

EVALUATING “SECULAR” MUSIC!

This is always a war!

- A war over passivity
- A war over I’m just “following my heart”
- A war over “that’s my music!”
- A war over habits
- A war over minlessness
- A war over “that’s just what I like!”

What was learned can be unlearned / relearned

<p><u>Philippians 4:8</u> Finally, brethren,</p> <p>whatsoever things are true,</p> <p>whatsoever things are honest,</p> <p>whatsoever things are just,</p> <p>whatsoever things are pure,</p> <p>whatsoever things are lovely,</p> <p>whatsoever things are of good report;</p> <p>if there be any virtue,</p> <p>and if there be any praise,</p> <p>think on these things.</p>	<p><u>Philippians 4:8</u> Τὸ λοιπόν, ἀδελφοί,</p> <p>ὅσα ἐστὶν ἀληθῆ,</p> <p>ὅσα σεμνά,</p> <p>ὅσα δίκαια,</p> <p>ὅσα ἀγνά,</p> <p>ὅσα προσφιλή,</p> <p>ὅσα εὐφημα,</p> <p>εἴ τις ἀρετὴ</p> <p>καὶ εἴ τις ἔπαινος,</p> <p>ταῦτα λογίζεσθε.</p>	<p>Truthful, genuine not imaginary</p> <p>Noble, worthy of respect / reverence</p> <p>Upright, fair, right</p> <p>Pure, holy</p> <p>Pleasing, lovely</p> <p>Praiseworthy, commendable</p> <p>Excellent character, civic virtue</p> <p>Worthy of approval or recognition</p>	<p><u>Philippians 4:8</u> Finally, brothers,</p> <p>whatever is true,</p> <p>whatever is honorable,</p> <p>whatever is just,</p> <p>whatever is pure,</p> <p>whatever is lovely,</p> <p>whatever is commendable,</p> <p>if there is any excellence,</p> <p>if there is anything worthy of praise,</p> <p>think about these things.</p>
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Paul **assumes** we think.

Paul **assumes** we think about something.

Paul **assumes** & even **requires** that we choose what we think about.

Paul **also assumes** & **requires** we don't think about certain things.

Paul **also assumes** & **requires** we evaluate / filter these things.

1. Evaluate the content

Philippians 4:8 Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.

2 Corinthians 10:4 (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) **2 Corinthians 10:5 Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;**

Ephesians 5:3 But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints; **Ephesians 5:4 Neither** filthiness, **nor** foolish talking, **nor** jesting, which are not convenient: **but rather giving of thanks.**

Ephesians 5:8 For ye were sometimes darkness, **but now** are ye light in the Lord: **walk as children of light:** **Ephesians 5:9** (For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth;) **Ephesians 5:10 Proving** what is acceptable unto the Lord.

Ephesians 5:11 And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them.

Ephesians 5:12 For it is a shame even to speak of those things which are done of them in secret.

But Pastor, that means I can't listen to anything!

Judges 17:6 In those days there was no king in Israel, but every man did that which was right in his own eyes.

Judges 18:1 In those days there was no king in Israel: and in those days the tribe of the Danites sought them an inheritance to dwell in; for unto that day all their inheritance had not fallen unto them among the tribes of Israel.

Judges 19:1 And it came to pass in those days, **when there was no king in Israel**, that there was a certain Levite sojourning on the side of mount Ephraim, who took to him a concubine out of Beth-lehem-judah.

Judges 21:25 In those days there was no king in Israel: every man did that which was right in his own eyes.

The Bible, under inspiration, records adultery, fornication, homosexual behavior, drunkenness, murder, cruelty, lies, liars, torture, theft, incest,...but **never n** / without comment!!!

What is said!

What is said about what is said!!!

2. Evaluate how the song communicates

Examples:

Remember: music is a form of communication!

A. Melody

B. Harmony

C. Rhythm

One is not better or worse. All 3 become a form of communication / part of a form of communication.

Questions:

- Does the communication fit the content?

- Does one part of the communication obscure the content?

- Is the content saying **one thing** and the communication **something else???**

- **If you took one part of the communication away, would you continue to listen to it?**

Great words and content stand alone.

- Which part of the communication draws &/ controls you?

3. Evaluate the musical connections & culture

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.

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. **1 John 2:16 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. **1 John 2:17** And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.

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

1 Corinthians 10:25 Whatsoever is sold in the shambles, that eat, asking no question for conscience sake: **1 Corinthians 10:26 For the earth is the Lord's, and the fulness thereof.** **1 Corinthians 10:27** If any of them that believe not bid you to a feast, and ye be disposed to go; whatsoever is set before you, eat, asking no question for conscience sake.

1 Corinthians 10:28 But if any man say unto you, This is offered in sacrifice unto idols, eat not for his sake that shewed it, and for conscience sake: **for the earth is the Lord's, and the fulness thereof:**

Thoughts:

- Music doesn't exist in a vacuum / in isolation

- Music communicates a culture & connects us to a culture

- Music does so:

Directly through the lyrics

Indirectly through the actual music (tune)

Personally through the "artist" & "celebrity"

How does one separate the song from the culture?

Examples: Frank Sinatra "I Did It My Way"
Judy Garland "Somewhere Over the Rainbow"
"Just a Spoonful of Sugar"

➤ **Music also does so through intimacy over time!**

The music you sing touches your emotions, thoughts, feelings, etc... and you invite the "person" in willingly → into your innermost thoughts, longings, feelings, doubts, disappointments, fears, fantasies, dreams, sins,... And then, you wonder why you are the way you are!!!

➤ **Music does so inevitably, imperceptibly, & incrementally!**

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

1990s: line dancing, "Achy, Breaky Heart"

What is being sold?

Pastor Warren, you don't like my ghetto ways!

I'm country!!!

➤ **Music communicates an entire culture!**

A way of thinking → worldview

A way of living → lifestyle

A way of being → the good life

Psalm 1:2 But his delight is in the law of the LORD; And in his law **doth he meditate** (תִּשְׁמְרֵנִי) **day and night.**

Psalm 2:1 Why do the heathen rage, And the people **imagine** (יִשְׁמְרוּ) **a vain thing?**

Psalm 119:97 O how **love** I thy law! It is my **meditation all the day.**

Concluding thoughts & applications:

➤ **Listen to less music**

Psalm 46:10 **Be still, and know that I am God:** I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth.

Isaiah 30:7 For the Egyptians shall help in vain, and to no purpose: Therefore have I cried concerning this, **Their strength is to sit still.**

Isaiah 30:15 For thus saith the Lord GOD, the Holy One of Israel; **In returning and rest shall ye be saved; In quietness and in confidence shall be your strength:** And ye would **not.**

➤ **Listen to no mindless music**

Proverbs 13:20 He that walketh with wise men shall be wise: But a companion of fools shall be destroyed.

➤ **Listen to more music → more kinds that is!**

What are some kinds? --fold, traditional, classical

➤ **Listen to music actively never passively**

Enjoying yet critiquing & questioning!

➤ **Listen to music eclectically!**

Carefully chosen

➤ **Listen to God & his Word more than you listen to any music!**

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➤ **Listen to music on purpose with a purpose**

Mozart: light

Handel: heavy

Bach: heavy

➤ **Don't just listen to music**

Learn to sing, play, read, write....

Plus learn about music....