

Fast Bible Facts Dealing with Christian Rock Music

By Pastor Kelly Sensenig

1. Worship is what I give in a church service and not what I get out of a service.

We must remember that true worship is what I give in a service and does not involve a certain type of contemporary sound that I must greedily have in order to get something out of a service or program. Christians have forgotten that worship is primarily what we give to God and not what kind of feeling or entertainment that we can get out of a service. The Hebrew word for “worship” means to “bow down” or “prostrate oneself before” (Exodus 34:14; Psalms 138:2). This means that we are to come to church in order to give worship to God and not to greedily get what we want out of a service. The Bible repeatedly says that worship involves only giving to God.

Psalm 29:2

“Give unto the Lord the glory due unto his name; worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.”

Psalm 96:8

“Give unto the Lord the glory due unto his name: bring an offering, and come into his courts.”

The greatest tragedy in the modern church is that Christians have made worship man centered by revolving it around what they want or can get instead of what they can actually give to God. Worship has turned into entertainment, personal feelings of celebration and Hollywood showmanship. The so-called contemporary Christian rock songs have changed the scene of worship to the manward side by creating an atmosphere of what man wants in a service instead of what he can really give to God.

We must also remember that worship cannot be whatever style we choose as everybody is saying today. Worship is always to reflect the character and nature of God. God’s character and nature is one of peace and harmony. God Himself is full of peace and harmony.

Therefore, when we come to worship Him, we must worship in a manner that is in accordance with His character of peace and harmony. Worldly music, which is full of confusing sounds and which lacks harmony (harmonious blending together of sounds) actually works against the nature of God and is not pleasing to Him when we worship. We must come to God and worship Him on His terms and not our own terms. We must honor His character and nature when we worship God.

1 Corinthians 14:33

“For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints.”

God’s nature is one of peace and not disharmony or confusion (Romans 15:33; 2 Thess. 3:16; Heb. 13:20). This is why our music must reflect His character. When coming to worship God we must respect His holy character of peace and harmony by the type of music that we hear and use to worship God. To try and worship God by playing music that lacks harmony and promotes a sound of confusion is not pleasing to God for it does not represent His holy character of peace and harmony. It offends God’s holy character.

Questions:

- Why do I go to church?
- Do I need to hear a certain sound in order to worship God?
- Does the church you attend disrupt God’s character and design of order and peace by the type of music, which is played?
- Has your worship been totally pleasing to God?

2. I should never become addicted to a certain type of sound.

In order to have an emotional response to God and worship Him, many Christians feel their need to pass through the big beat sound. If they do not feel the grooviness of the music, then they are left empty and devoid of a worshipful experience.

The big beat has entered the church and overtaken the lives of God’s people, bringing them into a place of dependency upon this sound of

a perverted culture. We must remember that bondage is bondage no matter what type it is; whether you call it sacred or secular, it's still bondage.

Many preachers and churches are bringing spiritual drug addicts into their services today who need to feed or feast upon this big beat music in order to get their high or fix.

I know that you will say, "But everybody is doing it!" That is simply not true. This is another unsound conclusion of the modern deception going on today. There are strong separated churches that are not giving in to this worldly beat of a pleasure mad seeking society. There is a whole other side and Biblical alternative to this big beat bondage.

Remember:

"Never confuse the will of the majority with the will of God."

The Bible clearly teaches that the Christian should not be brought under the bondage of anything in this world. The big beat is a bondage that must be forsaken in the lives of Christians everywhere today.

1 Corinthians 6:12 reminds us:

"... but I will not be brought under the power (authority) of any."

This was the overriding principle for the life of Paul. It is a key Biblical principle that believers today must apply to their lives, which have become desensitized to godly music and pulled under by the bondage of the big beat. They must determine by God's transforming grace to free themselves from this secret bondage (authority) and be mentally released and reprogrammed to once again start listening to music that is free from contamination of the worldly beat.

Remember that the Holy Spirit is to have absolute control over your life. When worldly music masters or controls your life and the way that you must worship God, then you have been trapped under its bondage. This occurs by feeling a need to experience a certain type of atmosphere or addictive sound to prime your pump and produce a feeling of worship.

1 Corinthians 6:19

“What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?”

You are not your own! You do not live on an island all by yourself. God lives within your heart in the person of the Holy Spirit. This means that God is to control your life and body at all times. When you allow the sound of the big beat culture to control or master your life and need this sound in order to worship, then God no longer is given His rightful place of ownership over your life. In fact, when other things master our lives and bring us under their bondage, then God cannot master our lives, as He wants to.

(See the paper, “The bondage of the big beat” for additional information on this topic.)

Questions:

- Does the big beat sound have you under its bondage?
- Do you need to listen to this type of music in order to feel that you have worshipped God?
- Do you need this music in order to escape reality?
- Does this type of music control your life above Christ?

3. The holiness of God should drive us away from the sound of rock music.

1 Peter 1:15-16 says:

“But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.”

We must determine what is in the light of God’s holiness and what is not in the light of God’s holiness (1 John 1:5). Those unholy things that Satan uses for His purposes (such as rock music) should not be mixed with the holy in any way because God hates a mixture. Walking in the light of God’s holiness means that we will be open and honest in all of our evaluations with our lives. We will be sincere about any sin in our lives and be ready to get on God’s side as He

reveals sin in our lives. Walking in the light of God's holiness means that we will be ready and willing to make corrections in our lives so that we can live in a holier fashion before God. The holiness of God brings the skeletons out of the closet. If we are going to walk in the light of God's holiness, then we are going to have to get rid of those things that Satan uses and which offend God's holiness. This includes the wrong type of music as well.

2 Corinthians 7:1 says:

“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.”

When we get a grasp on how holy God is, then we will seek to conform our lives to His holiness. We will want to rid our lives from any area that is displeasing to Him. God's holiness will drive us to cleanse our lives from any worldliness that is part of them. It will drive the bad music out of our lives. As we begin to see how holy God is we will want to separate from everything that is not pleasing to Him. This means that we should always be open to the Spirit's teaching as we study any issue and allow the Holy Spirit to begin His work of sanctification in our lives (see Titus 2:11-12). Only then can we become more holy in our conduct and living. The holiness of God will begin to overwhelm our soul to such a degree that we must face the unholy music and rid ourselves of that which is not pleasing to God and unholy in His sight. Remember, as we are open to the light of God's holiness, He will reveal the type of sound that Satan has used for his purposes and which is subtly and openly introduced in Christian music.

Questions:

- Are you willing to allow the light of God's holiness to reveal any sinful or wrong tendencies in your music?
- Are you ready to be open to the Spirit's teaching concerning sanctification?
- Are you ready to cleanse yourself from wrong music?

4. Satan has corrupted God's gift of music.

- a. Music is a gift from God (James 1:17).
- b. Music originated with God. God created music within the angelic order (Job 38:7, Ezekeil 28:12-13).
- c. Satan corrupted God's original gift of music.

He has done this down through the centuries. The musical abilities planted within Satan (Ezekiel 28:13) have been obviously abused by him in order to corrupt God's original design, order and gift of music (Ezekiel 28:15). The master of music has manipulated music throughout the history of mankind. Originally Satan was perfect in beauty and perfect in harmony. Today, Satan is no longer willing to be perfect in harmony or in his musical approach to glorify God. However, he is still represented as an angel. Satan is seen to be an angel (messenger) of light attempting to disguise all error and wrong doing with the appearance of godliness (2 Corinthians 11:14). This would also include the error of musical sound, which is supposedly accompanied by the light of Christian words.

Questions:

- Did God create music within Satan to be rock music?
- When did Satan decide to corrupt the musical worship of God?
- Being the master musician of God's creation, do you believe Satan knows how to corrupt music and lead people away from God and His holiness?

5. Music is not neutral in its sounds and effects.

Many people feel music is neutral (amoral) in the area of sound (beat & rhythm). They claim that the verbal language (what the singer says) makes a difference, but the musical language (what the music sounds like) does not make a difference. They claim that no music is evil or good in itself. Well, the sounds of music are not neutral. Certain sounds are evil and others are good. Scripture bears this out:

1. Exodus 32:1-9 -- This Bible passage relates to the truth of distinction in the sound of music. Joshua and Moses discerned that something was wrong in the camp even before they came

upon the camp. Before they actually saw the camp, Moses and Joshua could tell 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 ("noise of war in the camp" - see vs. 17). It was the kind of singing which Moses actually called the "noise of them that sing" (see vs. 18). Today there is the noise of war within the church camp! There is a type of singing, which produces a sound that is warlike in nature. It is a sound of distress and confusion.

The musical singing of a corrupted people was like noise because of their loud shouting and manner in which they sang. Their voices produced a loud sound that was distinctly different than other traditional sounds that were produced from singing and which were compatible to a distinct and recognizable order.

This particular singing produced a loud shouting sound (noise) that was evidently out of sync with the normal flow 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.

This music was not neutral back then, and it's not today. This music was connected with idolatry, immodest dress, sexual activity and dancing (see vs. 19-25). Our prayer as believers should be: "Lord, give us the hearing discernment of Joshua and Moses. Make our ears sensitive to know good and evil sound." If our hearts are open to the truth about music, then our ears can become open to what is right and wrong.

Hebrews 5:14 says:

“But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.”

The believer must learn to educate themselves to the warlike sounds of Satan, which are confusing, chaotic and disorderly invasions of noise into God’s intended musical program. They must learn to have their “senses” (judgment or understanding) “exercised” (trained) to discern (distinguish or decide) between the good and evil music of our generation.

2. Daniel 3:1-8 -- False worship of the image of Nebuchadnezzar was triggered by a wrong musical sound. Some musical sound promotes sinfulness and idolatry. Will you please note the saying -- “All kinds of music” (vs. 5, 7, 10, and 15). This is speaking of the same kind of music referred to in Exodus 32:17. It was a loud conglomerated sound full of dissonance (confusion and distress). The make-up of this music was different than other music. The sound was distinctly different and created “noise” instead of a normal musical pattern.

This music was evidently a type of music, which was confusing in its sound. It was music that was loud, repetitious and full of unnatural accents and beats. It had no order. Everybody was playing whatever they wanted to and there was no natural flow to the music and beat patterns. This created a chaotic sound. It was a type of music that created rhythmic confusion and chaos. The “all kinds of music” simply went against the divinely prescribed order of music and tried to create an atmosphere of confusion, distress and noise.

This was a distinct sound that was used to promote idolatry. Thank God that the three men (Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego) refused to listen to the sound and bow down to worship the image (see vs. 17-18). These men were the three servants of God (vs. 26). Today, we have the same type of music, which is distinctly different in its sound and approach to the normal God ordained pattern of music. Rock music has unnatural sounds of rhythm, pitch and loudness which make it stand out as a noisy conglomerated sound. It is a warlike sound and sound of confusion and distress because it

contradicts the normal established pattern of music by God. It is this sound which can subtly be introduced into church music.

We have observed:

- Certain music is considered confusing and distressful noise.
- Certain music can cause rebellion in our lives.
- Certain music can get us away from God.

I Samuel 16:14-23 -- This remarkable passage tells us that musical sound effects us in many ways.

- a. It affects us physically (vs. 23 -- “refreshed”). This means that Saul was refreshed or relieved physically.
- b. It affects us mentally (vs. 23 -- “well”). This means to be relieved from a mental condition of fear, doubt, confusion and worry.
- c. It affects us spiritually (vs. 23 -- “evil spirit departed”). Saul was troubled by the evil spirit’s presence. This music which 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.

Note: There is evidently a certain type of music (sound) which demons feel very uncomfortable with. If David would have played some wild rock music, do you honestly think the evil spirit would have departed? Why of course not. A beautiful sound caused the evil spirit to depart. Remember that this was just the sound and not the words.

We have observed:

- Certain musical sounds are not compatible with/to demons.
- Musical sounds affect us in many ways. It’s evident that the sound is not neutral.

It is clear by these Biblical examples alone that musical sound is not neutral. It affects us in many psychological, physiological/moral and spiritual ways. Furthermore, some musical sound is considered to be “noise” and causes rebellion as well as idolatry in the lives of God’s people. Certain music tends to lead God’s people back under their

fleshly desires and into their corrupt sinful lifestyles. There is a distinct sound created in music that is definitely anti-God and caters to the flesh or old nature. This distorted sound is enjoyable to the old nature and is used to promote rebellion and becomes a sign of rebellion in the lives of God's people today. To enjoy this sound means that God's people conform to a part of the world system that is headed up by Satan and which Satan uses in a distinct way to lead people astray (Romans 12:2).

I therefore conclude, Biblically and sensibly, that sound is not neutral. Certain sounds affect us and impact our lives in different ways. The sound of a worldly society was not neutral in Bible times and it still is not neutral today. There is such a thing as a "satanic sound." There is a difference in God's sound and Satan's sound. God's sound is full of the order and design which God initially created in the musical order. However, Satan's sound breaks the normal beat pattern (1st & 3rd beats) and abuses the natural flow of music in order to break God's traditional design of music, and create warlike confusion and distress in sound. God's people today need to make that distinction!!

There is no rock artist who would deny the fact that musical sound is different. No rock artist would admit that sound is neutral. They would never play classical music or the cherished hymn music of the church at a rock concert. Why? This is because musical sound is not neutral. The local tavern will not play the cherished hymns of the church. Why? It's because certain music does not fit in those places. They want music that feeds the senses and fleshly desires. Witch doctors would not use Bach to accompany their demonic spells. How sad it is when worldly people recognize that musical sound is not neutral, but God's people are ignorantly denying the reality of this so they can indulge in their worldly behavior.

"The children of this world are in their generation wiser than the children of light" (Luke 16:8).

Questions:

- Why can't music be neutral in its design?
- How does music affect our lives?

- How were the sounds of a perverted people different than traditional or God ordained musical sound?
- Are you ready to distinguish between the good and evil type of sound?
- Will you become a Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego by refusing to respond to this sound?

6. Certain musical sound is worldly in its nature or design (see Romans 12:2).

Worldly music is that type of distorted sound, which is part of this present, evil, world system. The Bible says we are not to be conformed (molded) to this world system in any way. The “world” as spoken of in the Bible is that organized system which is anti-God in philosophy, purpose, practice or sound. Worldly music can be identified by its sound! Satan controls people’s lives through a certain sound. Well, what makes some music worldly? What makes certain music have the same qualities and sound as the world’s music? What is worldliness in music? Since there is a certain type of music that drives people into drugs, sex, rebellion and violence, then what kind of musical sound is it? What is in the musical sound that causes this rebellion?

We must think logically and become educated about this type of music instead of allowing it to invade our lives and church. Here are some of the warlike symptoms of rock music.

a. The loudness of the music itself.

People who love rock music in all of its forms are actually noise worshipers. This type of music is characterized by its intense loud volume. The Air Force must reject certain people because of their deafness due to rock music. Loudness is one way Satan drives home his sound of confusion and disorder.

b. The strong, driving, syncopated beat patterns.

Syncopation is the fundamental component of rock music. It is the skeleton of this type of music. Syncopation in music is when the music creates a rhythmic contradiction. When the music itself

becomes inconsistent with the normal accents of beats. Rock music abuses the syncopation by centering upon this type of rhythmic contradiction.

c. The constant repetition in this music.

This repetition causes a hypnotic effect upon us. Constant repetition is never a good quality in any kind of music. Repetition has a way of controlling our emotions and taking over our rational part of worship (see Romans 12:2 - “reasonable service” or “rational worship”). Whenever we worship God our mind is not to go into the neutral zone where we disengage our thinking and rely only on our emotional drives and desires for fulfillment. This can lead us into wrong patterns of worship that create chaos and charismatic disorder and even sinful actions within our lives. Such is the case at rock concerts where the repetitious music is repeated over and over again to hypnotize people and create sinful responses. Rock music is designed to be felt rather than understood.

Note: All music basically has beat and rhythm to it. However, rock music misuses and abuses things such as beat, rhythm, and syncopation. These things when used properly can create good music. However, when loudness and the abuse of these things occur, then the music becomes confusing and worldly in nature. When the degree and intensity of these things is taken to an extreme level, then the music becomes worldly in its nature. We all know that a beat, rhythm, or syncopation is not evil in itself. It’s the abuse of these things that causes the musical selection to become worldly.

d. One of the key worldly characteristics of rock music is its emphasis on the second and fourth beats of a musical piece.

True music has good harmony. Traditional emphasis in music down through the years has always been on the first and third beats of a measure. Rock music pounds out the second and fourth beats of their so-called music. Those strong, loud beats you hear in rock music are actually the second and fourth beats. This is the main distinguishing feature of rock music and worldly music in general. This rhythm is actually opposite of the beating of the heart and can cause confusion and effect our blood pressure and nervous system.

Rock music always wants to keep the same rhythmic patterns on the second and fourth beats and heavily if not completely relies on driving syncopation to form its confusing noise. It is clear and evident that too much rhythm is what makes rock music sensual and physical in nature. The strong unnatural rhythmic beat patterns on the second and fourth beats or the erratic rhythm of abused syncopation causes the music to become sick and worldly. The goal of rock artists is to achieve this sensual, controlling sound because everyone knows it is that part of music to which the body responds. Notes and rhythm in the hands of a composer can become sensual. The world is filled with many people who have created this sound. They might be called the “wizards of sound.”

Note: All music has beat, rhythm, and sometimes syncopation. Rock music, however, is characterized by the emphasis on the loud offbeat, the repetition of loud beats, and the abused syncopation pattern. This creates an abnormal sound that Satan uses for his own purposes. It also creates a sound, which can control our lives and feed our old nature with its abused rhythm and sound. A believer should not listen to that kind of sound which Satan uses for his purposes.

Definition of Rock & Christian Rock Music

Rock and Christian rock music is a type of worldly music that is evidently 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 rich harmony (agreeableness of sound).

Musical Terms

Music = sounds organized to have agreeable melody, rhythm, harmony, and dynamics.

Melody = musical sounds in agreeable succession or arrangement.

Rhythm = movement or procedure with uniform or patterned recurrence of a beat, accent, or the like. The way music flows.

Harmony = the blending together of notes that create order and which are naturally pleasing to the ear.

Accent = a stress or emphasis given to certain musical notes. Hitting a note harder or louder.

Syncopation = a shifting of a normal musical accent, usually by stressing the normally unaccented beats.

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 tendency. The scripture sets the standard: “A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump” (Galatians 5:9, I Corinthians 5:6). A little yeast can soon permeate the whole dough. Likewise, false teaching, sin or anything like worldly sound (sensual 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. My friend, let’s think logically and Biblically on this issue. When we add any subtle or strong emphasis on the wrong beat and begin to filter into the music that loud, repetitious, driving beat and abused pattern of syncopation; it’s then that the music becomes immediately corrupted. I would never want to eat a sandwich, which was half spoiled! It would very likely make me sick. When something is spoiled it is spoiled no matter which way you look at it. The same is true about music. When you begin to

corrupt the music in even a subtle form the entire musical number is poisoned.

Although there were different styles of music through the church age a certain established order in melody, rhythm and harmony has always existed. This is because the true nature of music has always been established by God and always has existed in such a way as to reflect His character or nature of peace and harmony (1 Cor. 14:33). Today's rock music breaks the musical order and the artists who try to defend their Christian rock music will even claim that music was never created to have any real characteristics or established patterns in its design. They will claim that music has no real characteristics such as good harmony and dominate melody.

This is a totally unlearned and unbiblical conclusion. Down through the ages mankind has always recognized the true character of good music as consisting of good harmony and dominate melody. God has intuitively implanted this recognition within mankind and has demonstrated in certain Biblical accounts between the established order of good music and music that is considered to be nothing more than bad sounds or noises. Because God is a God of order and not confusion, He has created music that has distinct flowing order and design (1 Cor. 14:33, 40).

- The New Webster's Dictionary defines music as: "The art of organizing or arranging sounds into meaningful patterns or forms involving pitch, harmony, and rhythm; ...euphony (agreeableness of sound)."
- Rock music could be defined as: "The artless approach of not organizing sound into meaningful patterns or forms."

Rock music is not true music for it is a confused sound characterized by repetition, strong driving beat, unnatural accents on the second and fourth beats and intense loud volume. It always seeks to drown out the melody and abuse the rhythm. There is no agreeableness of sound in this noise.

Frank Garlock has said: "Contrary to popular opinion, an order in music has existed. It still exists and should be observed in the music

of the church and home of the Christian who wants to “hearken” unto the Lord.”

Questions:

- What are some of the key characteristics in certain music that make it become worldly in its design?
- Why does music have a certain order?
- How much wrong rhythm and distortion of God’s established musical pattern does it take to spoil a good musical piece?

7. Mixing Christian words with fleshly sound is mixing the holy with the unholy.

Today, so-called Christian rock music has failed, and continues to fail, to make the distinction between the holy and the unholy, the clean and the unclean. As we’ve discussed earlier, the rhythmic patterns and flow of rock music with its sensual sound is that which is distinctly worldly and unholy. For Christians to try to unite (harmonize) Christian words with unholy sound is a principle directly forbidden in the scriptures. In the mosaic rituals of the law there was always a stressed need to distinguish between the clean and the unclean or the holy and the unholy.

“Do not drink wine nor strong drink, thou, nor thy sons with thee, when ye go into the tabernacle of the congregation, lest ye die: it shall be a statute for ever throughout your generations: And that ye may put difference between holy and unholy, and between unclean and clean” (Leviticus 10:9-10).

In Ezekiel 22:26 and 44:23 we see this same principle repeated. The priests of the Old Testament were failing to follow God’s laws about clean and unclean animals. They were in gross error by not making this holy and unholy distinction. They “polluted the sanctuary” (Zephaniah 3:4) much like rock rhythm has polluted true music today and the church sanctuary. Furthermore, the very attempt to mix Christian words with polluted rhythmic patterns is a gross violation of this holy and unholy principle. Haggai 2:13 lets us know that something which is unclean is like a disease that defiles all that it touches, even common or clean things. Thus, the mixing of Christian

words with unholy sound will certainly defile everything. We again come to the scriptural truth that “a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump.” A holy God cannot be pleased when we buy into Satan’s master musical plan and follow his distortion of musical sound and mix the holy with the unholy. When we try to mix the two together we dirty the holy with the unholy and God is not pleased (Habakkuk 2:13).

Along this same line of thinking, the Bible also clearly tells us that we should never call something, which is evil to be good. Isaiah 5:20 states, “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 Bible is very clear. We should never call something, which is perverted and designed by Satan to be good and usable for God’s glory. Micah 3:2 also speaks about those “who hate the good, and love the evil...” I cannot help but relate or apply this to the modern day believer who is feeding their flesh upon this big beat rhythm of the world. They have been totally reprogrammed in their mind and heart. They actually love and feast upon the evil and despise the good. This is actually true in the lives of many who are addicted to the rock culture. In promoting this unholy mixture, we are saying that evil can actually become good, which is not Biblical.

Malachi 2:17 also portrays the people of God as having a corrupted and twisted philosophy. “Ye have wearied the Lord with your words. Yet ye say, Wherein have we wearied him? When ye say, Every one that doeth evil is good in the sight of the Lord, and he delighteth in them; or, Where is the God of judgment?”

Here we see that the people of God tried to make evil good and they even said that God must delight in the evil because He did not judge evildoers immediately. This is the kind of warped philosophy we have in Christianity today. Christian people will claim that God can use anything (even evil), that God can turn it around for His glory. Any Christian without an abused conscience will recognize how utterly backward and Biblically degrading such talk is. The distinctions between the holy and the unholy are being blurred by such worldly attitudes as this. It could be said of many Christians today that they are soldiers in the Lord’s army trying to march to the beat of Lucifer’s drums.”

When we come face to face with the satanic nature of rock music today and see its evil use in the world, we can only come to this conclusion. God hates it. He hates evil. God hates all worldliness. We should never try to call this evil music good music. We should never attempt to bring something good out of that which God hates and is evil by design and devilish in its use.

We are told to cleanse ourselves from all unholiness and fleshly sins. Never are we told in the Bible to compromise with sinners. We are to be a friend to sinners as Jesus was (see Luke 7:34), but we should never compromise with the sinfulness of people in order to get their attention. This idea that we need to become approachable to the unsaved by meeting the terms of sinful people is totally corrupt. Christian people with this mentality are saying, "If they like rock music then we must play rock music in order to win them to Christ." This is totally ludicrous. I might say, "If they are an alcoholic, I need to get drunk to be able to identify with them and witness to them. If I want to witness to drug addicts, I need to take drugs and get high in order to identify with them and witness for the Lord."

This whole idea of identifying with the sins of sinners is not scriptural in any way. I can be a friend of sinners without compromising with their sin. I can clearly witness to them without identifying with their sinful lifestyles. God never told us to win the world through intellectual acceptance, personal popularity, reputation or image. The Bible says, "...we are made the filth (scum) of the world..." (I Corinthians 4:13). We are not to use some kind of sophisticated approach to win the lost!

We are never to become a friend of the world (James 4:4). The Holy Spirit does not need you nor want you to entertain sinners in their sin in order to win them for Christ. The Holy Spirit convicts people of their sin without all of your compromise with them (John 16:8). In fact, we need to tell people that they are sinners so they can be "pricked in their heart" (Acts 2:37).

I must remind you that conviction over sin must precede conversion. There must be repentance over sin before salvation can occur (Luke 13:5). To try and entertain a sinner with their sin is totally contrary to

the Gospel presentation that man is a sinner and needs to repent of his sins. These Christian concerts do not promote the atmosphere for true genuine repentance. When one tries to entertain sinners into salvation, they are starting from the wrong end of the spectrum (Acts 17:30). By the way, music in the church is never meant to be for entertainment! Entertainment does not bring conviction. You cannot evangelize and entertain at the same time.

Questions:

- Why can't we unite holy words with unholy musical sound?
- Do we offend God's holiness when we fail to make a distinction between the holy and unholy sound?
- Can we become confused and corrupted in our thinking and call something that is evil to actually be good?
- Do onions and ice cream mix?
- Can we evangelize the lost without identifying with their sin?

8. Clean things cannot evolve from unclean things.

"Who can bring a clean thing out of an unclean? not one" (Job 14:4).

Job was speaking about the brevity of life. As Job started his short journey through life, he began to speak about his birth from the mother's womb. Within the context of this passage, Job verified that no clean person could be born from an unclean woman. The fact is simple. Women who are tainted by sin bear children who are tainted by sin. Sin breeds sin. Unholiness breeds forth more unholiness. This is a scriptural principle seen throughout the Bible. One should never expect to bring holiness out of something that is evil and wrong in its make-up or nature. It is scripturally impossible to make a case for such thinking as this.

Jesus spoke about this same principle in Matthew 7:17-18:

"Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit."

We can apply this same scriptural analogy to the area of corrupt music. You cannot bring forth good or proper music by using the rotten music of the world system. Good sounding music is good music and bad sounding music is bad music. The two cannot be reconciled! By way of principle, there can be no God ordained way that the world's musical sound, which is used for evil purposes, can be fused together with spiritual words and agree with one another (see Amos 3:3). Two people or two different programs of good and evil cannot work together and agree in their purpose.

“...what communion hath light with darkness?” (2 Cor. 6:14)

Christian rock artists claim that God can use anything. They actually believe that God can take something, which is evil, used by Satan, and turn it around for His own glory and good. Now this sounds so sweet. Actually, it's a rotten statement, which is totally ambiguous to Biblical revelation! In our last point, we discovered that God does not want us to mix the holy with the unholy. Now we see that the clean could never come out of the unholy or unclean. To say that God could use something which is evil by design and devilish in its use is totally absurd. To say that God can use anything is to say that God can also use pornography, fornication and crack cocaine for His glory. This argument breaks down and is so silly that I should never have to say anything else about it. However, for the sake of worldly Christians, I will graciously say what the Bible says in clear language:

“Hate the evil; and love the good, and establish judgment in the gate” (Amos 5:15).

“Abhor (detest) that which is evil; cleave to that which is good” (Romans 12:9).

Satan's sound of rock music which he uses for fleshly results and rebellion is an evil that we need to utterly detest. We should cleave to good music that honors God and not try to mimic the evil sounds that Satan uses for his kingdom. It is simply a wrong mentality to think that musical sound, which helps to generate sinful responses in people's lives, can be turned around to create positive responses for God. God does not use evil for His purposes.

“Ye that love the Lord, hate evil” (Psalms 97:10).

“The fear of the Lord is to hate evil” (Proverbs 8:13).

We are never to use the evil forces of Satan for God’s purposes and glory. This is an insult to God’s character of holiness and God’s Word. There is a modern mentality today among worldly and unseparated believers that there are no real absolutes. Christians love to say that everything is O.K. Well, everything is not O.K. Right is right, and wrong is wrong. Right is always right, and wrong is always wrong. Clean is clean and dirty is dirty. That is so basic that many Christians fail to see it. When Satan uses dirty, evil music for his kingdom, we should never try to take that dirt and make it clean. God says that you cannot bring the clean out of the unclean. When Satan perverts God’s original musical design and pattern by introducing his own confusion and disruption to the musical pattern, then it becomes worldly in its sound. Satan can corrupt music by promoting rhythmic contradiction on the 2nd and 4th beats and by creating abused syncopation patterns. Intense loudness and a distortion of normal melody can also characterize Satan’s music.

Questions:

- Can God use anything for His glory, even unholy things like wrong sound, drugs and nudity?
- Can something, which is intrinsically evil in its design, be used of God?
- Can light and darkness work together?
- Is God pleased when we try to use Satan’s methods to win the lost?

9. The spiritual man seeks to listen to spiritual songs.

Colossians 3:16 says:

“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.”

Spiritual songs not only contain spiritual words but also spiritual music or rhythm. Both the words and music go hand in hand in order

to make a spiritual song. Much of the modern Christian rock music today is not only shallow in Biblical content but ultimately lacks spiritual depth. Many songs being written today, which are used with the rock beat, are songs dealing with emotional experiences and which have strange lyrics attached to them. It would not be out of place to say that much which is being written today is not spiritual at all. These songs can actually be taken or interpreted as having an altogether different meaning because the words are so generic in what they are saying. Both the sounds and in many cases, the words of Christian rock music, are a far cry from the psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs mentioned in the Bible. Even when good words are joined together with the rock beat and perverted sound of a culture, it completely destroys the true nature of the spiritual song, for God hates a mixture of good words and evil sound. The spiritual man is the person who judges or discerns between right and wrong sound (see 1 Corinthians 2:15). He is ready to make a distinction where there needs to be a clear distinction.

Questions:

- What are spiritual songs?
- Can you be unspiritual because of what you listen to?
- Do you need to become more spiritually discerning in what you listen to?

10. Satan's rock music will be cast into the fires of Hell along with the Devil.

In Isaiah 14:9-11 we are given a prophetic picture of the time when Satan is cast into the bottomless pit just prior to the millennial reign of Christ. Revelation 20:1-2 also speaks of this momentous event. In verses 7-8 of Isaiah chapter 14, a glorious millennial scene is depicted. Just prior to this time of peace, the Devil will be cast into the abyss, which is called "sheol" (vs. 9-11). The inhabitants of Hell or Sheol will wonder if Satan has become just like the other lost souls damned for eternity. Now, in verse 11 we see a very interesting comment about Satan. It says that the "noise" (loud sound) of his "viols" (musical makings) will be cast into the abyss along with Satan.

It's quite conceivable that God's Word is telling us that the loud noise of Satan's musical makings, which he has used to control lives, fry minds, and lead people away from God, will be cast into the pit as well. God's Word seems to once again identify Satan's music as noise and it's this music which is fit for only one place -- Hell! It's not fit for the Christian life, Christian home, or Christian church. One day Satan's satanic sounds will be banned and barred from this earth forever. This will be a glorious day when the master musician, who has gone bad, will be banished from planet earth. Satan's music will not be part of the kingdom days. In fact, even within Heaven, there will be no satanic sounds to distort the heavenly praise that the church will direct to God.

Revelation 5:8-9 says:

“And when he had taken the book, the four beasts and four and twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of saints. And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation”

Questions

- Is Satan associated with a type of musical noise in Scripture?
- What will be the end of this type of distorted sound?
- Would God allow contemporary rock music to be played in Heaven?

We simply need to bring others and ourselves to the level of God's holy music and not go down to the level of worldly music. We all need to make this decision. Once again, we have arrived at the hour of decision!

Make Your Choices

- What are you going to do with the light that you now have about wrong music?

- Will you decide to walk in the light of God's holiness, which has been revealed to you or crawl back under the rock into the darkness to escape the light?
- Will you honestly begin to evaluate your music and begin to break away from unholy patterns?
- Will you confess your sin of ignorance or omission about this area of music and make a decision to surrender your life and music to the Lord?

Jesus said that we are to love Him more than our own music and desires in life:

Luke 14:26

"If any man come to me, and hate (love less) not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple."

Jesus also said that we must take up the cross of surrender and sacrifice before God and do His will and not our own will:

Luke 14:27

"And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple."

Luke 14:33:

"So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple."

Questions:

- Are you ready to show greater love for the Lord than for this type of worldly music?
- Are you ready to forsake all that is wrong, sinful and selfish in your life?
- Are you ready to surrender to the Lord?
- Are you ready to counteract the musical culture of your day?

A Plan of Action

In order to separate from this type of music, you need to begin the process of reprogramming your mind. Your mind needs to pass through a renovation process so that you can rid yourself of this type of music and live a life that is more holy and pleasing to the Lord.

Romans 12:2 says:

“And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing (renovation) of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.”

The mind is the control center of one's attitudes, thoughts, feelings, and actions. When your mind is renovated by the spiritual input of God's Word, prayer, and good music, only then can your lifestyle and corrupt musical habits become transformed. Your mind that was once programmed to a certain beat pattern and corruption or distortion of God's musical program must now be reprogrammed with the truth of the Word of God and good music. Only as you are willing to walk in the light of God's holiness and live separated from the world system can you begin to go through this process of renovation (mental house cleaning) so that you can “prove” (discern) what God's holy will is for your life.

In other words, you must open your mind to the Biblical truth about separated music and educate yourself about this type of music. Then you must be willing to change your old-thinking habits about the wrong type of music that you listen to and replace these wrong thoughts with what God's Word says about godly music. When you take this step to open your mind to truth, it's only then that you can discern or discover what God's holy will is in relationship to separated and God honoring music.

When you are ready and willing to be transformed in your mind (thinking) then you can become more like Christ and begin to approve and desire God's musical ministry and pattern for your life instead of your own musical pattern.

If you really want to do God's will, no matter what it involves, then you will be shown what God's holy will really is for your life.

John 7:17 explains this principle:

“If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine (truth or teaching), whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself.”

In order to really know God’s will, one must desire to wholeheartedly follow or do God’s will no matter what it is! A closed mind will not know the truth about music. This is why many Christians have not faced their music. They are not willing to do God’s will and therefore are not taught God’s will about the subject of music. Only a person who is sensitive to the light of God’s holiness and truth will be able to begin the renovation process and discover the freshness of God’s musical program for their life. When Christians are ready to open their hearts to the Biblical principles about music and the holiness of God, then God will give them His own holy desires about music and transform their lives in this area.

Psalm 37:4

“Delight thyself also in the LORD; (enjoy His holy presence and fellowship in your life) and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart.”

When you have an attitude of obedience and really want to do God’s will no matter what it involves, then God will reveal His good, acceptable, perfect and holy will for your life (Romans 12:2). This will be true even in the area of music.

- Can you honestly say that you are ready to do God’s will in this area of music?
- Are you ready to obey God no matter what?
- Are you ready to face the music?

Putting the Plan into Action

Here is a two-fold way that you can reprogram and renovate your mind or thinking about old music patterns:

1. Study and meditate upon the Biblical truths that we have just dealt with on this subject.

You must take the Word of God seriously and begin to think on the principles that the Bible says about music and apply them to your own music.

Philippians 4:8 says:

“Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.”

2. Start listening to music that is holy and honoring to God.

1 Corinthians 10:31 says:

“Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.”

The old adage, “Out with the bad and in with the good” must be applied to your situation. You must rid yourself of the wrong music and replace it with good music. Purchase good music from the catalogs such as “Discover Christian Music” or “Majesty Music” and become music sensitive or sound sensitive to the subtle overtones of rock music. Refuse to listen to any corrupted music on the Christian radio stations in your area. Do not compromise with this sound in any fashion. Get rid of your old music in your home.

You must make a clean break from this old pattern of music or else you will still be tied to the music. A little drug will take you back on the same path of defeat and failure. You must refuse to infect your life with any form of the old and never attempt to walk the fence. There must be a total severance with the past music. You must learn to forget about the old patterns of your musical life and reach for the new patterns of godly music. Forgetting and reaching is the way that God’s Word expresses this change from the old way of life to the new way of life.

Philippians 3:13 says: “Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before.”

3. Continually pray to God for strength and power for deliverance from the past.

Ephesians 6:10 says:

“Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.”

You cannot live a holy life without God’s abiding strength and assistance. There must be constant reliance upon His power and victory. Remember: “The will of God will never lead you where the grace of God cannot keep you.”

4. Discipline your life.

The entire Christian life is one of discipline. Discipline must be applied to every area of your life, even the area of music. When we are disciplined to live separate and holy lives, we will continually discern between right or wrong music or healthy and unhealthy music. This means that we will tune out bad music and tune in the good music. We will not tolerate any form of corruption in the music that we listen to and use to lead us in our worship of God.

1 Thessalonians 5:21 says:

“Prove (discern or judge) all things (even music); hold fast that which is good.”

The believer must cling to that which is good. What is found to be “good” (Biblical and holy) is to be wholeheartedly embraced. What is “evil” (unbiblical or worldly) is to be shunned.

Conductor Arthur Fiedler died in July of 1979. Newspaper commentaries around the country carried one of Mr. Fiedler’s favorite quotes: “There are only two kinds of music, good music and bad. If it is good -- I play it.”

Prayer of Deliverance

“Dear Lord Jesus, I surrender this area of music to You and want to change my musical listening habits. I want to renovate my mind of this old music. I want to walk in the light of your holiness and abandon any music that is not according to Your holy standard. Lord Jesus, forgive me for my ignorance and stubbornness in this area and release me from any bondage that I have developed toward this type of music. Give me new discerning and educated ears that I might not listen to that which is corrupted and unholy. I want to honor Your Word and holy character of peace and harmony. This is my decision. In Jesus name I pray, Amen.”