

The Bondage of the Big Beat

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The devil is certainly pushing his own agenda in the culture of our world today. In the forefront of the devil's program is his desire to control people's lives and bring them under slavery or bondage.

Hebrews 2:14-15 states:

"Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise (Christ) took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage."

The devil wants to keep people enslaved or bound to a life of "bondage." He wants the things of this world to rule people's lives and keep them addicted to many controlling influences. The devil wants to control the lives of people by bringing their emotional response and body under an addiction or bondage to worldly interests instead of allowing God to control their emotions and bodies. In other words, Satan wants the things of this world to rule our lives. He wants to keep us under the world's control instead of allowing our emotions and body to respond to the control of the Holy Spirit (Eph. 5:18). Satan simply wants to control your soul, your affections, desires and will. He wants your soul to be governed by the system of the world instead of allowing the new nature to control your inward person.

One of the biggest areas of control or bondage that the devil has placed upon people's lives in our generation is the big beat, which is heard in the rock music of our present-day culture. Multitudes of people have fallen into what I have called the big beat trap. They are clearly under the bondage of the big beat that has infiltrated itself everywhere within our world and churches.

This bondage is evidenced in the lives of people by their need to listen to this type of music above any other type of music. They have developed a dependency or addiction for this type of music to the extent that it becomes a real bondage in their lives. The unsaved need this big rock beat in order to block out the reality of the world

around them and so they can allow this music to promote sex and lust within their lives. Rock concerts have a hypnotic and controlling effect over the lives of people. This type of big beat sound has a way of taking control of the mind and exciting evil passions within the soul. The excitement associated with the big beat promotes worldly responses dealing with sex, lust, and drugs. No person can deny this. The average unsaved person turns on the radio and has an addiction to the big beat sound in order to promote their fleshly desires and bring entertainment into their life that is worldly in nature.

There is something even sadder than what I have just mentioned. Christians today have also brought this modern beat of music into their lives. They have allowed the big beat of carnally based music to enter into their homes, churches and children's lives. Yes, this sound has become an addictive force or bondage in their own Christian lives. Christians are not exempt from the bondage of the big beat. Of course, I am not concluding that every Christian who listens to Contemporary Christian Music is under slavery or bondage. Nor am I trying to read their hearts during their time of worship (2 Cor. 4:5). Nor am I sitting around comparing my spirituality with others since this is forbidden (2 Cor. 10:12). We should have no part of this spirit of rivalry and competition.

What this study is revealing is that there are Christians who allow the rock culture to dominate and control their lives. They are brought into slavery to a specific sound and controlled by it in their life and worship. Of course, worldliness in the Christian life is one thing but slavery and bondage is something much worse. Nevertheless, there are Christians who become so attached to the sound of the rock culture that they do develop a dependency and slavery to the sound of the rock culture. Sometimes it can be a subtle enslavement while other times a more pronounced addiction. Christians are not exempt from this because many of them listen to secular Rock Music as well. This is because in many cases there is not a pronounced difference between CCM and secular Rock Music.

In order to have an emotional response to God and worship Him, many Christians feel their need to hear the sound of our rock culture. If they do not feel the music, then they are left empty and devoid of an alleged worshipful experience. Many believers have come to the

place of dependency upon this type of music. Without realizing it, they have developed a type of addiction to the sounds of the big beat and when they do not get it, their worship in church and their life seems empty and meaningless.

In actuality, some believers have fallen victim to this sound to the point that they are worshipping the big beat sound instead of really worshipping God. The devil has a way of desensitizing us to worldly music by introducing it into our lives in small portions (Gal. 5:9). He corrupts our worship with worldly and carnal music (Lev. 10:1). A specific type of rock beat and sound can actually replace true worship and very easily override the principle of reverence in worship (Ps. 89:7). We must be reminded of what God has said about worshipping other gods or idols in our lives.

Exodus 20:3 says:

“Thou shalt have no other gods before me.”

You might say that musical sound is not an idol or wooden statue. This is true, but it is an idol that is being worshiped today. The New Testament equivalent to this verse and modern-day idols is seen in the epistle of John.

1 John 5:21

“Little children, keep yourselves from idols. Amen.”

Even the gods of rock sounds can become a ruling force in our lives so that we worship the sounds instead of truly worshipping God. This is a very frightening reality in our lives. There is a growing need to release ourselves from idols that control our lives, such as the addiction and idol of this big beat sound of rock music.

I have personally talked with Christians over the years that were so addicted to the big beat sound, so much so, they could no longer listen to the cherished hymns or sing along with the hymns within the church. Their minds had been reprogrammed by the big beat of bondage to the point that they had to go seeking out this type of music in charismatic oriented churches or churches that have allowed this worldly beat to enter into their services. There are many Christians like this today. You may be one of them. I have worked in

the trenches of church life long enough to see this pattern develop and realize that there are multitudes of Christians who need to be delivered from this big beat bondage which is plaguing the churches today. This sound is not the sound of revival; it is the sound of bondage that can lead Christians back to the old life of bondage under the devil.

According to what Christians have said to me, without this beat they can't worship God. Since they have been swept into the modern sound, they can no longer sing along with the hymn heritage of our past. They can't seem to enjoy worship with God without an emotional reaction to the sound of the big driving beat. Dear Christian friends, something is drastically wrong! Something has happened to the church which I believe has in a subtle way brought many of God's people under the bondage and slavery of sin. What has happened? The big beat has entered the church and overtaken the lives of God's people, bringing them into a place of dependency upon the sound of a perverted culture. This is why many churches are scrapping the cherished hymns of the past for contemporary and unseparated music that entertains people and gives them the high or fix that they are looking for.

This is why people call me up as a pastor and ask what type of music we play in the church before asking what kind of doctrine I preach. This is why Christians who listen to the so-called Christian rock music will often cross over into the secular rock seen. There is no difference between the big beat sound! The sound has them under bondage and leads them into all types of music that is similar in sound and design. After all, bondage is bondage no matter what type it is, whether you call it sacred or secular, it's still bondage!

I recently was talking to a Youth for Christ leader. He had shared with me how God was giving him opportunity to witness to youth. I asked him if he was using the contemporary, unseparated music to try and get a youth following. He said that he was. Then I talked to him about the bondage that this type of music can bring into the lives of people and how many Christians cross over into the secular realm of rock music because of the same big beat sound of bondage. I compassionately but gently shared with him how God does not want

us to copy the system of the world in order to try and bring people to Christ.

His response to me was very honest. He remembered how at one point in his own Christian life this same type of music had drawn him back into the secular rock culture. I wondered why he thought it would be any different for the young people of today. They too would become entangled with this type of music and develop a dependency upon the sounds of a society that has been swept into the deceiving grip of lust and the devil.

I am not at war with Christians (“flesh and blood”) over rock music (Eph. 6:12). I am at war with the devil and his program to keep God’s people under some kind of mental and emotional dependency to this type of music. I am at war with the devil because he is beginning to systematically rob the church of cherished hymns and other godly songs that do not possess this big beat sound. To say the least, I am alarmed when preachers turn a blind eye to what is going on. Many preachers and churches are bringing spiritual drug addicts into their services today who need to feed upon this big beat music in order to get their high or fix. We have got to realize the addiction and do something about it! We must begin to retrain people concerning what true godly music is and reprogram their minds and hearts by teaching them to not copy the system of the world (Jer. 10:2; 1 John 2:15-17). God’s teaching and liberating grace can free the lives of God’s people from this hidden bondage, if they will begin to be sensitive to God’s leading and direction within their hearts.

Titus 2:11-12 says:

“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.”

God’s grace as experienced through the new birth can open our eyes to all the unrighteous and worldly bondage within our lives. God’s gracious provision of salvation is transforming (2 Cor. 5:17; Eph. 2:8–10) and this new transforming life and nature produces a new way of life in which the power and bondage of sin can be broken! Only the transforming grace of God can begin to teach us about our bondage to the rock culture. We must simply open our heart to God’s teaching

ministry instead of blindly following the cultural worldliness that the church has allowed to become part of its worship services.

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 and other Bible institutions 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 the rock culture, including Contemporary Christian Music. You must stop and realize this today. Not every Christian and church has compromised with the worldly beat of Rock Music. There are churches and Biblical institutions that have not bowed the knee to Contemporary Christian Music and its cultural rebellion. You must wake up and smell the coffee! Furthermore, no matter how many Christians are doing something, it should never effect or impact your decision to do what is right.

Remember:

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

The majority were not right in Moses' day or the Lord's day. I have also discovered something else over the past years. I have realized that the church is raising a whole generation of children who are hooked on the big beat sound. They have never really heard good, separated and holy music that is honoring to God. They have never had the opportunity to be introduced to godly hymns and new godly music that is being written today without a rock beat. The younger Christian generation of today has only been introduced to the sound of a perverted culture that has in some measure brought them under the bondage of the old nature and even the devil.

When they do hear good music their faces cringe and their conclusion and attitude is this: "to shallow and too tame for my taste." What they really mean is that godly music cannot give them their fix or high that they are looking for. It does not feed their flesh and promote their habit. By the way, taste is a good thing, but you need to have the right taste! You need to have a taste for the good things of God by tuning your ears, mind and heart to that which is good and godly.

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.”

The big beat is not good; it is enslaving and addictive. It has come from the world of hippies, drugs, sex, and rebellion. It is the worldly attempt to copy the system that Satan is using for his purposes today. The Bible says that we should not be molded into the likeness of this wicked system. We should not copy the world system but separate from it.

2 Corinthians 6:14-17

“Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in *them*; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean *thing*; and I will receive you.”

The sound and beat of music that Satan has used for drugs and rebellion should not be incorporated into the Christian life and worship. The sound of Rock Music by its very nature is incompatible with righteousness, light, Christ, and our body which is God’s holy shrine or dwelling place. God is looking for separation and holiness in your life which allows you to live free from worldly addictions and unholy actions or passions. We must face our music and mark the difference between right and wrong music.

Leviticus 10:10 says:

“And that ye may put difference between holy and unholy, and between unclean and clean.”

Yes, there is a difference between godly and worldly-driven, carnally-based music. The church has in some measure become a brainwashed regarding the principles of godly music – a type of music

and sound that does not reflect the rock theme of sex, drugs, lust, and rebellion against God. I am aware that many will not agree with these conclusions and mark me off as some kind of religious fanatic. However, your disagreement will not break the cycle of bondage from continuing in the lives of God's people.

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. In 1 Corinthians 6:12 Paul stated: "I will not be brought under the power (authority) any." This was an overriding Christian principle for the life of Paul. It is a key Biblical principle that believers today must apply to their lives since many have become desensitized to godly music and been dominated by the bondage of the big beat. We must determine by God's transforming grace to free ourselves from this bondage (authority) and be mentally released and reprogram our mind (Romans 12:2) to once again listen to music that is free from contamination of the worldly beat.

2 Corinthians 7:1

"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."

Dear Christian friend, please do not close your eyes to the truth about worldly music. Let God do a work in your heart and begin to transform your soul, affections, and desires to be directed toward godly music. Seek out a Bible teaching church that is still holding the Biblical line of separation that will help you to be released and experience freedom from this worldly bondage in your life. If you attend services where the big beat is played, then you will not be freed from the cycle of bondage. You must separate from the modern, church atmosphere that is geared around this type of addiction or high. Going to a church that plays this type of music while trying to be freed from its power is no different than a drunk going into the bar when he is trying to stay sober!

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 or enslaved

to its bondage. This occurs by feeling your need to experience a certain type of atmosphere or addictive sound to prime your pump and produce a feeling of euphoric in 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! Your body is not you own! 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 you need this sound 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 bondage, then God cannot master our lives. Jesus said that “No man can serve two masters ...” (Matt. 6:24). We must start to allow God’s Word to teach us what is right and wrong in the area of music by applying its enduring commands and principles to our music (2 Cor. 6:14-17; Phil. 1:9-10)). We must put our music under the microscope of God’s Word. We must not allow anything in this world to control our mind and heart. God must be in total control over our emotions and personal lives.

The problem with the big beat sound in worship is that it is all feeling-oriented or man-centered instead of God-centered. Christians want to go to church and see what they can feel or get out of the service. Herein lies the whole problem. 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).

Worship is the act of reverence, which represents a personal attitude that is ready to give adoration and praise to God. What is happening in the church today is that the focus of worship has become man-centered instead of God-centered. Christians are mentally addicted to a certain type of sound and come to church in order to get a spiritual high from the big beat sound. Without the hype, howling, and personal high, Christians feel that they did not get anything out of a service. They come away feeling empty.

Why is this? It's because their worship is centered upon what they want and can get out of a worship service instead of what they can give to God. Worship has only one side – bringing glory to God (1 Cor. 10:31) by upholding His character of holiness and purity (1 Pet. 1:14-15). We must direct all of our adoration to Him instead of trying to get something that we selfishly want while attempting to worship God. We have turned the tables upside down today!

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, the personal greed to experience something, a party atmosphere, and Hollywood showmanship.

When you feel the need or dependency to listen to the big beat of rock music over Biblical, godly, and traditional music, then you are mastered by this particular sound and must be delivered from this dependency that controls your life. God needs to take the reigns of your life and heart again in order to be able to direct and train your life in the area of music. You must surrender your life to God again (Rom. 12:1-2). You must surrender your worldly music to God and turn it over to Him (Luke 9:23). You need to surrender all of your sinful bondage to God no matter what it is. When you do surrender, then you will really allow God to fully rule and control your life once again.

Many times Christians are not willing to unlock all the doors in their heart. They want to keep certain doors closed to God's leading and teaching ministry. The sad result is that God cannot control their heart and rule their life in all the areas that He would like to. God the Holy Spirit is looking for complete control over your emotional and spiritual life. He wants to release you from the bondage of the big beat. He wants to start you on a new and exciting journey that is free from bondage and your need to listen to a certain sound in order to feel release and freedom.

Remember, the drug addict actually thinks that the drugs are a release to him. However, they are the worst bondage imaginable. The same is true about the big beat syndrome. Many Christians feel that this rock beat is their way of release and freedom from the pressures

of life, but in reality they are placing their lives under an emotional roller coaster that needs to experience a certain type of music or sound in order to feel fulfilled in life. This becomes a real bondage in life that only God can release the believer from. Remember that God does not expect the believer to be subject to bondage any more. We have been released from the bondage of the devil in every area and facet of life.

Hebrews 2:15 says:

“And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.”

This delivery from the subtle sway and bondage of the music of the Evil One will take some time. There will be a need for you to daily renounce your involvement and bondage to this music (2 Cor. 4:2) and claim the victory that Christ has won for you over the bondage of sin and Satan (Col. 2:15). This is a matter that takes daily work. You must refuse to listen to this type of music by God’s enabling power through the Holy Spirit (Eph. 5:18; Gal. 5:25). There will be the need to dispose of those musical selections in your home that promote this perversion of God’s design for music. There will also be the need to replace these musical selections with new musical selections that will feed your new nature and fill your spirit with godly sound and music. You must reprogram your mind and renew or renovate your mind from this sound.

Romans 12:2 commands:

“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.”

Out with the bad and in the with new! We must replace our old music with new, godly, and spiritual music. This means that you will need to find a new church fellowship of believers who have a different sound system! I’m not talking about the microphones and speakers within the church. I’m referring to what they listen to in their meetings. You will need to attend church meetings where the big beat is not promoted and where the believers are willing to separate from this type of music. If you don’t make strides to stay away from this

modernized musical worship that promotes bondage, then you will be sucked back into the sound and system of the world.

Colossians 3:16 reminds us:

“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 include right and proper rhythm or beat. Since you cannot have a spiritual song with an unspiritual rhythm that promotes rebellion, there is a need to fill your heart with the right kind of musical sound as well. Christian adults must determine to free their life of addiction from this consuming and confusing type of sound. As parents, we are responsible to teach our children the proper kind of music that is free from the perversion of the big beat sound of a worldly generation. Our children have virtually no chance to be free from this type of worldly deception if we as parents do not take the initiative to free ourselves and then teach our children the difference between good and bad music. It will certainly be grateful if this study will help some Christians to develop a new sensitivity to godly music and begin the transformation break from the big beat cycle of bondage (Ps. 78:1-5).

You must take the proper steps and begin to reprogram your mind to what is holy and right and then experience the freedom to worship God without the big beat sound. You can actually live your life without feeling the inner dependency for this type of addictive sound. God simply wants us to be free from anything and everything that is worldly and addictive in our lives. Jesus said something that I want you to pay close attention to.

John 8:32

“And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”

Maybe you have unknowingly fallen victim to this big beat sound of the modern day rock culture. You have established this idol of a rock and roll sound as something that you are dependent on and something which has replaced your true worship of God. Instead of worshipping God you are addicted to worshipping a sound! Today you must recognize your own addiction by knowing the truth or what

God's Word has said concerning addiction, worship, and idolatry. Then, by God's enabling grace you can free yourself from this beat bondage in your own life.

Philippians 2:13

"For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of *his* good pleasure."

Multitudes of Christians are swinging their hips to a rhythm and sound which has become a fleshly controlling force in their lives. They crave the controlling element in this rhythmic sound, which is the big beat. They want to feel instead of worshipping God. They want to hear something instead of worshipping God. They want to get a high from what they hear instead of truly worshipping God. They want to experience some selfish gratification in their own life instead of worshipping God. They desire entertainment instead of true worship of God.

In summary, bondage can be a subtle and deceptive thing. Some believers today have fallen into the trap of feeling, hearing, getting and experiencing something instead of simply giving back to God in true and sincere worship. They have fallen into the trap of selfish idolatry and redirected their worship to a cultural and rebellious sound instead of the Savior. May the reader humble himself or herself before God and allow God to deliver them from this cycle of bondage. May we examine our hearts, our music, and our worship and make sure that we are worshipping in a manner that reflects God's character of holiness and purity.

Remember that God not only looks at our heart (1 Sam. 16:7) but also our worship (Lev. 23:2; Numb. 3:4; Mal. 1:7-10; John 4:22). Our worship should be clean before the Lord, not representative of the sounds of the rock rebellion in our present-day culture. May God grant us discernment and true liberty as we live and worship Him today.