

Notes outline – John MacArthur Music is not Worship

Ephesians 5:18-20 Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to reckless indiscretion. Instead, be filled with the Spirit. **19** Speak to one another with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your hearts to the Lord, giving thanks at all times for all things in *the* name of our Lord Jesus Christ to the God and Father.

The medium for playing, listening, and watching music has changed. We are continually exposed to all manner of music. This reveals that music is important to us as human beings. Music is not just associated with comfort, need, or solace, it is environmental.

- Music rides the back of every culture. Often past decades have to be revisited to find music which is not debased.
- Secular music always reflects its society and displayed in its music.
- Music of the redeemed does not ride the culture of its day, for it is timeless and based in truth.
- Music for the redeemed merely reveals the truth and truth never changes.
- Beauty, loftiness, majesty, order and design consistent with God's order
- It is intelligent, systematic, sequential, poetic, harmonic, rhythmic, resolution.
- Because God is timeless, His word is timeless and His music is timeless
- Churches seem eager to adapt their music to the culture of the day by sanitizing it.

Misconceptions:

- 1. Music is worship?** Music and worship are not synonymous. Music is music/worship is worship.
 - Music is a means to express worship
 - Worship is a heart showing God gratitude in a worshipful way
 - Expressing thanks for His redemption, salvation, grace and love to us
- 2. Music motivates and induces worship?** It gives expression to it
 - The motivation has to come from elsewhere
 - Music may enhance our worship but does not bring worship, it comes from our heart
 - Worship is not a sound, but a truth revealed in us.
- 3. Music creates the mood for worship?**
 - Worship is not a mood experience, moods are fickle and sensual feeling contrary to worship
 - True worship is a permanent attitude, a directed act of adoration to God **John 4, Philippians 3,**
 - Moods shift the mind away from worship
 - What motivates worship is preaching and reading the word of God
 - Through truth our heart reaches out to God in gratitude and worship
- 4. None Christians aren't going to come to church unless we import their music**
 - Music so permeates our culture that we believe we have to use it in church
 - Music is never used in scripture as an evangelistic tool for the lost
 - In an INDIRECT sense it is as our singing and worship is revealing our Saviour, but our focus is our singing TO GOD not the world or unbeliever.
 - There is no mandate to the church to sing songs to the children of Satan.

So what is music? – A gift of God, common grace, to the world in providing a means to expressing their emotions – Joys, sorrows, hopes, aspirations, disappointments. But for believers, it's a gift of God to allow us a gift of expression to God for who He is and what He has done for us through salvation. **15:19**