

“Music In Light of the Bible”

Ex. 32:15-20

Open: *Background & Story* – Leave yourself plenty of time to give the main truths of the lesson.

- As Moses and Joshua are coming down from Mt. Sinai, Joshua comments to Moses about the noise that he was hearing. **Ex. 32:17-18**
 - “*There is a noise of war...*”
 - It was a confusing sound that was not distinguishable. The only thing he could tell was they were singing. It was very clear that it was not the song(s) of God.
- When Moses and Joshua reach the children of Israel, they find the people naked, dancing, and worshipping a false god. **Ex. 32:19**

Tran: *Observations & Application*

□ Observations

- The spiritual condition of the children of Israel was quickly identified by their soon return to the wrong kind of music. **Ex. 32:8**
 - The music one listens to, is always an indicator of the condition of the heart.
- The actions of the children of Israel while they were listening to the music, identifies what kind of music they were listening to. **Ex. 32:19**
 - Undistinguishable sound
 - Naked
 - Dancing
 - Worshipping a false god.
- The music that was listened to aided them in their fleshly worship of a false god.
 - If you can listen to your music while your disobeying God, then it’s the wrong kind of music.

Ungodly music always draws attention to feeling, while Godly music always draws attention to holiness.

□ Application

- God gives room for different styles of music, but not different truths.
 - **ILL:** Bluegrass Style (faster tempo) vs Classical Style (Slower tempo)
- God gives room for different personalities in music, but not different principles.
 - Does my music glorify and honor God?
 - What kind of appetite does the music I listen to create?
 - Does my music bring attention to my body or God’s goodness?
 - Does my music draw me closer to God or drive me farther from God?

I. The Source of our Music.

- We cannot underestimate the source in which our music comes from.
 - In this verse, it is very clear that God is showing us a direct relation to the music we listen to and what we learn. **Col. 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 very clear that the source of what influences the child of God holds a high priority in the eyes of God. **I 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. [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.*”

A. The Bible is very clear that you cannot get something good from something that is bad. What makes us think that just because a secular music artist puts out an album of the same songs we sing in church, that the individual is worth listening to? **James 3:10-12** “*Out of the same **mouth** proceedeth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be. [11] Doth a fountain send forth at the same place sweet water and bitter?[12] Can the fig tree, my brethren, bear olive berries? either a vine, figs? so can no fountain both yield salt water and fresh.*”

1. If a music artist lives an immoral life, how can I expect for their music to influence me, but not their morality?
2. As we have seen the spirituality of an individual is directly portrayed in and through their music. So, if a music artist is living an ungodly life what makes me think is “godly” music is going to affect me in a spiritual way.

B. I cannot choose how people or music will influence me, I can only choose who I allow and what music I allow to influence me.

1. If the music I listen to is carnal, then I will learn carnality.
2. If the music I listen to is unbiblical in its doctrine, then I will learn unbiblical doctrine.
3. If the music I listen to is based on man’s wisdom, then I will not learn of God’s wisdom.
4. If the music I listen to is does not promote holiness, then I will begin to live an unholy life.

II. The Sound of our Music.

- Don't sing the songs of bondage in the land of liberty. **Ps. 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."*
 - I can't add the new song to the old song. The old song must be done away with in order for the new song to have its proper place. **II Cor. 5:17** *"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."*
- A. Many will say, "The Music I listen to doesn't affect me, I am only listening to the words."
1. Many secular, unsaved, and unspiritual music experts have debunked this theory.
 2. The beat of your music can not be counteracted by the message of the song, it will only reinforce it.
- B. The Bible tells us that faith comes by hearing (**Rom. 10:17** *"So then faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the Word of God."*) the Bible also tells us that the sound of music gives direction (**I Cor. 14:8** *"For if the trumpet give an uncertain sound, who shall prepare himself to the battle?"*).
1. If these two principles are true, then how can we trade the beat of the worlds music that emphasizes sensuality for a beat that emphasizes spirituality.
 2. Does the music you listen to make you want to get up and dance or does the music you listen to cause you to be humbled in the presence of God?

III. The Side Effects of our Music.

- It is important to consider what your music does to you, not just what your music does for you.
 - **Col. 1:16** *"For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:"*
 - **Col. 3:23** *"And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men;"*
- A. Does your music draw attention to you or to the performer; or does your music draw your attention to God?
1. Does your music cause you to desire to follow God or the person you're listening to?
 - a. Tick Tock
 - b. You Tube
 - c. Instagram
 - d. Snap Chat
 2. Does the music you're listening to cause you to admire the one singing the song or does it cause you to think about and want to become more like God?
- B. What is the message of your music?
1. Purity or Sexuality? Country music – **Reference age appropriately**
 - *"You'd Make An Angel Want to Cheat"* *"Now I Lay Me Down to Cheat"*
 - *"Behind Closed Doors"* *"To All the Girls I've Loved Before"*
 - *"She's not Cheatin', She's Just Getting' Even"*

2. Godly wisdom or man's logic? – Christian Rock/Christian Contemporary

"Slow Fade"

"Here I Go Again"

"Your Love Is Extravagant"



"Love Them Like Jesus"

"The Altar and the Door"

"Life of Praise"

Both lists from same
"Christian" Group.

3. Obedience to authority or Rebellion? – Rock, Metal, Rap

GG Allen – "Kill the Police"

ACAB – "Kill- A- Cop-Hip-Hop"

Both rappers Tupac and Ice-T have songs that promote Killing Police Officers

C. Does your music produce the works of the flesh, or does it produce the fruit of the Spirit? **Gal. 5:18-26**

1. Does your music embody who Jesus is?

2. Does your music honor God?

3. Would God approve of what your listening to?

Close: Col. 2:21-22 "(Touch not; taste not; handle not; [22] Which all are to perish with the using;)"

- I can only be as close to God as I am clean, and I can only be as clean as what I allow to influence me.
- Man has a way to justify in his own eyes his actions, but that does not make his actions right.
- Does your music glorify and honor God, or does it draw attention to your fleshly appetites?