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## SESSION 3 | GOD, MUSIC, AND ME

### I. INTRODUCTION

### II. MUSIC IS A GOOD GIFT FROM GOD.

God gave us music as a gift to direct our attention to him. But that doesn't mean the only kind of music we can listen to is worship songs.

Music of all styles can be a gift from God.

“God is not Western; God is not Eastern; God is not exclusively the God of classical culture or of primitive culture; God is the Lord of the plethora, the God of the diverse, the redeemer of the plural. . . . Pentecost tells us that one artistic tongue is only a start and a thousand will never suffice. There is no single chosen language or artistic or musical style that, better than all others, can capture and repeat back the fullness of the glory of God.”<sup>1</sup>

Music expresses our emotions and speaks to our emotions.

Music can be good, whether written by a Christian or non-Christian.

### III. GOOD GIFTS CAN BECOME BAD

#### A. A Sinful World Outside Us

“Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world. And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.” (1 John 2:15–17)

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<sup>1</sup> Harold Best, *Music through the Eyes of Faith* (San Francisco: HarperCollins, 1993), 67.

B. Sinful Desires Inside Us

“But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.” (James 1:14–15, ESV)

***Listening to music without discernment and godly intent reveals a heart willing to flirt with the world.***

IV. **SIX HANDLES TO HELP YOU THINK ABOUT MUSIC**

A. Submission (Prov. 19:20; 12:15)

“Listen to advice and accept instruction, that you may gain wisdom in the future.” (Proverbs 19:20)

“The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, but a wise man listens to advice.” (Proverbs 12:15)

B. Content (Phil. 4:8)

“Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.” (Philippians 4:8)

“but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God. From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers, these things ought not to be so.” (James 3:8–10)

C. Associations (1 Cor. 15:33; Prov. 13:20)

“Do not be deceived: *“Bad company ruins good morals.”*” (1 Corinthians 15:33)

“Whoever walks with the wise becomes wise, but the companion of fools will suffer harm.” (Proverbs 13:20)

D. Time (Mt. 6:21)

“For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” (Matthew 6:21)

E. Fruit (Prov. 14:14)

“The backslider in heart will be filled with the fruit of his ways, and a good man will be filled with the fruit of his ways.” (Proverbs 14:14)

F. Conversion (2 Cor. 13:5)

*“Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you fail to meet the test!” (2 Corinthians 13:5)*

**v. USING MUSIC FOR GOD’S GLORY**

A. Listen to music intentionally.

B. Listen to music socially.

C. Listen to music gratefully.

D. Listen to music moderately.

*“All things are lawful for me,” but I will not be dominated by anything.” (1 Corinthians 6:12b)*

- E. Listen to music broadly.
  
  
- F. Make music.
  
  
- G. Make and listen to music to deepen your relationship with God.

## VI. CONCLUSION

The books or the music in which we thought the beauty was located will betray us if we trust to them. . . . For they are not the thing itself; they are only the scent of a flower we have not found, the echo of a tune we have not heard, news from a country we have never yet visited.<sup>2</sup>

“and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised.” (2 Corinthians 5:15, ESV)

Music is a precious gift, but it makes a terrible god.

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<sup>2</sup> C. S. Lewis, *The Weight of Glory* (HarperCollins, 2001), 31.