

Biblical Music Principles

5. Emotions/Truth

“Entertainment is a natural and normal part of life and the natural world; however, it can be dangerous if it’s purposely misused, as in the case of using New Age music or mindless repetition of a mantra to achieve trance....” Kimberly Smith, *M and M*, p. 53.

- Emotions can be good or bad
- Our emotions should be a reflection of God’s emotions
- Emotions within the order of truth
- Emotions safely within God’s realm of order
- Safe within God’s design

“Our music is capable of causing emotional instability, disorganized behavior, rebellion and even revolution.” -The Beatles; Lowell Hart, *Satan’s Music Exposed* (Huntingdon Valley, Pa.: Salem Kirban, Inc., 1981), p. 97.

“If we understand and acknowledge the fact that music affects us positively or negatively, if we are aware of music’s effect on our lives, we can begin to have true discernment.”
Kimberly Smith, *M and M*, p. 19.

“Stress and addiction: A driving drum rhythm in excess of three to four beats per second will put the brain into a state of stress, regardless if the listener likes or dislikes the music. And when the brain is in this stressful state, it will release opioids – a group of natural hormones that function like morphine – to help return itself to normal equilibrium and sense of well-being. These natural opioids, if experienced often enough, can be addicting, creating in the listener the continued desire for that ‘high,’ somewhat like the high runners experience.” John Blanchard, *Pop Goes the Gospel*, Revised Edition (England: Evangelical Press, 1991), pp. 187-188. From the study, “The Neurophysiology of Rock,” by Drs. Daniel and Bernadette Skubik. Endorphins are one part of the group of opioids.

“With this in mind, the question becomes: Is it moral for us as Christians to use identifiable musical styles and techniques that cause proven negative effects in the brains and lives of our listeners?” Kimberly Smith, *M and M*, p. 25.

“Norman M. Weinberger, professor in the Department of Neurobiology and Behavior at the University of California, Irvine, confirms: “...music can rapidly and powerfully set moods and do so in a way not as easily attained by other means.” Kimberly Smith, *M and M*, p. 30.

“Think about young people’s conduct at a rock concert (even Christian rock concerts). In response to the music, there’s lewd behavior and sensually suggestive dancing. The concert goers don’t actually think to themselves, ‘I’ll move my body sensually.’ The music simply bypasses their reasoning, and they move in response to the music.” Kimberly Smith, *M and M*, p. 30.

“I would propose that not only does music have the ability to induce these three emotions of happiness, sadness, and fear, but also the full range of emotions, including that of sensuality, and it’s all in how a musical composition is constructed.” Kimberly Smith, *M and M*, p. 34.

“The drums and bass of rock music are not the only way to stimulate sensuality, however. If that were the case, then movies would use rock music to suggest sultriness when a film’s siren (seductress) enters the room. They don’t, do they?” Kimberly Smith, *M and M*, p. 35.

“And because this type of music has the ability to portray to us the meaning of sultriness, such music also has the ability to stir up sensual desires in people merely by its musical suggestion; therefore, it’s immoral music on both counts: musically portraying sensuality and emotionally stirring up desires.” Kimberly Smith, *M and M*, p. 36

“Emotions are affected by music; this has been scientifically proven. Perhaps that’s why we are so reluctant to give up soft rock P&W, CCM, and other types of rock or jazz music – because our emotions have been stimulated, or even manipulated. And just as we are passionate about defending other areas of our lives that have emotional meaning to us, such as our spouse, our children, or our property, we go to great lengths to defend our choice of immoral music – because it touches and influences our emotions. In fact, we may even be emotionally *committed* to our personal music.”

“This is also a spiritual issue because it is very likely that since emotions are touched, and in the case of opioids being released into the brain an addicting ‘high’ is achieved, people are equating these types of stimulation through music with a spiritual experience.”

“For the sake of people’s spiritual welfare, it’s important that we help them differentiate between a musically-induced emotional state, or even an adrenaline rush, and true worship, which is by faith. True worship is not a ‘feeling’ generated by any type of music, either moral or immoral. True worship comes from within our hearts, acknowledging that we are unworthy and prostrating ourselves figuratively, if not physically, before a holy God.” Kimberly Smith, *M and M*, p. 36.

“Music has power: It influences our thinking and behavior and not only conveys emotions, it produces genuine emotional states in the body.” N. M. Weinberger, “To the Point: ‘Understanding Music’s Emotional Powers,’” *MuSICA Research Notes*, 2001, Volume VIII, Issue 1 (Winter 2001).

“This power has been speculated about for centuries, even in ancient civilizations, and now, in the last few decades, these speculations have been substantiated by scientific evidence.

“Once we understand these facts, we should apply this knowledge in a moral manner, beneficial to the minds, behaviors, and lives of both ourselves and our listeners.” Kimberly Smith, *M and M*, pp. 36-37.

--Emotions and Music go hand-in-hand

--The reason why we should keep emotions within a stable, structured environment...

--is the same reason music should be kept within the stable realm of structure, order, understanding.

--Emotions should be kept in check of rational understanding and order.

--so should Music

--we see the results when it is not....

(video)

Climb...2:30-4:17 10:55-12:00 13:30-14:45

Unresolving Music

--unresolving music creates an emotional high.

--this gives the pagans a sense of being in touch with the spirit world.

--much later, Charismatics have learned of it, and started using it to worship God....

--That ‘feeling’ that the pagan music develops, which they called the ‘indwelling of the evil spirits,’ is now used by the Charismatics.

--The Charismatics claim that feeling is the presence of The Holy Spirit.

--Music that was designed by the pagans to feel the evil spirits, Christians now use to feel the presence of God!?!?

“As Christian composers, performers, and worship leaders, we need to be acutely aware of how we are musically encouraging the audience or congregation to respond. We can even use music ...in a manipulatory manner, such as musically creating an environment purposely designed to move people’s emotions in order to gain ‘decisions’ for the Lord.” Kimberly Smith, *M and M*, p. 67.

- **Ephesians 5:8-19** For ye were sometimes darkness, but now *are ye* light in the Lord: walk as children of light:

⁹ (For the fruit of the Spirit *is* in all goodness and righteousness and truth;)

¹⁰ Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord.

¹¹ And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove *them*. ¹²
For it is a shame even to speak of those things which are done of them in secret.

¹³ But all things that are reprov'd are made manifest by the light: for whatsoever doth make manifest is light.

¹⁴ Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light.

¹⁵ See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise,

¹⁶ Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

¹⁷ Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord *is*.

¹⁸ And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;

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

- **Colossians 3:16** 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.

“It is a serious matter for the child of God. The Word of God talks a great deal about our minds.” Frank Garlock and Kurt Woetzel, *Music in the Balance*, p. 47.

Isaiah 26:3 Thou wilt keep *him* in perfect peace, *whose* mind *is* stayed *on thee*: because he trusteth in thee.

Matthew 22:37 Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.

Romans 12:2 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.

Titus 1:15 Unto the pure all things *are* pure: but unto them that are defiled and unbelieving *is* nothing pure; but even their mind and conscience is defiled.

What about the tongues speaking in 1 Corinthians 14?

--Paul said stop it.

-why? It was not God's Design.

-- **1 Corinthians 14:15** What is it then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also: I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also.

1 Peter 5:8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

“Satan has been successful in that he's caused us to shift the focus of our worship from the spiritual/intellectual to the physical/emotional.” Kimberly Smith, *Let Those...*, p. 24.

Php 1:10 “approve things that are excellent”

--unstructured music has always been used for flesh worship....until the last 40 years....and truth be told, it still is!!!!

--why would someone want to use a flesh design to worship God.

--because.....priority is upon “self”

---“I Want This”

--unstructured music...same chords, but the Devil just rearranged them.

--just like he quoted Scripture out of context, and perverted the message.