

### 4. Contemporary Music is of the Flesh

I Corinthians 14:15 states the singing must be done from the spirit, not from the flesh. The problem with worldly music is that it does not concentrate on the spirit, but rather on the flesh. You might think, “Maybe to others, not to me.” However, musicians, who studied each note and trace, know that the actual reaction of worldly music is of the flesh.

The *Encyclopedia Americana* (an internationally recognized encyclopedia) states that pop, rock, Nashville country, and other styles of twentieth century popular music:

“...had in common their appeal to youth . . . Popular music became a symbol of the youth rebellion against the establishment, and for the first time it was written and performed by the young for the young” (*Encyclopedia Americana Vol. 27*, page 615).

During the direction of the new wave of rock, rock musician Stuart Goldman wrote that,

“ . . . rock stands essentially for the liberation of emotion from the tyranny of reason” (Stuart Goldman, &quot;That Old Devil Music,&quot; *National Review*, February 24, 1989, page 30).

Blanchard, who analyzed the traces of pop, commented,

“In all pop music, lyrics are secondary. Pop is [the] music of feeling, spoken primarily to the body and only secondary to the intellect”(Graham Cray, *Time to Listen, Time to Talk* from Blanchard's

*Pop Goes the Gospel: Rock in the Church*  
, page 100).

The professing Christian jazz musician, Kirk Whalum, admitted his *Gospel According to Jazz*, &quot; . . . seeks to impact the hearts of listeners bypassing the mind with the love”(Interview in *Urban Music*

, page 24). But Romans 12:2 says the mind should be renewed by the Spirit, not bypassed. It should be noticed that even “Christian” jazz music clearly rebels and opposes the spirit with “the love.”

Highly-respected, Professor Alan Bloom, professor of social thought at the University of Chicago, who has also taught at Yale, the University of Paris, the University of Toronto, Cornell and many other schools, writes in his best-selling book, *The Closing of the American Mind*:

“Nothing is more singular about this generation than its ADDICTION to music. . . It is their passion; nothing else excites them as it does; they cannot take seriously anything alien to music . . . I suspect that the rock addiction, particularly in the absence of strong counter attractions, has an effect similar to that of drugs” (Alan Bloom, *The Closing of the American Mind* , pages 68, 81).

Also, don't forget that any type of worldly music has the back-beats which appeal to the flesh and also stimulate sexual arousal. This is apparently contradicting and rebelling the spirit.

According to the musicians' statements, all of those types of worldly music firmly stand for rebellion and appeal to your flesh and emotions, like drugs. I Samuel 15:23 states “For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft . . . ”

If worldly music is indeed for the flesh and emotions, then these contradict the spirit. Galatians 5:17 reveals the flesh is contrary to the spirit. No matter how much you want to justify it, the fact is that worldly music is of the flesh, which cannot become spiritual (Gal. 5:17). Another verse that proves worldly music is of the flesh is from Galatians 6:8. It warns if you sow to your flesh, you will reap corruption. You already learned worldly music causes mind damage and sinful problems to your flesh. Therefore, worldly music is of the flesh, because it reaps corruption. Another proof that worldly music is of the flesh is from Galatians 5:19. It lists the works of the flesh are fornication, witchcraft, and revellings (rebellion against the spirit). From documented quotes of musicians, psychologists, and historians, you already learned worldly music is from witchcraft and is the cause of fornication and rebellion. These clearly define the flesh, so yet why do you continue to excuse worldly music is used for the spirit? It is impossible according to Galatians 5:17.

When you are singing worldly music, your mind concentrate more on the music, which appeals to your flesh, rather than the godly lyrics, which appeal to your spirit. That is a fact that you already learned from the statements of the musicians. The difference with instrumental praises and hymns is that the singing is concentrated on the godly lyrics, which excites the spirit, rather than the flesh. For example, whenever I hear music like “And Can It Be,” it does not appeal to my flesh and emotions as much as when I listen to worldly music. But when it comes down to the lyrics of “And Can It Be,” I get excited and shout for God. Ponder on this part of its lyrics:

“Long my imprisoned spirit laid fastbound in sin and nature's night. Thine eye diffused a

quickening ray. I woke the dungeons flamed with light. My chains fell off. My heart was free. I rose, went forth, and followed thee.”

When you listen to these lyrics, you get excited for God. This is spiritual and not fleshly. Colossians 3:16 says the songs, psalms, or hymns should teach and admonish you the word of God. But what is worldly music greatly used for? It is used, well, in bars, dance halls, sex acts, and wicked television shows. How can you use this kind of music for singing praises unto the Lord?

When you listen to worldly music without the lyrics, can you honestly vouch that you are thinking spiritually -- thanking God for Calvary, going to Heaven, or loving Christ to serve Him? Most likely, you cannot. You might say, “No, the music helps me feel more spiritual towards God.” Oh, you may “feel more spiritual towards God” in worldly music, but the Bible shows that those feelings can be of the flesh (Gal. 5:24). I can almost guarantee that you will not want to preach the gospel on the streets. From the statements of professional musicians, psychologists, and historians, you have seen what the true reaction of worldly music is — appealing to the flesh that contradicts the spirit. It stands for rebellion, sensuality, mental problem, and Satan worship. Your mind is so deceived that you do not realize that you are unconsciously heading towards sin. If you still doubt me, then pray to God seriously about this issue and carefully see your reactions.

(Please click on this link to read Part 5: [http://bbcenglish.org/index.php?option=com\\_content  
&view=article&id=396:  
what-is-wrong-with-contemporary-christian-music-part-5&catid=53:doctrine&Itemid=88](http://bbcenglish.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=396:what-is-wrong-with-contemporary-christian-music-part-5&catid=53:doctrine&Itemid=88) ).