

The Songs of Fools



“It is better to hear the rebuke of the wise, than for a man to hear the song of fools.”
(Ecclesiastes 7:5)

Written By
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Introduction

“A good name is better than precious ointment; and the day of death than the day of one’s birth. It is better to go to the house of mourning, than to go to the house of feasting: for that is the end of all men; and the living will lay it to his heart. Sorrow is better than laughter: for by the sadness of the countenance the heart is made better. The heart of the wise is in the house of mourning; but the heart of fools is in the house of mirth. It is better to hear the rebuke of the wise, than for a man to hear the song of fools.” **Ecclesiastes 7:1-5**

As a young Christian in my latter teenage years, I used to love the music of the contemporary Christian musician, Keith Green. I used to play his music long and loud, and it really seemed to stir my spirit. But, then I began to question his doctrine, his lifestyle, and his music. I questioned his:

- Teaching of loss of salvation.
- Use of the NIV Bible.
- Charismatic doctrines and practices.
- Weak standards of holiness.
- Emphasis on a heavy rock beat.
- Sensual music style.

He was even wrong on **salvation**, substituting the following of Jesus for salvation by grace through faith:

The Gospel is simply this,
Jesus will forgive all your sins,
If you will come to Him humbly,
Lay down at His feet and say,
"You're the Lord, and **I'll follow You**
The rest of my life on Earth,
So that I can Have the rest of eternity with You,
And the glory of Your Father"

After careful and honest consideration of the facts in light of Scripture, I realised that I was listening to the **songs of a fool**.

Many Christians, even many who will read this article, are sapping their spiritual strength, weakening their doctrine, and ruining their testimony because you are listening to the songs of fools. What do I mean by “the songs of fools”? **Let me explain.**

1. Music is an integral part of life.

God made man in his own image. I believe that God loves good music because he made Lucifer, one of his chief angels, as His chief musician and heavenly choir director (Ezekiel 28).

God not only loves music, but He commands us to sing to Him, and He even sings with joy Himself.

Psalm 100:2 “Serve the LORD with gladness: come before his presence with singing.”

Zephaniah 3:17 “The LORD thy God in the midst of thee is mighty; he will save, he will rejoice over thee with joy; he will rest in his love, he will joy over thee with singing.”

God gave us that same desire for music. Just as music is an integral part of Heaven, music is an integral part of life in this world. You’ll find music about everywhere that you go:

- Shops
- Elevators
- Cafes
- Hairdressers and Barber shops
- Sports arenas
- Etc.

2. Music is extremely spiritual.

Foolish and ignorant people say that music is amoral – the Bible and common sense certainly teach otherwise. The facts show undeniably that **music is extremely spiritual**. Consider these following Biblical examples:

a) The evil spirit departed from Saul when David played his harp.

1 Samuel 16:14-17, 22-23 “¹⁴But the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the LORD troubled him. ¹⁵And Saul’s servants said unto him, Behold now, an evil spirit from God troubleth thee. ¹⁶Let our lord now command thy servants, which are before thee, to seek out a man, who is a **cunning player on an harp**: and it shall come to pass, when the evil spirit from God is upon thee, that **he shall play with his hand**, and thou shalt be well. ¹⁷And Saul said unto his servants, Provide me now a man that can **play well**, and bring him to me...²²And Saul sent to Jesse, saying, Let David, I pray thee, stand before me; for he hath found favour in my sight. ²³And 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) The idolatrous Jews danced and sang when Aaron made the golden calf.

Exodus 32:17-19 “¹⁷And when Joshua heard the noise of the people as they shouted, he said unto Moses, There is a noise of war in the camp. ¹⁸And he said, It is not the voice of them that shout for mastery, neither is it the voice of them that cry for being overcome: but **the noise of them that sing** do I hear. ¹⁹And it came to pass, as soon as he came nigh unto the camp, that he saw the calf, and the **dancing**: and Moses’ anger waxed hot, and he cast the tables out of his hands, and brake them beneath the mount.”

c) The Spirit-filled Christian is evidenced by his good music and songs.

Ephesians 5:18, 19 “And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be **filled with the Spirit**; Speaking to yourselves in **psalms** and **hymns** and **spiritual songs**, **singing** and making **melody** in your heart to the Lord;”

Is music an important spiritual theme of the Bible? Well, the words “song”, “music”, “play”, and “instrument” are found **435 times** in the Bible. Music is a **very** spiritual thing – whether used for **good**, or for **evil**.

John Denver, famous country artist, said that “Rock music is a greater influence over the souls of men than primitive Christianity.”

3. Music is a powerful method of teaching.

Plato said, “I care not who writes the laws, if you let me write the **music** of a nation.”

A noted Chinese philosopher once wrote, “For changing people’s manners and altering their customs, there is nothing better than **music**.”

The Bible tells us that music is a **very** effective way to transmit **doctrine**:

Colossians 3:16, 17 “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. And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.”

Consider the antiwar slogans and philosophies of the 1960’s that reached and influenced an entire generation. How did they affect so many people? What was the vehicle used to teach so many impressionable young people? **Popular music**. Music is a powerful tool for promoting an agenda, whether it be for good or for evil.

What are some of Satan’s agendas that he wants to promote?

- Free sex.
- Rebellion toward parents and other authorities.
- The use of alcohol and other drugs.
- Violence.
- Filthy language.
- Cursing and blasphemy against God.
- Ridicule of religion.
- Suicide.

How does Satan promote these agendas? Chiefly through 3 mediums:

- a) Hollywood movies.
- b) The secular media (e.g. TV and newspapers)
- c) **Popular music**.

In the late 1960’s, the Beatles said, “Our music is capable of causing emotional instability, disorganised behaviour, rebellion, and even revolution.”

Jimmi Hendrix, the legendary rock guitarist, said, “**Music is spiritual**. You can hypnotise people with music and then when you get them at their weakest point you can preach into their subconscious what you want to say.”

Don’t be so naïve to think that music is just entertainment: **Music is a very powerful method of teaching**.

Let us review:

- 1) Music is an integral part of life.
- 2) Music is extremely spiritual.
- 3) Music is a very powerful method of teaching.

4. Therefore, you must NOT listen to the songs of fools!

Music is a reflection of ideology and lifestyle. For example, consider Pink Floyd, a rock band who influenced me very strongly during my years as an unsaved teenager. What is their **lifestyle**? Drugs, alcohol, illicit sex, and rebellion. What is the theme of their **music**? Drugs, alcohol, illicit sex, and rebellion. Consider this example of their message:

“Young Lust”

I am just a new boy,
Stranger in this town.
Where are all the good times?
Who's gonna show this stranger around?
Ooooh, I need a dirty woman.
Ooooh, I need a dirty girl.

Will some cold woman in this desert land
Make me feel like a real man?
Take this rock and roll refugee
Oooh, baby set me free.

Ooooh, I need a dirty woman.
Ooooh, I need a dirty girl.

What other kind of “wholesome family messages” are in the music that our young people are listening to?

Christina Aguilera:

“Dirty”

Ah, dirrty (dirrty)
Filthy (filthy)
Nasty (Christina), you nasty (yeah)
Too dirrty to clean my act up
If you ain't dirrty
You ain't here to party (woo!)

Wanna get rowdy
Gonna get a little unruly
Get it fired up in a hurry
Wanna get dirrty
It's about time that I came to start the party
Sweat dripping over my body
Dancing getting just a little naughty
Wanna get dirrty
It's about time for my arrival

Eminem:

“Hellbound”

I'm tryin to chop you into pieces and eat you
Wrap you in rope and plastic, stab you with broken glass
and have you with open gashes strapped to a soakin mattress
Coke and acid, black magic, cloaks and daggers (ahhh!)
_____ the planet, until it spins on a broken axis
I'm so bananas I'm showin up to your open casket
to fill it full of explosive gasses
and close it back with a lit match in it
while I sit back and just hope it catches
Blow you to fragments
Laugh, roll you and smoke the ashes

I see the light at the end

But every time I take a step, it gets dim
Tell me is this hell we're livin in?
If so, heaven's got to be better
But if we're hellbound, whatever, let's go down

Britney Spears:

“I love rock n’ roll”

I saw him dancing there
By the record machine
I knew he must have
Been about seventeen
The beat was going strong
Playing my favorite song
I could tell
It wouldn't be long
Till he was with me
Yeah, with me
And I could tell
It wouldn't be long
Till he was with me
Yeah, with me

I love rock 'n' roll
So put another dime
In the jukebox
Baby
I love rock 'n' roll
So come and
Take the time
And dance with me

He smiled, so I got up
And asked for his name
"But that don't matter," he said
"'Cause it's all the same."
I said, "Can I take you home
Where we can play alone?"
And next we
Were moving on
And he was with me
Yeah, with me
And we were moving on
And singin' that
Same old song
Yeah, with me

The Bible tells us what happens to people who listen to this perverted, sinful garbage:

Proverbs 13:20 “He that walketh with wise men shall be wise: but **a companion of fools shall be destroyed.**”

Why not listen to the songs of fools?

If you don't want their LIFESTYLE, don't listen to their MUSIC!

Look at the problems we face in our young people today, and then look at their music. They are being programmed and brainwashed for atheism, rebellion, disrespect, immorality, etc. How are they being programmed and brainwashed? Through the songs of fools.

What are the songs of fools?

- a) The music of the **unsaved**.
- b) The music of the **carnal Christian**.

We have shown that the popular music of the unsaved musicians and songwriters is the songs of fools, **but what about some Christian music?** Many Christians think that if their music has the label “Christian” then it is godly, edifying, and pleasing to God. They could not be more **wrong**, because much modern Christian music is also the **songs of fools**.

You say, “Well, the type of Christian music that you listen to is just a matter of **taste** and **preference** – it is not a question of black and white, or right and wrong.” **Really?** Can you **prove** that from the Bible? I think not.

DO YOU KNOW THAT THE BIBLE TEACHES US THE TYPE OF MUSIC THAT WE SHOULD HAVE IN OUR HOMES, OUR CARS, OUR CHURCHES, ETC.?

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.”

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

1 John 2:15 “**Love not the world**, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.”

James 4:4 “Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the **friendship of the world is enmity with God?** Whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.”

How do people choose their music today? Do they sincerely ask if it meets these scriptural criteria? No. Here’s how most Christians decide what music they will listen to:

- Do I like it?
- Is it popular?
- Does it make me feel good?
- Is it exciting and alive rather than dull and boring?
- Do my friends like it?
- Is it cool and hip rather than old and outdated?
- Can I dance to it?

The question I should ask is **not** “Do I like it” but rather “**Does God like it?**”

Psalms 19:14 “Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, **be acceptable in thy sight**, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer.”

Let me explain the key problem that is behind the contemporary music issue. When people get saved, they usually have a musical taste that has been moulded and shaped by the music of the Devil for decades. When they hear good spiritual Christian music, they find it **boring**, so they gravitate towards contemporary, popular Christian music to suit **their** tastes. What is wrong with this?

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.”

When you get saved, you are supposed to **change** and be **transformed** into the image of Christ as you fill our mind with the truths and principles of the Bible. You ought to **change** your morals, your attitudes, your language, your habits, your dress – **and** your taste for sensual music.

By the way, the term “Contemporary Christian Music” (CCM) does not refer to all music that was written recently, say, in the last 50 years. Obviously I am not proposing that all modern Christian music is bad. The term “Contemporary Christian Music” refers to the modern music style that has come out of secular rock and roll and is dominated by a strong beat and bass line.

Sadly, pastors and churches now think that they cannot reach the world, and especially young people, without using modern, worldly, carnal music. Their motto is, “We must become **like** them to **reach** them.” Here is their favourite verse: “...I am made all things to all men, that I might by all means save some.” (1 Corinthians 9:22). Of course, they completely ignore the context of Paul’s words, that of overcoming racial and cultural barriers to reach Gentiles with the Gospel.

For example, there is a very popular book available today that is having a strong influence on Bible-believing churches. That book is “The Purpose Driven Church” written by Pastor Rick Warren. Let me quote Pastor Warren:

“We use the style of music the majority of people in our church listen to on the radio. They like bright, cheerful music with a **strong beat**. Their ears are accustomed to music with a **strong bass line and rhythm**. For the first time in history, there exists a universal music style that can be heard in every country in the world. It is called **contemporary pop/rock**.”

Compare this with the candid writings of the communist, Irwin Silber:

“The great strength of rock and roll lies in its **beat**...It is a music which is basically **sexual, un-Puritan**...and a threat to established patterns and values.”

The following statement sums up the contemporary Christian music movement:

“We can use any contemporary music style in our praise and worship services, and God will accept it.”

Contemporaries condemn as “legalistic” any rules and regulations that would limit our music choices. Even Christians in good, soul-winning fundamental churches listen to music that is more at home in Hillsong, or in the pub for that matter, than it is at home in their church. **Why do good Christians listen to the songs of fools?**

- If you are not a charismatic, why listen to music created and performed by Charismatics?
- If you believe that rock music is wrong, why listen to its derivatives found in the contemporary worship scene?
- If you believe that women should not lead men, or wear immodest clothing, why listen to music performed by bossy, sensually dressed women?
- If you wouldn’t join a worldly, liberal church, why do you listen to music composed and published by worldly, liberal churches?
- If you are against the ecumenical movement, why listen to music by people that promote it?
- If you believe in eternal security, separation from unbelievers, the infallibility of Scripture, and personal

holiness, why listen to music written by people who do not believe such key doctrines?

- If you would not listen to a sermon tape by a modernist, neo-evangelical or charismatic, why do you listen to the music that proclaims their corrupt messages?

Modern churches are apostatising from the truth, just as Jesus predicted that they would. They are forsaking right doctrine and embracing compromise and worldliness. **IS IT ANY WONDER THAT THEIR MUSIC REFLECTS A HEART THAT IS CORRUPT TO THE CORE?**

Larry Norman, known as the “father” of contemporary Christian music, is famous for his rock song, “Why should the Devil have all the good music”:

“I ain’t knocking the hymns,
Just give me a song that has a beat.
I ain’t knocking the hymns,
Just give me a song that moves my feet.
I don’t like none of the funeral marches;
I ain’t dead yet!

Jesus told the truth, Jesus showed the way.
There’s one more thing I’d like to say
They nailed him to the cross
They laid him in the ground.
But they shoulda known
You can’t keep a good man down.”

What kind of Christian musician refers to Jesus with the words, “You can’t keep a good man down”? What other “great Christian truths” are proclaimed by the more well known Christian bands?

Stryper

“Rock on”

"Come on everybody
Put your hands above your head
Today we're screamin'
'Cause tomorrow you might be dead
The earth is shakin', and the clouds are rolled away
Come on everybody
Get ready for the Judgment Day
Rock on, Got my feet on the ground
Got my eyes on Heaven
Rock on"

Compare this with the words of the traditional hymn, “**The Love of God**” by Frederick Lehmann:

“Could we with ink
The ocean fill,
Or were the skies
With parchment made;
Were every stalk on earth a quill
Or every man a scribe by trade;

To write the love of God above
Would drain the ocean dry;

Not could the scroll contain the whole,
Though stretched from sky to sky.

Oh, love of God,
How rich and pure,
How measureless and strong;
It shall forevermore endure,
The saints' and angels' song."

Much of the modern, popular music sold in Christian bookstores is nothing more than watered down rock music, repackaged with wishy-washy, repetitive religious lyrics, and performed by unregenerate, ungodly musicians.

As an example of the songs of fools performed by Christians, consider modern P&W (praise and worship) music:

- Their fleshly, worldly music reflects their fleshly, worldly lifestyle.
- Their shallow lyrics and wrong doctrine are symptomatic of their movement.
- Their toleration of weak morals and immodest dress reflects a weak, unscriptural view of God.
- Their worldly, sensual appearance betrays a desire to be accepted by this world.
- Their use of a strong bass, heavy drum beat and electric lead guitar betrays the roots of their music in rock n' roll.

"The new plan is to assimilate the church into the world. By semi-dramatic performance they make houses of prayer to approximate the theatre; they turn their services into musical displays...In fact, they exchange the Temple for the theatre, and turn the ministers of God into actors, whose business it is to amuse men."

Was this written by some old-fashioned fundamentalist in the 21st century? No – it was written by Charles Spurgeon in **1888!**

A college student in America who had been raised by missionary parents in Kalimantan tells the story of a friend of his sister who came to visit them when he was on the mission field. This American girl brought with her some of the latest contemporary Christian music albums. When a song was being played, some of the native Christians hear the loud, rhythmic music. They rushed to the tent of the missionary and asked this question: "**Why are you calling on the spirits with your music?**" These natives had more insight and spiritual understanding than the veteran missionary!

Conclusion:

Let me close with this statement:

Either you will change your **MUSIC** to fit your **LIFESTYLE**, or, you will change your **LIFESTYLE** to fit your **MUSIC**.

Psalm 40:3 "And he hath put a **new song** in my mouth, even **praise** unto our God: many shall see it, and fear, and shall trust in the LORD."

ARE YOU LISTENING TO THE SONGS OF FOOLS?

Recommended Reading:

Obviously I have not addressed such contentious and controversial issues with the depth and detail that they warrant; my goal has been simply to summarise the arguments into a brief and concise article that is easy to read. For those open-minded individuals who are looking for more evidence and explanation, I recommend the following books:

- “The Pied Piper of Rock Music” by Dennis Corle.
- “Why I left the Contemporary Christian Music Movement.” by Dan Lucarini

Appendix: Is classical music worldly or sinful?

When discussing the issue of worldly, sinful music, the question may arise, “What about classical music – is it worldly or sinful?” I will answer this question in two parts:

1) What is the difference between secular and worldly?

Some confusion about worldliness arises from a misunderstanding of the difference between worldly and secular. Let me define these two terms:

Secular: 1) “Of or concerned with temporal, worldly matters rather than with religion; not belonging to a religious order; not under the control of a religious body.” (Webster)
2) Secular may be simply defined as **anything which is not spiritual in nature.**

Examples: The local sports team; men’s suits; working at an engineering office; driving a car; mowing the lawn; building a house; etc.

Worldly: 1) “As the dwellers on the earth are by nature without religion, and act under a set of maxims, aims, and principles that have reference only to this life, the term [the world] comes to be used with reference to that community; that is, to the objects which they especially seek, and the principles by which they are actuated. The meaning is, that we are not to fix our affections on worldly objects—on what the world can furnish—as our portion, with the spirit with which they do who live only for this world, regardless of the life to come. We are not to make this world the object of our chief affection; we are not to be influenced by the maxims and feelings which prevail among those who do.” (Barnes)
2) “The “world” can also designate all that is hostile, rebellious, and opposed to God. The world, therefore, is under the power of “the prince of this world” (John 12:31; 14:30; 16:11), “the prince of the power of the air” (Eph. 2:2), the “god of this world” (2 Cor. 4:4). Paul contrasted the wisdom of this world with the wisdom of God (1 Cor. 1:20-21, 26-28; 3:19). Through the cross, Christ triumphed over all the powers of this world (Col. 2:15).” (Holman)
3) Worldly may be simply defined as **being conformed to the values, ideals, and philosophies of Satan’s kingdom.**

Examples: The theory of evolution; rock music; the public school system; Hollywood movies; materialism; bikinis; tattoos; etc.

Let me give you an illustration regarding mistaken concepts of worldliness. The Amish religion is opposed to the use of modern technology and conveniences, and to the wearing of modern clothing. They refuse to use electricity, drive cars; etc. Why? They claim it is worldly, but they have confused secular with worldly.

Verses regarding the danger of worldliness:

1 John 2:15, 16 “Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.”

James 4:4 “Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.”

2 Corinthians 4:4 “In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.”

John 17:14-16 “I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil. They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.”

2) Is classical music worldly?

I believe that classical music is, in general, secular but not worldly. There are some exceptions to this, particularly some operatic pieces, but classical music is mostly harmless, relaxing music. It should not be the **main** musical diet of the Christian – that is the role of **spiritual** music. However, classical music is good for light entertainment, relaxation, or background music. Let me explain why I believe this to be true:

1. Music and songs are not the same.

Most classical music does not communicate the message, so it does not influence the morals and theology of the listener. Songs set a message to music, whereas classical music has no message, except for those pieces that involve singing. For example, you could not tell that Tchaikovsky's 1812 Overture, Swan Lake or 5th Symphony were written by a godless, perverted homosexual, because no message is transmitted by these pieces. Opera would be an exception to this, when the language used is understandable by the listener.

Think of the agendas that Satan wants to promote:

- Free sex.
- Rebellion.
- The use of alcohol and other drugs.
- Violence.
- Ridicule of religion.
- Suicide.
- Etc.

Does Satan use classical music to promote these? Generally, no; he uses rock, rap, house music, pop music, etc. As an exception, some operatic performances are indeed very immoral and ungodly, and should be avoided.

2. Classical music has no strong beat.

As I have explained, the main problem with rock music, pop music, and much contemporary Christian music is the very strong, dominant beat. Classical, as a general rule, has a balance of melody, harmony and rhythm, and does not promote sensuality and immorality like the rock music beat does.

As an illustration, ask yourself how many night clubs use classical music. People generally go to such places to indulge their fleshly appetites, partake of liquor and other drugs, and to make sexual advances.

Very loud rock music (and rap etc.) is used in such Hell-holes because the powerful rhythm excites the passions of the flesh.

3. Classical music has no ungodly associations – it is not associated with sex and drugs etc.

The common phrase used is “sex, drugs, and rock n’ roll” – not “sex, drugs, and symphonies”! Why? As we have already noted, rock music and its culture is inseparably associated with the godless philosophies of the world, and especially with immorality and drug use. It is hard to think of something more worldly, in the true sense of the word, than rock n’ roll.

Someone may ask, “What about Jazz?” There are several negative things to note about Jazz, that is, the type of heavy, rhythmic jazz used in clubs and bars:

- Jazz is the urban expression of rural-based blues – the roots of rock n’ roll.
- Jazz has ungodly association – it is at home in bars and clubs etc.
- Jazz is often sensual - too much rhythm; it demands a physical response. It uses beat anticipation and back beat (syncopation).

Thanks to Pastor Graham West, who is a tertiary-qualified musician, for his insights and thoughts on this subject. If you wish to contact him and ask questions of a more technical nature, you may do so at:

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