

## Some Quotes On Music

**Music is a language:** *'You can research the findings in science, psychology, biology, history, philosophy, musicology, and theology and not find anything referring to the moral neutrality of music. This fallacious belief found not only its beginnings, but also its sole supporters, within the Contemporary Christian Music Community. If there were any credible evidence from any source outside CCM that music (apart from its text) had no formal influence on the listener, we would be glad to quote it here. But in more than twenty five years of reading and researching the topic, we have yet to find a single reference supporting the neutrality of music.'* (*'Harmony at Home'* by Tim Fisher, P.84)

*'When I was with the Fleshtones we toured a lot of countries where people didn't speak much English. I remember in Spain, the audience didn't know what the words meant, but they would sing along. It was a real tribal type of thing...it was the rythmn...that got them. They had no idea what they were singing, but it didn't matter. Later it occurred to me that some of my favourite songs are ones where I don't really know what the words mean, but I like the way they make me feel.'* (Robert Warren, Rock bassist/singer/songwriter)

*'...tragically, most Christians measure the effectiveness of music by the yardstick of the flesh, not the yardstick of the spirit. If a song thrills us we like it. If it doesn't excite us, we don't like it.'* (*'Harmony at Home'* by Tim Fisher, P.74)

**Rock Music:** In the early 1950's Cleveland Disc Jockey Allan Freed, revolutionised the music world. Borrowing a ghetto term for sexual activity, he coined the term '*Rock N Roll*'. The Encyclopedia Britannica for 1956 described '*Rock n Roll*' as '*insistent savagery...deliberately competing with the artistic ideals of the jungle.*' The Christian community at the time cried against this '*tool of Satan*'. (*'Christian Rock: Blessing or Blasphemy?'*, Dial The Truth Ministries)

Rock star David Bowie said '*Rock has always been the devils music*'. (*Rolling Stone*, Feb.12, 1976, P.83)

Secular rock bad girl Lita Ford, said: '*Listen, rock n roll aint church. It's nasty business. You gotta be nasty too. If you're goody goody, you can't sing or play it*'. (*Los Angeles Times*, Aug.7th, 1988)

**'Christian Rock':** *Time Magazine*, March 11, 1985, called Christian Rock Music '*New Lyrics for the devils music*'.

*'Instead of simply saying 'Rock music is worldly', teach your children what 'the world' is from 1John 2:15-17 and other related passages. Teach them that the world isn't just material things but a system of thinking ('cosmos') contrary to God's way of thinking.'* (*'Harmony at Home'*, Tim Fisher P.50)

*'It is true that rock music attracts people to church, but not to godly living'*. (*'Harmony at home'*, Tim Fisher P.134)

**Christian Contemporary Music (CCM):** *'...some within the CCM camp are beginning to make the same observations...In 'Contemporary Christian Music Magazine', a regular contributor, John Fischer, expressed his concern about the subject matter of CCM. Consider these excerpts from his article 'Watering Down God': 'I noticed it during a coast to coast drive across Florida...listening all the way to a Christian hit radio station. The focus of almost every song was the love of God, but at the end of this two hour marathon*

*I can't say I found out anything distinctive about God's love, except that it was real, it drowned me in the sea, it flowed all over me, it put its arms around me and held me close, and it generally made me feel pretty great. But the disturbing fact was that most, if not all of these things, could have just as easily come from someone other than God. There was no Cross in this love. No sin. No guilt. No redemption. No commitment. No cleansing. No forgiveness. No blood. No death. No heaven. No hell. No saviour. No need to be saved. Just love. Lots and lots of it oozing out all over. These were not songs about God's love, they were songs about love in general, with God named or implied as its source'*. (*'Harmony at Home'* by Tim Fisher, P.131)

*'Stan Moser, former head of Word Records...was one of the pioneers and most important executives in CCM. After 26 years in CCM, in November 1995, he walked away from CCM. In an article in 'Christianity Today', titled 'We Have Created a Monster' Mr Moser freely admitted: 'To be candid, I look at the majority of music today and think it's virtually meaningless.'* (*'Christianity Today'*, May 20th 1996, P.27)

- CCM artist Michael Card: '*The lyrics of a good number of songs don't betray anything specifically Christian...What happens when we start getting the music to as many people as possible? There is an essential part of the Gospel that's not ever going to sell. The Gospel is good news but also bad news; 'You are a sinner and you are hopeless'. How is a multi-million dollar record company going to take that? (Christianity Today: 'Can't Buy Me Love', May 20, 1996, P.25)*

**The Fruit of CCM:** CCM is littered with fallen leaders even to this day. '*Sandi Patti was committing adultery with Don Pesli as far back as 1991...she took part in two extra-marital relationships, in both cases with married men. A large part of Sandi Patti's career - she was committing adultery with married men...Sandi's adulterous appetite 'wrecked' two families. On Aug.6th, 1995 after divorcing her first husband, she married Don Pesli*'. (*'Christian Rock: Blessing or Blasphemy?'* by Dial The Truth Ministries referring to an article in *Christianity Today* 1995, Sept 11, P.72-74; Oct.23, P.89)

**Pragmatic Thinking (Rom.3:8):** '*But what about those who have been saved?' you may ask. Let me use a simple illustration to respond. When you travel by car, you often see graffiti near the streets and highways of our nation. Suppose you were driving down an interstate highway and noticed on a bridge that someone had spray painted 'Trust Jesus'. Would it be possible for someone driving by to read the words and become convicted?...Perhaps the phrase would call to mind a Gospel tract or a sermon...The Holy Spirit could use the message to convince this person of his sin - even to trust Jesus. Would the person be genuinely saved? Of course; and any Christian would rejoice at his conversion. But what about the person who spray painted the bridge? Do we hail him as a great witness? Do we praise his innovation in getting the Gospel out? No...this person has broken the law. It's not legal to spraypaint bridges. Were people saved? Yes. Do we excuse the illegal method because of apparent results? No. 2Timothy 2:5 tells us 'And if a man also strive for masteries, yet is he not crowned, except he strive lawfully'*. (*'Harmony at Home'* by Tim Fisher, P.136,137)