Christians have forgotten they are dishonoring and offending God with their contemporary forms of worship that reflect the pagan culture of rebellion, which has historically promoted such things as sex, promiscuity, drugs, and moral rebellion against God and His ways. God asks today: "Where is my honour?" (Malachi 1:6). It's clear that God's honor is lost when a rebellious sound is joined to a musical piece and when corrupt music is incorporated into His Church.

### **#51**

Because we want to please the Lord in our time of worship and therefore refuse to adopt and associate with a worldly culture that is being pushed and promoted in many church services today (Col. 1:10; 1 Thess. 4:1; 2 Tim. 2:4). 1 John 3:22 says that we are to "do those things that are pleasing in his sight." We are not commissioned to please man ("not as pleasing men, but God" - 1 Thess. 2:4). Galatians 1:10 asks: "For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ." Jesus said, "I do always those things that please him" (John 8:29). If we want to be more like Jesus, then we will want to please the Father with all of our decisions and living, which include our musical choices and worship.

The question is not: "Does my music and methods work in bringing people into the church?" but "Is God pleased with my music and methods?" If God is not pleased with our music and methods, then they must be scrapped and replaced with what is pleasing, holy, acceptable, and honoring to God

(Rom. 12:1-2). Before attending a church many Christians will often ask themselves, "Can this church meet my needs?" They might ask "Is this church up-to-date in its music and worship service?" Sadly, they never ask the most important questions of all: "Is this church pleasing God with its worship?" and "Will I please God by attending this church?"

## #52

Because separating from that which is corrupt and wrong in our time of worship is an expression of our love and loyalty to God. "Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind (Matt. 22:37). Love is not merely an emotion. It certainly is not broadmindedness. It does not mean that I will never possess a judgmental spirit. Love does not mean that I must maintain a non-critical acceptance of every doctrine and practice within the body of Christ (the Church). Actually, loving God means that I will embrace the truth about separation since "love rejoiceth in the truth" (1 Cor. 13:6). Love detests everything that is evil ("Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good" - Rom. 12:9). Love does not sweep the dirt under the carpet. Where there is love, there must also be truth ("speaking the truth in love" - Eph. 4:15); and where there is truth, an honest dealing with sin will occur. Love for God always results in obeying God and choosing obedience over disobedience ("If ye love me, keep my commandments" - John 14:15, 23; 1 John 5:3). Obedience still is the very best thing!

Del Fehsenfeld Jr. once said: "We are never to relinquish the demands of God's holiness in the name of love; for the greatest evidence of love is our obedience to His commands." The Bible says that love is discerning and results in approving excellent things (Phil. 1:9-10). True love that is cultivated in a Christian's life will result in a believer clinging to absolute truth and purity, as it relates to his actions and activities, including his musical choices and expressions of worship. In other words, our seasoned and growing love for the Lord, which is coupled with our understanding of what is righteous and holy, will keep us from attending churches that promote worldly music and worship that reflects heathen ways.

It has been said that “truth without love is brutality, but love without truth is hypocrisy” (Rom. 12:9 – “Let love be without dissimulation”). It is a mark of Christian maturity when we are able to share the truth with our fellow Christians and do it in love. “Faithful are the wounds of a friend, but the kisses of an enemy are deceitful” (Prov. 27:6). Divine love does not simply condemn wrong in those who are loved but seeks to cleanse them from it (Eph. 5:25-26). Remember that just because I love somebody, does not mean I must agree with them about everything, and go along with all of their thinking and worldly philosophies about contemporary music and worship. Loving others does not mean that I must agree with them on every issue, go with them every place, and do everything with them. In short, just because I love somebody does not mean I must attend their church. Instead, my deep love for the Lord and what is right will keep me from attending those churches that are compromising with the spirit of this age. My loyalty and love for God exceeds all other loving relationships (Luke 14:26).

### #53

Because we want to be obedient to the Lord. This is the practical follow-up from the previous point which emphasized loving God. This point emphasizes being obedient to God at all cost. Deuteronomy 13:4, “Ye shall walk after the Lord your God, and fear him, and keep his commandments, and obey his voice, and ye shall serve him, and cleave unto him” (Deut. 27:10 is a similar verse). Being obedient to God’s Word, what it teaches regarding separation and sanctification in relation to music, should be an important motivating factor in each one of our lives. Of course, one of God’s commandments is to live holy in every area of our lives, including our musical choices and expressions of worship (1 Pet. 1:15-16). 1 Peter 1:14 says, “As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance.” In other words, don’t remain ignorant about music and the message that music conveys in both sound and lyrics. Here is the point. Separation is actually loving obedience as we have seen in our last point (John 14:15, 23; 2 John 6). This is one reason why the yoke or teaching of Christ is not a burden but “easy” (manageable and not annoying) and His burden “light” (free from weight and heaviness) as Jesus declared in Matthew 11:29-30. It’s because we love the One who we are obeying and serving! Therefore, in separating from those things that

dishonors God, such as Contemporary Christian Music, I am expressing obedience to God that is fueled by my love and commitment to Him.

#### **#54**

Because we are accountable to the Lord in the area of our worship. This is true in this life and also the next life. God is listening to our songs and we are accountable to Him in regard to our musical choices and worship. We are to be singing and worshipping “to the Lord” (Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16). This means that God hears our music and we are ultimately accountable to Him for the type of music that we listen to and worship with. Hebrews 4:13, “Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.” The eyes of God are upon me. He sees everything I do! But He also hears my music and knows the manner in which we have been worshipping Him. 2 Corinthians 5:10 speaks of our future accountability before the Lord when it prophetically states: “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.”

Much of what is viewed as contemporary is really only temporary! This is because worldly philosophy, worship, and music will not stand the test at the Judgment Seat of Christ. According to 1 Corinthians 3:13 the Christian’s carnal or worldly works shall “be revealed by fire” (the fiery eyes of God’s omniscience and purity (Rev. 1:14); and the fire shall “try every man’s work of what sort is” (1 Cor. 3:13) resulting in the loss of reward (“If any man’s works shall be burned, he shall suffer loss ...” – 1 Cor. 3:14). Romans 14:12 concludes by saying, “So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.” Remember that God does not always settle His accounts in this life! This is why we must always seek to live separate, holy, and undefiled (Heb. 7:26), seeking to please the Lord in everything that we do, which would include our musical habits and our expression of worship. This is because in the end we are accountable to only one person – God! 1 John 2:28 reveals, “And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming.”

#### **#55**

Because God always wants His people to do what is right and refuse to attend those churches that promote unholy music and worldliness (1 Kings 12:2; 15:34; 2 Kings 16:2; 18:3; 2 Chron. 24:2; 26:4; 29:2; 34:2). Right is always right and wrong is always wrong and never can the two be reconciled! 2 Kings 22:2 says of Josiah, "And he did that which was right in the sight of the Lord, and walked in all the way of David his father, and turned not aside to the right hand or to the left." 2 Chronicles 14:2 says, "And Asa did that which was good and right in the eyes of the Lord his God." 2 Chron. 31:20 says, "And thus did Hezekiah throughout all Judah, and wrought that which was good and right and truth before the Lord his God." In addition, we must remember that we should never do a right thing in a wrong way as David found out in 1 Chronicles 13. The Law of Moses stipulated that the ark was to be carried by the Levites using poles inserted through its corner rings (Ex. 25:13-14; cf. 1 Chron. 15:2, 13, 15). Because David did not obey this command tragedy struck with the death of Uzza. David wanted to do a right thing in a wrong way. In a similar way, many Christians today want to try and do right (share the Gospel) while using worldly methods and music. Later, David found out that doing a right thing in the right way brought great blessing (1 Chronicles 15:1-2, 14-15, 25-29). Dr. Bob Jones said: "It's never right to do wrong in order to do right?" Also, there is never a right way to do a wrong thing! Likewise, it's never right to do a good thing in a wrong way. Wendell Heller said, "We are to do right because it is right."

## #56

Because we want to maintain a good Christian example and testimony for God and before others. 1 Timothy 4:12 says, "be thou an example of the believers" and Titus 2:7 reminds us to be "a pattern of good works." One way to uphold a good Christian testimony is to refuse to identify with those churches that promote and practice unholy forms of music and worship. The separated Christian is to manifest a holy testimony before God (Heb. 11:5), younger believers (1 Tim. 4:12; Titus 2:4-5), and a watching world (1 Tim. 3:7; Col. 4:5; 1 Thess. 4:11-12), so that we might be living epistles "known and read of all men" (2 Cor. 3:2). You are the only Bible that some people will ever read! We must never forget that our testimony is at stake when we compromise and fail to live separate and consecrated life to God. We can lead others into sin and wreck our own personal walk and

testimony for the Lord. So, the separated believer must choose to not associate with those churches that promote worldly worship and music. 2 Timothy 1:8 reminds us, “Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord.” Take your stand and don’t back down!

### #57

Because we must set a godly example for our children by refusing to participate in a worship service that promotes worldly music. The Bible teaches that parents should lovingly shelter their children from the world system, teach them the principles of truth, and reprove them when necessary (Prov. 1:15; 2:1-4; 3:1-4, 11-12; 4:10-15, 20-23; 5:1-3; 6:20-23; 7:1-3; 23:15-17; 23:26; 24:21-23; Deut. 6:6-9; Prov. 22:6; Eph. 6:4; Heb. 12:7). This sheltering (not smothering), teaching, and reproofing ministry is a necessary part of parenting, so that children will be able to face the world without mother and father, as they grow to maturity. This is one of the most basic and needful ministries that parents are expected to do for their children as they grow and mature.

Sadly, the modern mentality of evangelical freethinking and unbiblical thinking has stolen this timeless aspect of parental sheltering, love, and teaching from many Christian parents. This is because many in the evangelical world of today claim that we should let our children choose their musical likes and dislikes and not necessarily give guidance in these so-called grey areas. Of course, this is not what the Bible tells us to do. It’s the God-given responsibility of parents to teach their children the difference between right and wrong and provide a stable environment that will be conducive to godly living in their early formidable years. Parents must take great care to teach their children (Prov. 22:6) what is “fleshly” and what is “after the Spirit” (Rom. 8:1) and attempt in every way possible to place their children in the right kind of environments and atmospheres that will not hinder their spiritual learning and walk (Ps. 119:63). This includes choosing to attend a church that promotes only wholesome music and godly worship. For the sake of our children, we must refuse to attend churches that promote a Christianized/pagan form of worship that has been carried over from the rebellious world of the hippie generation and which today has morphed into all kinds of degrading forms of contemporary, secular rock music.

## #58

Because the things of this world are passing away and have no lasting value (“the world passeth away” - 1 John 2:17). No future reward and recognition will be given for any worldly and compromising actions. In fact, as we have already seen, we can lose reward for not espousing right doctrine and living. 2 John 1:8 says, “Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward.” This is reward which we otherwise could have received, if we had chosen to walk the right path and not compromise with false teaching and worldly ways. God will only reward us for the right things that we do – not the wrong things (Rev. 22:12). This is why we should choose to honor God and do what is right in every area of our lives, including making the right choices regarding the type of music we listen to and worship God with in church. This means we should want to always do a right thing in a right way! Today many churches are compromising with and condoning a rebellious form of music that has been carried over from a rebellious generation. Their numbers are growing while the fundamental Christians and churches are dwindling in size and number. Dearly beloved, let us take heart in what Jesus said, “But many that are first shall be last, and the last shall be first” (Matt. 19:30).

## #59

Because God has told us to never compromise and keep following the truth that calls for separation from all unrighteousness and unholy ways. 2 Timothy 3:14 says, “But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them.” Don’t give up what you have learned about separation. Don’t jump ship! Revelation 3:2 says we must continue to “strengthen the things which remain” and Revelation 3:3 adds these words: “Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast.” The words of Joshua are appropriate for the times in which we live - “turn not aside therefrom to the right hand or to the left” (Josh. 23:6). Remember that few ministers, churches, and Christians keep up to the end the edge that was in their spirit at the first! Are you one of them? Are you attending churches that promote musical rebellion and worldliness?

## #60

Because the grace of God teaches us to deny all ungodly practices that dishonor God and His righteous ways. Titus 2:11-12 states: “For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world.” The message of grace, as seen in the death of Jesus Christ upon the cross, tells the never-ending story that God hates all sin. Sin is what nailed Jesus to the cross! This means that New Testament grace will not lead a Christian to espouse any sinful, carnal, or worldly practices. Both the message about God’s grace (Titus 2:11-12) and the inner work of grace in our hearts (Romans 6:14-15) is designed to free us from sin and cause us to repudiate sin in our Christian life. Grace living is not unrestricted living; it actually restricts our living in certain areas that do not conform to God’s holy character. Grace takes us away from sin; it does not promote rebellion and sin in our lives. The grace way and living of the New Testament is not only about what we can do; it also informs us what we should not do.

When we possess a teachable spirit (2 Tim. 2:2), when our hearts are open to God, His grace will begin to teach us about ungodly music and transform our musical choices and worship into something that truly honors God. The believer should possess a hatred, disgust, and righteous indignation (Eph. 4:26) toward all pagan and rebellious forms of worship that do not reflect the purity and righteousness of God’s character. Grace will teach believers to separate from the unholy, ungodly, and unwholesome worship that is being promoted in churches. The sanctifying work of God’s grace taking place in the Christian’s heart (Romans 6:14-15) will lead them out of the night and into the light!

One of the great purposes of our salvation is to produce lives of sanctification and holiness. “For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure” (Phil. 2:13). Therefore, the same grace that redeems us also reforms our lives and makes us godly. We are to be disciplined by God’s grace, trained to be the kind of people that glorify Him. The music, message, and ministry that is focused on grace should always reflect newness – not oldness (2 Cor. 5:17). This is because grace is always a reflection of our new life (Rom. 7:6). When we are still imbibing the secular and Christian Rock forms of Contemporary Christian Music, when we are



involved in churches that promote musical rebellion, then we must reacquaint ourselves with God's sanctifying grace in a greater way, and let God produce a new sense of holy hatred toward anything and everything that reflects the old way of life. This would include the type of music that is a reflection of rebellion and the unregenerate way of living.

If your heart is teachable and open to grace in this way, then start a new journey that will free you from musical bondages and begin to reshape your thinking and philosophy about music. Conform your life to wholesome music that is a reflection of God's nature and the new way of life in Christ. When I am reassessing and changing my life, both inwardly and outwardly, I am growing in grace (2 Pet. 3:18).