

Music for the Christian....

Scripture reading:

Genesis 1

Everyone is exposed to music: actively or passively

You could compare music that is bad for you to smoking:

smoking is bad for you whether you are doing it actively or passively

The biggest difference is that manufacturers of cigarettes by law are required to put warn you in advance

SLIDE***

I will start by summing up the message of the sermon today:

Music can seriously damage your spiritual well-being and your health;

By the end of the sermon you will be wandering why certain kinds of music does not come with warning labels....

This sermon too should really come with a warning attached:

SLIDE***

1 You may want to destroy your secular music and possibly some of your Christian music collection.....the message is that music is either inherently good or inherently bad; either it is good and spiritually uplifting; or bad and spiritually degrading

After finishing researching this sermon I have chucked out my secular music collection and kept perhaps 1 or 2 singles that according to the principles that I will tell you about later, are probably just ok to listen to....

Briefly outline today' sermon:

Today's sermon is going to get you to re-evaluate the role of music in Worship and your daily life.....

we are going to look at what the bible has to say about sound and its place in worship, and in our daily life and its dangers...

what is also going to be said is that music is not neutral: you either have good music or bad music....

And then, I will make suggestions as to what is appropriate for a Christian to listen to and how to determine what is suitable....

Let us start first with the view of the Ancient civilizations since they do have something to teach us:

In the time of the Ancient Chinese, the emperor Shun would journey Eastwards, when inspecting various parts of his empire,

did not go and visit the treasury/inspect the storehouses/inspect the military or receive petitions from the people or discuss matters from the regional governors in charge....instead, he went to listen to the court musicians.....
He tested the exact pitches of the notes of their music

*****Slide**

You might think that he was being primitive and superstitious: but, according to the philosophy of the ancient Chinese, music was the basis of everything.
In particular they believed that all civilization was shaped and molded by the kind of music they performed within them.

So, was the music within a civilization romantic? Then the people would be romantic
Was the music strong and military-like? Then the neighbors had better watch out.
In order to keep a civilization stable and unchanged; the musical style should remain unchanged.
A change in the style of music would lead to a change in the way of life.
So, if the emperor found that the music was becoming vulgar and immoral, then he expected that immorality would sweep through the village of nation unless something was done to correct the music.

In fact, the famous philosopher, Confucius was so totally uncompromising on the matter. He attached the same importance on music as today's politicians attach on the state of the economy and the military. What did he know?

*****Slide**

Music was a tangible force that could be applied in order to create change, for better or for worse; within the character of an individual or a society as a whole.

What about other civilizations?

The Hindu literature also holds sound as being very sacred.....you may have heard their sages meditating and reproducing the sound 'OM'.....this is the transcendental sound.

What did the great secular minds have to say? They acknowledge the relationship between music and morality:

SLIDE***

...emotions of any kind are produced by melody and rhythm; therefore by music a man becomes accustomed to feeling the right emotions; music as thus power to form character, and the various kinds of music based on the various modes, may be distinguished by their effects on character – one, for example working on the direction of melancholy, another on effeminacy; one encouraging abandonment, another self-control, another enthusiasm and so on through the series.'

At this point I am trying to impress upon you that music is a powerful force;

Slide***

At this point you may be thinking 'so what?'.....

Let us go back to our scripture reading.....you might be wondering what Gen 1 has to do with sound and music....

YOU MUST REMEMBER THAT MUSIC IS MADE UP OF SOUND; THE TWO ARE RELATED

Slide***

But have you stopped to think about How God actually did all this creative work?

Did God put a 'busy' sign outside his workshop?
and set about doing the job of creating

Slide ***

God did not put a 'do not disturb' sign outside His office and sit about solving complex problems....scratching his head....working out how man was going to be put together....which part goes where....where did I put that component.....
?

Lets have a closer look: **Gen 1 Slide**

Nope, He spoke it all into existence....Divine Fiat: it was by divine command of his voice...

Everything was in chaos, without form to begin with....voidthen God introduced order through the use of sound....

there was chaos: God speaks: there is order as per His will.

It is rather embarrassing to say the least that this fact is pointed out in a secular book...but,

Slide***

Now do you see that the Ancient Chinese and Indians were onto something when they held the country's music in the highest regard....more important than the state of their military and treasury....?

Do you think that it is a coincidence then that sound and music is no longer given any great importance? The author of this secular book that I have already quoted from said this.

By the end of the sermon you should arrive at the conclusion that there is a lot more to music than we think...

Slide****

What else does the bible say about music and how it was used?

We have already seen it used by God for creation;
What else?

Slide***

By far the greatest majority of use was to praise GOD...

Praising God: Judg. 5:1; Judg. 11:34; 1Sam. 10:5; 1Sam. 18:5; 2Sam. 6:3; 2Sam. 19:34; David's song of deliverance 2Sam. 22:1; Hezekiah's celebrates with his people and worships God 2Chr 29:25;
2Chr. 30:21 Celebration of feasts;
2Chr. 31:2 conduct of temple services;
David chose men to minister with music at the tabernacle 1Chr. 6:31; 1Chr. 9:33; 1Chr. 13:7;
The ark moves to Jerusalem with much fanfare and music: 1Chr. 15:15 ; 1Chr. 15:25; A psalm of thanks (1Chr. 16:4);
King Jehoshaphat, with a choir, goes to battle 2Chr. 20:20; 2Chr. 23:12;
The dedication of the temple: Neh. 12:8 and 27At the dedication of the wall of Jerusalem;

In fact, such was the importance attached to serving in a musical capacity that..

Slide***

Singers and other temple workers were exempted from paying tax: Ezra 7:24

A four thousand member choir and orchestra (1Chr. 23:4) ; 1Chr. 25:1

The word Psalms means Songs.

The entire book is primarily composed of songs and poems, songs of praise, of lament, of mourning, or thanksgiving.

Slide***

Instruments types..... slide....

This is a separate issue in itself...

Slide***

Therapeutic

We can add as a therapeutic tool... Therapeutic:

David plays his harp to soothe King Saul 1Sam. 16:15;

Did they call for a Doctor or perhaps a psychiatrist? No; they asked David to come and play his harp.....music therapy...an area that is recognized today.....

Songs as poetry were a mechanism used frequently in days of old to improve recall. (Deut. 31:19 The Song of Moses);

TO summarize:

Slide***

Creation
Praise
Therapeutic

Let me give you a balanced view: click; click

Music is also used in devil/pagan worship (ex 32:17) – we will touch upon that later again..

But I am more interested in music as a weapon:
I have given you a taster of the above: I have told you sound and music are powerful but now I want to concentrate on sound and music as a weapon:

The reason is that, as Christians, you know that you are in the middle of spiritual warfare; the prize is you;
I am not exaggerating: you are familiar with the hym: On ward Christian soldiers, marching as to war....

Where might you ask did God use sound and music as a weapon?

Slide***

Remember a city named Jericho...and Joshua?
That's right, God used sound to bring down the walls of Jericho....He used a sequence of sevens.....God instructed the Jews headed by 7 priests to walk around once for six days; and then on the seventh day seven times before blowing their trumpets and rams' horns and making a noise (Joshua 6:1-27)

God used sound as a weapon.....
Walls were brought down...
Interestingly, in the secular literature, it is acknowledged that the it cannot be explained how the walls crumbled from the inside....

There are other incidents where God has used noise to confuse the enemy...(Judges 7:15-20)....Gideon's 300 were asked to smash jars and make noise at the right time and God delivered the Midianites into the Jews' hands...

Drum beats on the battlefield

So, sound is a creative force and a destructive force
But why do we need to be weary of music?
Music is made up of sound; the sound has some sort of pattern to it and that results

in music; but the building blocks are sound...

Put it simply, if God can use music in a destructive way, so can the devil

Let's go to Ezekiel 28:13

Slide***

12Son of man, take up a lamentation upon the king of Tyrus, and say unto him, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Thou sealest up the sum, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty.

13Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God; every precious stone was thy covering, the sardius, topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle, and gold: the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created.

14Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee so: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire.

15Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee.

Now, some people like to think that this passage is referring to the King Of Tyre in an earthly sense, but that cannot be the case as we know that the

earthly king was not the garden of eden;

he was not the anointed cherub; and

was not upon the holy mountain of God;

SO, we know that this is referring to lucifer/satan; but have a look at verse 13 again: "the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created." That is, he was created with tabrets and pipes built in him. What would this refer to? Tabrets (spelled taborets in modern English) are small drums like those used to beat out timing for a fife player. Pipes probably refer to tubes used to produce tones by blowing air through them, as in an organ.

This shows us that the devil had the makings of percussion instruments and wind instruments built into his very being. Musical ability is in his very being.....

Slide***

And, I have taken some time in showing you that music can be used both creatively and destructively:

how do you think the devil of going to make use of this special ability that has been given to him?

Let us go to Daniel and Nebuchaneddzer

What was going on at the time?

What was used in to encourage collective worship in what was then the world empire of it time?

Yes, music....

Neb had been shown a dream and God gave Dan the interpretation of it; now Neb was rebelling against God because he wanted his kingdom to last forever....so he makes the entire statue out of Gold.....

Read **Slide...*****

We know the rest of the story: there was a fourth man in the furnace....

How often have you heard the expression 'music is the universal language'...

What does that mean and why is it so?

A language is a means of communication: if we use spoken words, in order for me to understand you, I need to know what the words mean even though I might get some idea of what you are talking about and referring to by means of your body language and tone of voice and context of the situation.....

But everybody can respond to music and know whether the music is uplifting, depressing, fear- inspiring.....regardless of the culture or nation that we come from....

We have already seen a quote from Aristotle...

...emotions of any kind are produced by melody and rhythm; therefore by music a man becomes accustomed to feeling the right emotions; music as thus power to form character, and the various kinds of music based on the various modes, may be distinguished by their effects on character – one, for example working on the direction of melancholy, another on effeminacy; one encouraging abandonment, another self-control, another enthusiasm and so on through the series.'

What else?

Slide***

"When modes of music change the fundamental laws of the state change with them."
Plato, The Republic, Book 3.

Slide***

"Through foolishness they, the people, deceived themselves into thinking that there was no right or wrong in music - that it was to be judged good or bad by the pleasure it gave.... As it was, the criterion was not music but a reputation for promiscuous cleverness and a spirit of law-breaking."
Laws, Plato

Slide***

Moving up to the present century, Vladimir Lenin, the co-founder of communism and one of history's greatest experts on subversion and revolution said, "One quick way

to destroy a society is through its music."

The Marxist Minstrels: A Handbook on Communist Subversion of Music, American Christian College Press, 1974.

Slide***

Changing laws, forming character, and toppling societies - most of us are not used to talking about music in such expansive terms. To understand this magnitude of impact we must consider both the nature of music and man; and how music affects us in *body, soul, and spirit*.

http://www.jesus-is-savior.com/Evils%20in%20America/Rock-n-Roll/hells_bells1.htm

Ok, so we have established that sound and music are powerful creative and destructive forces,

We said that both God and Satan can use music and that Satan in particular is well versed in its use...

Just now we said that it can affect character; that is coming from secular sources, not the bible...

Why should we be concerned if music can affect character?

Because you are here to refine your character in preparation for Heaven....that is what the beatitudes are about....

Slide***

What does music do to the body?

There is scarcely a single function of the body which cannot be affected by musical tones.

The roots of the auditory nerve are more widely distributed than those of any other nerve in the body.

Music, Man and Society. Pg 131 Tame, The Power of Music.

And when we refer to music, we are referring to the score or composition. And not the lyrics.

Slide***

Music effects the human body in subtle, but powerful ways.

A well established fact is the human body and mind can be controlled and altered with music. Many scientific and medical studies have proved conclusively the tremendous effects of music upon the human physiology and anatomy. Music is used to lower blood pressure, treat mental illness, depression, mental retardation, insomnia and many others.

Musicologist Julius Portnoy found that not only can music, "change metabolism, affect muscular energy, raise or lower blood pressure, and influence digestion," but "It may be able to do all these things more successfully ... than any other stimulants that produce those changes in our bodies."

(Tame, David, The Secret Power of Music, p. 138).

Some studies show it can lower blood pressure, basal-metabolism and respiration rates, thus lessening physiological responses to stress. Other studies suggest music may help increase production of endorphins (natural pain relievers) and S-IgA (Salivary immunoglobulin A). S-IgA speeds healing, reduces the danger of infections, and controls the heart rate. Studies indicate both hemispheres of the brain are involved in processing music. Dr. Sacks explains, "The neurological basis of musical responses is robust and may even survive damage to both hemispheres" ("Music's Surprising Power to Heal," 8/92 Reader's Digest).

BP is lowered by sustained chords and raised by crisp repeated ones.

Muscular energy increases with the intensity and pitch of sound stimuli. Isolated tones and scales and simple tonal sequences, can have a powerful energizing effect upon the muscles....

Let us have a look at music in a bit more detail...

Slide***

Sounds that have some kind of repetitive structure become music...
What is music composed of?

At a basic level, you have the melody, harmony, rhythm and beat....

What is the difference?

Slide

Melody is a series of notes that in sequence make up a tune.
Melody is the part of a song that you would sing along with.
If you are looking at the music on the page, it would be the top line or voice.
It is in the foreground.

Harmony is made when a similar set of notes (but in a different pitch) are played in conjunction with the melody in a way that fits - making chords.

Harmony is the other music notes that go along with the melody but aren't in the foreground.

Harmony is more than one note that when sounding together creates a chord or something that sounds nice together.

Rhythm is the duration that each note is played.

It has nothing to do with the pitch (the highness or lowness of a note).

It has everything to do with the beat and the combinations of lengths of notes.

A beat is like the tempo and never changes

Types of Music

In music that progresses regularly in 4/4 time, counted as "1 2 3 4, 1 2 3 4...", the first beat of the bar (down-beat) is usually the strongest accent in the melody and the likeliest place for a chord change, the third is the next strongest: these are "on" beats. The second and fourth are weaker - the "off-beats".

Slide***

So Off-beat is a musical term commonly applied to syncopation that emphasizes the weak even beats of a bar, as opposed to the "normal" on-beat. This is a fundamental technique of African polyrhythm that transferred to popular western music.

Slide***

According to Grove Music, the "Offbeat" is [often] where the downbeat is replaced by a rest or is tied over from the preceding bar".[7] The downbeat can never be the off-beat because it is the strongest beat in 4/4 time.[8] Certain genres in particular tend to emphasize the off-beat.

This emphasis is a defining characteristic of rock'n'roll, Emphasized back beat, some African styles, defined rhythm and blues recordings in the late 1940s and so became one of the defining characteristics of rock and roll and much contemporary popular music.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Beat_\(music\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Beat_(music))

SO, lets have a look at the modern music...

Slide***

Modern popular music:

great emphasis on fast, loud and syncopated rhythm (off beat)

This rhythm exerts a strong influence on the heartbeat, tending to bring the heartbeat into conformity with the rhythm of the music itself

While the music is being listened to, the heart beats unnaturally fast and strong.

Jagged Jazz and rock rhythms have been shown to cause the beating of the heart to lose its perfect rhythm. Research has shown rock music to be bad for digestion; it is also dangerous while driving.

Since it raises BP, it is bad for people with hypertension.

Since music affects the emotions, these too become subject to the influence of the rock rhythms....the tension and inharmony of the mind being increased.

A fast rhythm releases into the bloodstream chemicals that excite the organism
Such music can literally be said to give a 'kick'. With a young person listening to

such music for a number of hours per day, such kicks literally become a form of addiction, and a sense of emptiness is experienced if for some reason the music cannot be listened to for a prolonged period of time.

Pg 139

Does that sound familiar? Young people saying that they get a 'kick'...you will see that it is designed to deliberately....

Not only an addiction but

Music can also be dangerous to the body.

Dr. Adam Knieste, a musicologist who studies the effects of music upon people noted:

"It's really a powerful drug. Music can POISON you, lift your spirits, or MAKE YOU SICK without knowing why."

(Family Weekly Magazine, January 30, 1983, p. 12, article by David Chagall)

Slide***

Musicogenic epilepsy is a condition whereby the sufferer is experiences seizures each time they are exposed to certain kinds of music.

Pediatr Neurol. 2003 May;28(5):379-81.

A young infant with musicogenic epilepsy. Lin KL, Wang HS, Kao PF.

The seizures were frequently triggered by loud music, especially that by the Beatles.

Slide

What kind of Music are we talking about??

The term Rock music includes other genres such as Rap, R&B, Country and western, reggae and pop etc...these tend to eliminate the harmonic element: once you eliminate it totally, you end up with Rap...

By every good definition of music, rap is not music but rhythmic entertainment

Tim Fisher, Battle for Christian Music p77-78

Multiple Slides

SO, there you have it: I did not make any of that up...Satan wants to emphasize the worst in music: the beat; take out the melody

But I actually said that music can kill at the beginning...

Rock music can literally kill.

The view that music is amoral or neutral with no inherent power to effect is completely proven false by extensive research performed on plant life. Rock music,

with its hard driving beat, played to plants will kill the plants - while soothing classical music causes the plants to grow twice as fast.

"Paradoxical as it may seem, music's effect upon the more primitive vegetable kingdom is one of the most convincing methods of all for proving that music does affect life, including human life. For **experiments conducted with humans, and even, to some extent, with animals, have the extra factor of the mind to contend with.** This means that while men or animals may be demonstrated to have been affected by tones, the effect may not have been a direct or objective one. Rather, the effect upon the body may have **been caused by the mind's subjective reaction to the music heard. In the case of plant-music research, however, psychological factors cannot really be said to be present. If music can be shown to affect plants, then such effects have to be due to the objective influence of the tones directly upon the cells and processes of the life-form."**

"An intensive series of studies carried out by Dorothy Retallack of Denver, Colorado, demonstrated the effects of different kinds of music on **a variety of household plants.** The experiments were controlled under strict scientific conditions, and the plants were kept within large closed cabinets on wheels in which **light, temperature and air were automatically regulated. Three hours a day of acid rock, played through a loudspeaker at the side of the cabinet, was found to stunt and damage** squash plants, philodendrons and corn in under four weeks. Mrs Retallack played the music of the two different Denver radio stations to two groups of petunias. The radio stations were KIMN (a rock station) and KLIR (a semiclassical station). The Denver Post reported:

“The petunias listening to KIMN refused to bloom. Those on KLIR developed six beautiful blooms. By the end of the second week, the **KIMN petunias were LEANING AWAY from the radio and showing very erratic growth. The petunia blooms hearing KLIR were all leaning TOWARD THE SOUND. Within a month all plants exposed to rock music DIED.**

In another experiment, conducted over three weeks, Dorothy Retallack played the music of Led Zeppelin and Vanilla Fudge to one group of beans, squash (marrow), corn, morning glory and coleus; she also played contemporary avant-garde atonal music to a second group; and, as a control, played nothing to a third group. Within ten days, the plants exposed to Led Zeppelin and Vanilla Fudge were all LEANING AWAY FROM THE SPEAKER. After three weeks they were stunted and DYING. The beans exposed to the 'new music' leaned 15 degrees from the speaker and were found to have middle-sized roots. The plants left in silence had the longest roots and grew the highest. Further, it was discovered that plants to which placid, devotional music was played not only grew two inches taller than plants left in silence, but also leaned TOWARDS THE SPEAKER.

All the plants that were next to the rock music - LEANED AWAY FROM THE SPEAKERS - trying to get away from the music! And to show that it was not just the noise itself - the plants next to the classical music - LEANED TOWARD THE SPEAKERS - actually trying to get closer to the music.

In the end - ALL the plants next to the rock music - DIED!

(Tame, David The Secret Power of Music, p. 142 - 144)

Let us re-cap:

We said that music is powerful: can affect the human body physically;
certain kinds of music can promote the growth of plants; other kinds can kill
What does that mean?

Music is inherently good or bad.

No such thing as 'neutral music.'

The fact that plants reacted to certain music badly means that there is an objectively bad influence: you cannot say that an individual responded negatively; won't happen to me...

It is up to you to make sure that you are listening to the right kind. It is not a matter of personal/individual response....

Our main concern is Christians is refinement of moral character and fitness for the Kingdom of Heaven...as per the beatitudes....

So let us have a look as what music does to the mind and our decision-making....

Music has a profound effect upon the mind. . .

Anyone heard of Patty Hearst?

One of the most frightening display of the awesome power of music upon the human brain occurred in the conversion of Patty Hearst. In February, 1974, Patty Hearst was kidnapped by the Symbionese Liberation Army. But shortly after the kidnapping, Patty is helping the SLA rob banks. You wonder how they converted her? Dr. William Sargant, Britain's foremost expert on brainwashing examined Patty Hearst. Here's his alarming conclusion from Newsweek magazine, February 16, 1976, (p. 24):

". . .she was an unwilling victim of a "FORCED CONVERSION" or brainwashing. According to Sargant, a person whose nervous system is under constant pressure can "inhibit" and "exhibit paradoxical brain activity - bad becomes good and vice versa." And that, Sargant argues, is precisely what happened to Patty. . . .Her nervous system was kept at maximum stress by the continual playing of loud ROCK MUSIC."

(Newsweek, February 16, 1976 p.24)

Not the LYRICS! Not the WORDS! But simply the MUSIC!

You might think, well ok, but I don't go that far....

Here is an experiment that is even more relevant to the young generation today; particular when we talk of Christian character and refinement for eligibility for heaven:

Lowell Hart in his book, Satan's Music Exposed, writes of the following experiment:

"The unsuspecting "guinea- pigs" were a teenage boy and girl. They had never met previously and were completely unaware of any strange happenings. Unfortunately

for them, as they sat getting acquainted in a cozy "private" room with soft music playing in the background, their reactions were being observed and recorded. When **classical music and soft ballads** were piped into the room they talked and were **friendly, but somewhat aloof**. When **pop music and jazz were played they quickly developed a much "friendlier" attitude and began to hold hands and put their arms around each other**. When the music changed back to **classical and ballads** they would again become more **formal and reserved**. If the **music would swing back to the jazz and pop music "their formality would give way to familiarity."**(Hart, Lowell Satan' s Music Exposed, p.63)

So, music IS effecting behaviour and decision making. Let us be realistic; it might not be an immediate effect but you are gradually allowing your armour to be eroded...do it long enough and it will buckle...

Here is another example:

Rock music has been proven to obstruct the brain's ability to think!

Rats have a much more difficult time learning to pass through a maze if they are subjected to hard-rock music. Insight, April 27, 1987, p.57.

In 1978, a California music therapist, investigating the effects of rock music on teenagers, administered to 240 school children aged 10-18 an **emotional stability test** during which rock . was being played. The results were then examined by a psychologist who was unaware of the experiment. He concluded that the test had been given in a mental institution.(Hart, Lowell Satan's Music Exposed, p.101)

Ok, so what is the problem with the music and decision-making?

Music is bypassing the moral intelligence areas of the brain; instead it is affecting the thalamus and emotions: Subconscious..., that in turn affect the decision-making...

Mediated by your thalamus, the elements of music—pitch, rhythm, and intensity—directly affect your autonomic nervous system, which regulates breathing, heart action, motor function, and digestion. It also affects your hormones.

How often have you heard people say: don't ask that person today, s/he is not in a good mood....?

So, we have established that music can be used to negatively; exposed to the wrong kind of music can detrimental: physically and spiritually: just to hammer home the point:

Let their be no doubt. . .

Music is not neutral. Has never been neutral. Nor ever will be neutral.

Anyone who suggests music is neutral, goes against all known disciplines of science, musicology, academics, medicine, physiology and the word of God.

"Like human nature itself, music CANNOT POSSIBLY BE NEUTRAL in its spiritual direction ... ultimately all uses of tone and all musical lyrics can be classified according to their spiritual direction, upward or downward. ... To put it plainly, music tends to be of either the darkness or of the light.

(Tame, David The Secret Power of Music, 1984 p.187).

"To maintain that technology [music] is neutral. . . is. . . stupidity plain and simple."
(Postman, Neil Amusing Ourselves to Death, p. 157)

Dr. Schoen, writes in The Psychology of Music:

"Music is the most powerful stimulus known among the perceptive senses. The medical, psychiatric and other evidence for the non-neutrality of music is so overwhelming that it frankly amazes me that anyone should seriously say otherwise."

Let us now come to more relevant quotes from a Christian perspective....

Dr Alfred B. Smith, author of many hymns and choruses including the chorus, "For God So Loved The World" and editor of Living Hymns states:

"Some would have us believe that all music is a-moral and that it is only the words that make it Christian or not. I beg to differ with this philosophy! . . . **music in itself is a language which can capture and control the very thoughts and actions of an individual, a crowd, or a nation. It is the fountainhead for good or for evil! As one must be discerning in the device of their friends and their food for a happy and healthy life ... so we must be careful and prayerful in the music we chose to listen to or sing.**" (Hart, Lowell Satan's Music Exposed, foreword)

Tim Fisher writes in The Battle for Christian Music:

"It is almost impossible to overstate the absurdity of the claim that music is neutral, amoral, or void of communication by itself. . . Those who have looked beyond the current music publications know that **no one has ever taken the position that music is neutral except for Christians in the last twenty-five years who are trying to justify bringing rock into the church.**"

(Fisher, Tim The Battle for Christian Music, pp.52...56)

So, that is a nice place for us to come back to rock music....

Where does the term come from?

The Disc jockey Alan Freed is given credit for popularising the term and he had a radio show called 'Moondog's Rock'n'Roll Party' in 1951. The 1934 film Transatlantic Merry Go Round included the song 'Rock and Roll'. The term had been used by the black community in England, referring to sexual congress, well before this.

<http://www.phrases.org.uk/meanings/304000.html>

1922 The words "rock" and "roll", which were black slang for sexual intercourse, appear on record for the first time, Trixie Smith's "My Baby Rocks Me With One Steady Roll".

http://www.digitaldreamdoor.com/pages/best_timeline-r1.html

So the phrase means to have sexual intercourse...

Is the music aimed at the young or the old? The married or unmarried?

Really, we are talking about 'fornication'

Abandonment; self-gratification....contrary to the law of God.....the aim is to inculcate a spirit of rebellion....Rock and roll music is bad....

Where does the phrase 'Jazz' come from? It originates from the brothels of New Orleans....it is another African term that refers to the sexual act...

Do you think something spiritually uplifting would emerge from that environment?

It is one thing to say that the music is bad, but then, what about the people that are writing the music? Have they made a colossal mistake? Is it all a big misunderstanding?

Motives for music...

The fact is all types of musicians, whether good or bad, tend to be quite aware of the communicative power of their tonal art.

Money was one primary motive.

But, as Mick Jagger stated: 'we are moving after the minds, and so are most of the other new groups'. Power of Music, Pg153

Jimi Hendrix, told Life magazine in 1969, "I can explain everything better though music. You hypnotize people to where they go right back to their natural state, and when you get people at their weakest point, you can preach into their subconscious what we want to say." Life, October 3, 1969, p.4.

Eddie Manson, Oscar-winning composer and one-time president of the American Society of Music Arrangers has said, "**We manipulate people like crazy** ... Every film composer mixes his experiences with a talent for musical manipulation, and then projects that Machiavellian power gut to gut." {16}

Changing one's consciousness is what David Crosby meant when he told Rolling Stone:

I figured that the only thing to do was to swipe their kids. I still think it's the only thing to do. By saying that I am not talking about kidnapping, I'm talking about **changing their value systems; which removes them from their parents' world effectively.**

Arthur Barker, The Rolling Stone Interviews, 1981.

As a Christian, what are you trying to do on Earth? You are developing and refining a value system that allows you eligibility into Heaven.

So, these people that make music are not doing something by accident...they are fully aware of what they are doing....

So, we have Christian Rock= Christian Fornication

Gospel Rock= Gospel Fornication

Am I being too harsh?

But now, some of you might say what about the lyrics? C-Rock had wholesome lyrics does it not?

Now, we already said earlier that it is not the lyrics that are important, but the music....

If you take the lyrics out of Christian Rock music, it is not possible to tell the difference between this and any other kind of rock music...

If you think that it is ok for people to listen to this kind of music then you just to look at their 'fruit' as per what the bible says...Mt 7:16

What are music artists know for, particularly R'n'Roll stars?

Sex, drugs and alcohol...you just have to look at the way they dress...conduct themselves; what do they value? What are their value systems?

The people who become 'fans' of rock stars want to emulate their idols do they not?

As Christians, we should be "fans' of Christ giving rise to fruits of the spirit: love, patience and humility

children and adults go around idolizing rock stars:

The fruits of their spirit: money, sex and drugs..

It's important to note, that musicologist, David Tame, who shows no sign of being a Christian, makes these alarming statements:

"More than any other form of the misuse of sound, it is rock with which we must deal today. ... It is a global phenomenon; a pounding, pounding destructive beat which is heard from America and Western Europe to Africa and Asia. Its effect upon the soul is to make nigh-impossible the true inner silence and peace necessary for the contemplation of eternal verities. ... How necessary is it in this age for some to have the courage to be the ones who are 'different', and TO SEPARATE themselves out from the pack who long ago sold their lives and personalities to this sound. . . I adamantly believe that rock in all its forms is a critical problem which our civilization must get to grips. . . if it wishes long to survive" (Tame, David The Secret Power of Music, 1984 p. 204).

Is that not ironic? A non-Christian is preaching the Third Angel's message!!

Let me sum up:

Music is a powerful force that can be used for creatively and destructively (weapon)

Music is inherently good (spiritually uplifting) or bad (spiritually destroying)

You saw the effects on plants and people...of good and bad music

Music is a universal phenomenon...

It was used to unite people to worship idols (Dan)
Music is an intrinsic to satan's being/fabric
It was his gift; he knows how to use it to full effect and his motives are not
good
The Third Angel's Message was one of separation: do not worship the beast or his
image...

So, you are now faced with the decision of deciding what to listen to?
What are you going to let your kids listen to?

Let us be clear, if you decide to bathe in filth, you cannot be clean.... Please
remember that as parents, you are responsible for their upbringing: Kids don't tell
parents what to do...you are held accountable....
What kinds of music are you going to allow in the church?

As a rule: anything with a strong beat is out....that excludes a lot of contemporary
music....from Rock of any kind: Jazz...rhythm and blues....the list is rather
exhaustive...

What does God want?

**Eph 5:19 Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs,
singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord;**

What about those people that say: "I get a kick out of my music"; 'it gives me a high';
'it gives me a buzz': They could be talking about cocaine addiction could they not?
Well, we already saw that it was designed to;

Highly-respected, Professor Alan Bloom, professor of social thought at the University
of Chicago, who has also taught at Yale, the University of Paris, the University of
Toronto, Cornell and many other schools, writes in his best-selling book, *The Closing
of the American Mind*:

"Nothing is more singular about this generation than its ADDICTION to music. . . It is
their passion; nothing else excites them as it does; they cannot take seriously
anything alien to music. . . I suspect that the rock addiction, particularly in the
absence of strong counter attractions, has an effect similar to that of drugs." (Bloom,
Alan *The Closing of the American Mind*, pp 68...81)

The issue there is that you have *conditioned* yourself to like listening to the wrong
kind of music: as with any other addiction, you can de-tox yourself...Holy Spirit will
guide you if you are willing...but he does not force....

Ok, enough said about dangers and what you cannot listen to....What can you listen
to?

Baroque (Bach, Handel: Vivladi)
What is special about Baroque?

The Baroque Spirit expressed in music is: Order, Pattern, and Form. Here there is to be no disorder, no atonal meandering, no shapeless movements.

Classical, particularly Beethoven and Mozart.

Beethoven was particularly concerned with using music to uplift society.

The concept that music affects character was one of the great inspiring forces behind the creative lives of the great classical and romantic composers. It is clear from what we know of their characters that each of them, motivated by an earnest desire to serve and spiritualize humanity, saw their music as one of the most powerful means of influencing the consciousness and direction of the human race.
Music and its Power p19

The point is that the *morality* of the musician matters. If their aim is to spiritually uplift, it will show in their music. Other good composers include Wagner and Sibelius, Rachmaninov.

Classical after 1800 is out because its spiritual nature is decidedly downward, including Mussorgsky, Debussy, some of Tchaikovsky's later works when he was battling his homosexual tendencies....

If you want to know what is good, then that is what is good; you can choose to like it or not: the choice is yours...

Finally,

Since this is a debate within the Church:
Let us see what the current

They're going to listen to Rock anyway.
C-Rock is a better alternative.
We have to use C-rock because it is the music kids relate to today.

WE need to be clear that parents are in charge of setting the example and dictating what kids can and cannot do; you are held accountable....

**Kids get saved through C-Rock.
Only the words matter**

I hope I have said enough this morning to put to rest these two lies....

Music is the universal language teens understand, so we use C-Rock music to speak their language
Kids won't stay in a stuffy church. They need excitement or we'll lose them.

Let us be clear, the Christian message is one of separation: that is what the third angel's message is about....

The excitement the church provides is that of full surrender to Jesus
God does not judge churches on the basis of the membership number:

Check out Rev 1 and 2: the churches are being judged: not once did he say, well let's see the church in this age maintained a good outreach program and membership levels were high...
No, all he cares about is the purity of the message and the hearts of the believers...

Times have changed. The old ways don't work anymore. We should update.

Just because practices are new, we must adopt them to...no, no where does it say we must do that....no where does it say that just because we can do a thing, we must do a thing....

We are warned that morality will be worse than ever towards the end; music is a tool being employed to help facilitate the moral degradation....

Plenty of example have been given to underscore the point...And I hope that no one is on doubt....

Here is what God says about out with the old and in with the new....

"Thus saith the Lord,...ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said, We will not walk therein." Jeremiah 6:16.

In closing:

Guidelines for music in worship and church:

Drum kits are out

The Human voice is to be supported in praising God by instruments, not drowned out...

Take home Message

Music is not Neutral; it is a weapon that both God and Satan have used...

Inherently good or bad

It can spiritually uplift or degrade

Will be used to unite the people in false systems of worship at the end times...

It is your choice as to whether you listen to the right kind of music

Amen.