

SING!

LESSON 4: SELECTING MUSIC FOR GOD AND ME



CHOOSING MUSIC FOR FBC

Contrary to so many voices in worship music philosophy, we are not interested in simply...

- Trying to stay relevant
- Copying the current styles
- Chasing what's working
- Holding onto tradition

Ephesians 5:17-21 (KJV) ~ 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; 20 Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ; 21 Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God.

In addition to the balance of singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, when selecting church music FBC is aiming for balance in the following areas:

- Variety and familiarity
- Thoughtfulness and rejoicing
- Mournful and praise
- Mind, body, soul
- Intellect, emotion, and will
- Melody, rhythm, harmony
- Old and traditional, new and contemporary

Added to this, we have suggestions from the congregation, oversight of the pastor(s), limitations of the musicians, and expressive decisions by those actually leading the music.

CHOOSING MUSIC FOR ME?

In both sacred and secular musical choices, opinions tend to be highly personal. But even though the Bible does not address the particular music decisions that each of us make, it does provide several principles that can guide our choices.

1. IS THIS GOOD?

More and more our music and entertainment is only enjoyable if contains sexual themes, foul language, and/or tales of darkness and despair. But the believer is called to think better.

Philippians 4:8 (KJV) ~ 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. DOES THIS OFFEND?

The following passage would easily apply to the selection of *sacred* music, but perhaps we could carry it further to address our *secular* choices as well.

1 Corinthians 10:31-33 (KJV) *31 Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God. 32 Give none offence, neither to the Jews, nor to the Gentiles, nor to the church of God: 33 Even as I please all men in all things, not seeking mine own profit, but the profit of many, that they may be saved.*

3. WHAT ARE THE EFFECTS?

Although Jesus used the analogy of fruit to judge the actions of the religious leadership, the principle is valid in so many areas, including music.

Matthew 7:18-20 (KJV) *~ 18 A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. 19 Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. 20 Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.*

In our last lesson we considered the effect of music on our bodies, minds, and spirits. Looking at the following passage a good question to ask is, "What is my music doing to me?"

Ephesians 5:17-21 (KJV) *~ 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; 20 Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ; 21 Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God.*

This key passage addresses music in verse nineteen, but it also connects to several other areas.

- My UNDERSTANDING of God's will in my life (5:17)
- My SELF-CONTROL and general behaviour (5:18)
- My ATTITUDE towards life, other believers, and the Lord (5:20-21)

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