

# Keys to Musical Discernment (Part 2)

## Two Foundational Premises:

### 1. Priesthood of the Believer

**Romans 14:10-12** "But why dost thou judge thy brother? or why dost thou set at nought thy brother? for we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ. For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God. So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God."

### 2. Responsibility of Pastor/Teachers

**Ephesians 4:11-13** "And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ."

## I. When making musical choices, we must first have the right view of God: *Our God is HOLY!*

**Exodus 15:11** "Who is like unto thee, O LORD, among the gods? who is like thee, glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, doing wonders?"

**Psalm 99:9** "Exalt the LORD our God, and worship at his holy hill; for the LORD our God is holy."

## II. When making musical choices, we must understand that God's direction for believers is HOLINESS.

**Leviticus 11:45** "For I am the LORD that bringeth you up out of the land of Egypt, to be your God; ye shall therefore be holy, for I am holy."

**Leviticus 19:2** "Speak unto all the congregation of the children of Israel, and say unto them, Ye shall be holy: for I the LORD your God am holy."

**1 Peter 1:15-16** "But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation..." (lifestyle); "...Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy."

**Romans 12:1-2** "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God."

## III. When making musical choices, we must understand that God desires us to worship Him with a "New Song."

**Psalm 96:1-3** "O sing unto the LORD a new song: sing unto the LORD, all the earth. Sing unto the LORD, bless his name; show forth his salvation from day to day. Declare his glory among the heathen, his wonders among all people."

**IV. When making musical choices, we must understand that the decision of “how” we worship will have a direct impact on our future generations.**

**Exodus 20:1-6** “And God spake all these words, saying, I am the LORD thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. Thou shalt have no other gods before me. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments. ”

A. Commandment 1: Have no gods other than Me.

B. Commandment 2: Do not use the worship practices of Egypt to worship Me.

C. The warning:

**Exodus 20:5b-6** “for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.”

**V. Worshipping the “right God” in the “wrong way” is not acceptable.**

**Exodus 32:5** “And when Aaron saw it, he built an altar before it; and Aaron made proclamation, and said, Tomorrow is a feast to the LORD. And they rose up early on the morrow, and offered burnt offerings, and brought peace offerings; and the people sat down to eat and to drink, and rose up to play.”

**Exodus 20:4-5a** “Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them”

**Exodus 32:27-28** “And he said unto them, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, Put every man his sword by his side, and go in and out from gate to gate throughout the camp, and slay every man his brother, and every man his companion, and every man his neighbor. And the children of Levi did according to the word of Moses: and there fell of the people that day about three thousand men.”

**Exodus 32:34-35** “Therefore now go, lead the people unto the place of which I have spoken unto thee: behold, mine Angel shall go before thee: nevertheless in the day when I visit I will visit their sin upon them. And the Lord plagued the people, because they made the calf, which Aaron made.”

**VI. Music is not a neutral object. It communicates very real and specific messages from the musician to the listener.**

A. Van Christy: **Foundations in Singing**

“Music is commonly called the language of the emotions.”

B. **David Tame: The Secret Power of Music**

"Music conveys very real and very specific emotional states from the musician to the listener."

C. **Fishman and Katsh: The Music within You**

"Music is communication and communication is music."

"Music is a form of non-verbal communication."

D. **Professor Fritz Winckel: Music, Sensation and Sound**

The double language of music

"Sound has gained the upper hand."

E. **David Tame: The Secret Power of Music**

"Like human nature itself, music cannot possibly be neutral in its spiritual direction."

**VII. Music affects us physically and emotionally.**

A. Saul was refreshed by David's playing.

**I Samuel 16:23** "And it came to pass, when the evil spirit from God was upon Saul, that David took an harp, and played with his hand: so Saul was refreshed, and was well, and the evil spirit departed from him."

B. There is nothing wrong with the physical effects of music.

C. What type of motions – how is your body responding to the music?

\* moving of your extremities

\*gyrating your entire body

If the motions are wrong, so is the music.

D. Hearing with the body

**Dr. John Diamond: Your Body Does Not Lie**

"With the ears completely blocked, the body still responds to sound because we hear not only with our ears, but also with our bodies."

E. Music and dance in the Bible

Hebrew words translated as "dance"

1. **Chagag**: secular dancing at a feast

2. **Chuw!**: secular dancing
3. **Karar**: leaping and rejoicing before God
4. **Machowl**: not physical dancing
5. **Mechowlah**: used in pagan worship
6. **Raqad**: leaping and jumping for joy

Greek words translated as “dance”

1. **Orcheomai**: sensual movements
2. **Choros**: dance of celebration at a family reunion

F. Examples given of how secular music affects our emotions:

- ▣ ***The Circus Bee*** by Henry Fillmore
- ▣ ***Appalachian Spring*** by Aaron Copeland  
*(End theme includes the commonly known Shaker tune entitled “Simple Gifts.”)*
- ▣ ***Superman*** by John Williams
- ▣ ***Jaws*** by John Williams (“...*why do some of you have your feet off the floor?*”)

**We need to stop trying to convince God that He ought to accept the music we love, and begin allowing God to teach us to love that music which brings Him glory.**

(Pastor Jim Bishop, Burge Terrace Baptist Church, Sunday PM, November 13, 2011)