

Principles of Christian Music (Pastor Jim Scudder, Jr)

Lesson 9

I. Music That _____ God

Ephesians 5:18-19

It is probable in this verse there is an allusion to the orgies of Bacchus - "the god of wine," During those festivals, as an act of worship, people become intoxicated, and with wild songs and cries to run through streets, and fields, and vineyards.

To these things the Lord provides a Christian's _____ - psalms, and hymns, and spiritual songs, as much more appropriate modes of devotion, and would have the Christian worship stand out in strong _____ with the wild and degenerate habits of the heathen.

Colossians 3:16

The noun form of the word " _____ " is the word "house". Your life is to be owner occupied by the Word of Christ, not an occasional guest. It controls the _____ house, not a small corner.

" _____ " permeating your life in all "wisdom".

" _____ " is the word "instruction". The music is to teach.

" _____ " means to "put to mind". Make someone mindful of something. To correct. To warn.

Modern songs don't commonly have a _____ spirit like the psalms do. Most modern music has taken on the attitude of the day. Positive, flippant, not dealing with the _____ of our condition before God.

"one another" – the whole _____ is singing.

"Psalms" are _____ to God. "Halleluiah" the "iah" at the end is a form of Jehovah or Yaway. The first part "Hallel" is the word psalms comes from.

The Psalms contains every major _____ including Christ. They include all the _____ that we will face.

“Hymns” are poetic _____ in praise to God.

“Spiritual Songs” are “odes” that rise from the Holy Spirit’s _____ in our lives. (sin righteousness and judgment; He honors Christ; He convicts, regenerates, seals, produces fruit, gives assurance, empowers us for righteous live, guarantees our inheritance), these are things worth singing about.

Quote - The music ministry is the handmaiden of theology – Luther

Christian music has become a market niche. Music company executives are driving the songs that many Christians are listening to. If our music today were doctrinally correct, it would not be so profitable or popular.

II. The Seven Elements of Music

1. _____ - A series of tones heard as a musical thought.

We recognize a song by its melody just like we recognize a person by their face. Therefore, the melody must reflect the spirit of God’s character.

The rise and the fall of the melody must be in _____. Too much rise produces a sense of unfulfillment and tension. Not enough rise produces despair and depression.

If the music is not _____ by the average person, and only a select few such as the worship leaders can sing the music, then in what way is that promoting _____?

2. _____ - Two or more tones sounded at the same time.

Harmony must illustrate God’s _____ in the life of the believer.

As with melody, too much repetition produces a _____ effect on the listener. Too much consonance provides _____ in the composition; too much dissonance provokes excessive _____ in the listener.

3. _____ - The orderly movement of music through time.

Does the rhythm of the music _____ the message or is it subtle in its function?

Rhythm must reflect walking in the Spirit. It must be under the control of the _____ (spirit) and the _____ (mind, will, and emotion). If there is no rhythm, the music is dead. If there is loud, repetitive rhythms, the music produces tensions and stifles Godly responses.

_____ does not allow the listener to feel the beat in its regular place. Excessive syncopation produces constant _____ and works against the rhythm of the heart and the muscles.

4. _____ - Relates to the volume and scientific properties of sound: its generation, propagation, length, timbre (tamber), and effect on people.

Does the musical background overpower the text? Does the background _____ the listener from the message?

The rhythms and volume of rock music were specifically designed to be the sound of the “counterculture,” symbolizing rebellion.

5. _____ - The arrangement of the parts to achieve the best possible effect.

Does the organization of the music reflect a carefully-thought-out design and communicate a definite sense of _____ and _____?

Good music will leave the listener satisfied that a “_____” has been made and completed, and the artist’s intended communication has been received and understood.

6. _____ - The message of the words, including both stated and implied communication.

Is the text _____ in statement and implication as evaluated by the standard of _____ ?

Watch out for:

a. _____ Philosophy - the holiness of God is downplayed.

b. Familiarity in Lieu of _____.

e. _____ Truth - using catch phrases and ditties like "Help Yourself to Happiness."

f. Focus on _____ - which is feelings oriented.

For example...

Born Again Lyrics by *Third Day*

**Today I found myself,
After searching all these years,
And the man that I saw,
He wasn't at all who I'd thought He'd be,**

**I was lost when You found me here,
And I was broken beyond repair,
Then You came along and sang Your song over me**

Chorus

**It feels like I'm born again
It feels like I'm living
For the very first time
For the very first time,
In my life**

7. _____ - The rendering of a musical message by singing or playing an instrument.

Does the performer use techniques not in harmony with God's Word?

Performance techniques must be evaluated for:

- a. _____ - Like the sliding and sagging pitches of the “blues” style in jazz to suggest erotic movement.
- b. _____ - Breathiness is softening the voice to a sensuous whisper close to a microphone, giving an impression of intimacy which can rouse fleshly lustful feelings. Sliding is slipping down from a note, and scooping is slipping up from a note. This technique also produces a sensual effect that rouses ungodly fleshly feelings.
- c. Entertainment _____ - the “Hollywood” style.

Does the music depict a separateness from the world or an imitation of the world?

III. The Problems with CCM

It is _____ by Admission

CCM musicians _____ secular rock groups.

- JARS OF CLAY names Jimmy Hendrix and the Beatles as their inspiration. (Dann Denny, "Christian Rock," Sunday Herald Times, Bloomington, Ind., Feb. 8, 1998)
- AMY GRANT says, "I love to hear Billy Joel, Kenny Loggins and the Doobie Brothers" (Time, March 11, 1985).
- The worldliness of DELIRIOUS is evident in their choice of "musical heroes," which include "U2, Radiohead, Blur and other big British modern rockers" (CCM magazine, July 1999, p. 39).

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- The group DELIVERANCE performs songs by secular rock groups. Their What a Joke album has the song "After Forever" by the vile, blasphemous, pagan rock group Black Sabbath. (CCM Groups Love Secular Rock, David Cloud)
- "If you weren't familiar with Michael W. Smith's standing in the world of contemporary Christian music, you might attend one of his concerts and come out none the wiser." (The Birmingham News, Feb. 12, 1993 p. 5c)

If we listen to, play, and sing the same types of music (unnatural rhythms, sensual techniques, and dissonance) as the world, how are we exhibiting the characteristics of a “peculiar people” ?

1 Peter 2:9

Romans 12:2

2 Corinthians 6:14-17

1 John 2:15

Memorize:

Ephesians 5:18-19

Colossians 3:16