

Toward A Music Ministry Philosophy

In *The Closing of the American Mind*, University of Chicago professor and sociologist, Allan Bloom states, “Nothing is more singular about this generation than its addiction to _____.” Music has become increasingly accessible and affordable. Music has become virtually omnipresent. Music is society’s primary communicant. Christians and the churches in which they worship are impacted by the swelling tide of society’s musical addiction.

Few areas of spiritual discussion are as provocative and volatile as that of musical philosophy. Musical ministry is intended to bring congregational _____ (Eph. 5:19). Sadly, many churches find their musical ministries to be the greatest source of congregational discord.

BIBLICAL CONSIDERATIONS

There are over _____ references to music in the Bible. _____ of the 66 books in the Bible bear reference to music. Clearly, our God is concerned about the matter of music.

1. Music ought to be a sound of _____ to God. The ministry of music has a vertical dimension. The Bible tells us that ~(ve are to sing to the Lord (Eph. 5:19). Because the audience is so great, great care ought to be exhibited by those involved.
 - Psalm 105:1-2
 - Psalm 101:1
 - Psalm 100:1

In simple Scriptural terms, music fulfills two primary purposes (Psalm 40:1-3):

- It _____ the Lord.
- It _____ the believer.

What about the use of music to “evangelize”?

2. _____ has great musical power. There are _____ angels named in the Bible. Each of these archangels was created for a purpose. Let’s look at two passages that reveal Lucifer’s created purpose:
 - Ezekiel 28:13f
 - Isaiah 14:4f

MORAL CONSIDERATIONS

The Contemporary Christian Music debate centers on the question of the morality of music. Is music moral or is it morally neutral? The Bible teaches that music is a _____ messenger.

1. What comes from the mouth of the messenger communicates what is in the messenger’s _____ (Matt. 12:34-35). Even sound without words can communicate a message and when a message is communicated, a morality is represented.

2. Music is fundamentally a form of _____ (1 Cor. 14:7-8). It is specifically an _____ language.

“Since music is an emotional language and since some emotions are wrong for Christians, some music must be _____ for Christians.” (Kurt Woetzel)

3. Music is a language with emotional, spiritual, and moral impact (1 Samuel 16:23).

PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS

Fully _____ to _____ of our worship service is dedicated, to music ministry. This time is not to be considered as “preliminaries.”

1. Music will impact our ministry _____. In most churches _____ to _____ % of the congregation will be part of the musical ministry team. The entire congregation is expected to take part in the musical ministry.

- We dare not be _____ centered. Our goal is to glorify God, not man (1 Cor. 10:31).
- We dare not become _____ -oriented.

2. Music will impact our ministry _____ (1 Thes. 5:22).

“American churchgoers no longer sort themselves out by denomination so much as by musical preference. Our new sectarianism is a sectarianism of worship _____. The new sectarian creeds are dogmas of _____” (Michael S. Hamilton, *Christianity Today*, July 12, 1999).

An evaluation of 2 Chronicles 5:11f will help us to understand how important music is to our congregational worship

- The people involved are _____ (v.11)
 - _____ is implied, for the ministers are wearing white (v.12).
 - Music is a powerful medium (v. 13-14). Music has power to unite, comfort, instruct, and inspire.
3. Music will impact our ministry to our _____.
- We need to learn to make good musical choices.
- We need to make good music available to our family.

FINAL CONSIDERATIONS

In an attempt to worship without worry and to do “all things decently and in order,” several simple instructions have been deemed beneficial by conservative believers for many years. Let’s review them:

1. Consider the _____.
 - Avoid _____.
 - Avoid _____.
 - Avoid doctrinal _____.
 - Avoid associational _____.
2. Consider the _____.
 - Does the melody/negate the _____.
 - Does the message inspire or does the beat dominate?
 - Be careful of stylistic elements that identify with the world - _____, _____, _____.