

REGARDING WORLDLY MUSIC & SOME JUSTIFICATIONS GIVEN FOR ITS USE¹

1) Answering the statement: “*IT HELPS US TO WORSHIP GOD BETTER.*”

“This argument is more difficult to counter because it is so subjective... Quite simply, there is not even a hint in the Bible that worship is about seeking an emotional musical experience to make us feel God’s presence. Nowhere in Scripture are we told that we should manipulate anyone into a worshipping mood through musical means, nor does the Bible teach that music has any special powers to invoke the presence of God...

“It is time to get our thinking straight on this issue. As we try to do this, we need to recognize that **throughout history pagans have used music with a strong and hypnotic beat to summon their gods and demons:** as Frank Zappa reminds us, *‘the loud sounds and bright lights of today’s rock are tremendous indoctrination tools.’*”

“We need to ask another question here: is it possible that the manipulative and *mind—body—soul* altering power of rock music is producing a counterfeit spiritual experience? A. W. Tozer thought so: *‘It is plainly possible to have religious experiences and forms of worship that are not at all acceptable to God.’* Does anyone in the rock worship camp (which even quotes Tozer at times—*though very selectively!*) have the courage to admit this may be possible? **Or have we sunk to the pitiful level that Tozer decried:** *‘Because worship is largely missing, do you know what we are doing? We use artificial means to try to induce some kind of worship. I think the devil in hell must be laughing, and I think God must be grieving, for there is no fear of God before our eyes.’*”²

2) Answering the statement: “*WE DON’T ASSOCIATE ROCK WITH IMMORALITY & WORLDLINESS.*” ...young Christians who were raised on ‘Christianized’ rock say they see no issue because their generation has its own redeemed version of the music that is not the same as the old, bad rock music...

“This argument seems to rest on two assumptions:

The first is that God wants them to cross into the culture, redeem wicked art forms from the pagans and use them for his glory... Yet nowhere in the Bible does God command us to ‘redeem’ music, nor does Scripture give any examples of God’s people redeeming the evil music of a secular or pagan culture.

“The second assumption made by Christians who do not associate rock music with immorality and worldliness is that their form of rock music is sufficiently ‘separated’ by time, distance or source from older, cruder forms of rock... we have already demonstrated the bad reputation of rock, past and present, by using many examples from secular sources. Sadly, many of today’s Christian rock bands, in mimicking the latest secular music styles, freely admit to being influenced by the very bands whose motives and methods are dubious at best and degraded at worst.”³

3) Answering the statement: “*IT PRODUCES EXCELLENT EVANGELISTIC RESULTS.*”

“As ...Shaeffer points out...”The excuse that “*sometimes people are saved*” **is no excuse at all.** *People have been saved in concentration camps because God can bring good from evil, but this does not justify the evil.* God used a pagan Egyptian Pharaoh as an instrument in releasing the entire nation of Israel from slavery—and even told him that he had raised him up *‘for this purpose’* (Exodus 9:16). *Yet this ruler was a godless tyrant and certainly not an example for us to follow.*”⁴

¹ A brief excerpt from my full paper “How to Get Disqualified from the Biggest Race of Your Life – The True Bounds of Christian Freedom” written in St. Vincent & the Grenadines, West Indies, Nov-Dec, 2010

² Tozer, cited in Blanchard & Lucarini, pp. 211-213

³ Blanchard & Lucarini, pp. 213-214

⁴ Blanchard & Lucarini, *ibid*, pp. 217-218