

Does Your Music Glorify God?

By Mitch Allman

Answer: *I belong to an independent, fundamental, sin-killin', Baptist church; OF COURSE MY MUSIC GLORIFIES GOD!!*

This kind of answer is the reason why I am writing this article. Sometimes we get the notion that if we tighten our *spiritual belts* one or two notches tighter than the Liberals and Southern Baptists, we will automatically find ourselves pleasing God. We think that as long as we don't cater to Rock 'n Roll & Contemporary Christian Music we'll fare well. Although this type of reasoning appears to set and keep standards, I think it also opens doors for worldliness to pour in.

All of of the churches that I visit and fellowship with are good churches. When I say good, I mean the preacher and the people love God, love the Book (AV1611) and put a premium on holiness and separation. On the other hand, many of these same churches seem to have given way to a rash of new music that appeals to the flesh just as much as it ever intended to appeal to the spirit — rhythm-heavy, feel-good, hoe-down music in the name of Jesus Christ, bordering and tee-tottering on the brink of Southern and Bluegrass Gospel. But since these churches haven't sunk to the depths of the Charismatics, they somehow feel secure in what they allow.

Perhaps we should ask ourselves a few questions: Do we own more recordings of singing groups (with their new music) than we have of the time-honored hymns? Do we suddenly feel like getting up and dancing as soon as this new music gets *cranked-up*? Or, do we feel like the old hymns are just not stirring us up like they used to? I can tell you this: after singing or playing two or three selections of these new songs, an hymn just doesn't seem to fit in. In most cases it's because our flesh has been aroused from the new music as much as our spirits have, and the old hymns were never designed to compete under such circumstances.

I am aware that the Bible says that we should speak to ourselves in "*psalms, hymns and spiritual songs*", and much of the new material used in independent Bible-believing churches can fall under the category of "*spiritual songs*". In fact, I have a few personal favorites of my own. Some are "*It's Still The Blood*", "*Blessed Old Book*", "*While The Ages Roll*", "*I'm a Winner Either Way*" and others. But there should be a balance in our use of these songs, and I fear that many churches go to the extreme and use them almost to the exclusion of hymn singing. It's hard to jazz-up *Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah*, so the natural lust for things that appeal to the flesh runs its course and we end up with *brother bass player* and *brother drummer* jamming away at some ho-hum piece of trite that few people know, or some ordinary sounding composition that has not passed the scrutiny of the body of believers as a whole.

Do I set myself up as some authority or some judge of the brethren? Certainly not; to the contrary, there have been areas in my Christian walk that needed correcting, and which have been pointed-out by these same brethren mentioned above. According to Scripture, we should always exhort one another. And the exhortation here is simply this: we need to be careful with the music that we use in our private and corporate worship. The majority of this new music has such a defined, syncopated rhythm going on in the background, that it almost renders the music useless for spiritual purposes. The lines have become blurred; we can no longer tell when the bar is crossed from worshiping God to having a good time in the flesh, and it's become difficult to distinguish between edification and entertainment. Brethren, these things ought not so to be.

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