

SHALLOW MUSIC

Music is the first and perhaps the most powerful influence in the Christian life. Most young people (including preachers and staff members) have had constant exposure to a worldly and sensuous sound. If we involve ourselves in excessive movie watching or sitting around listening to YouTube and modern artists, soon we have ministry leaders that have no real standard for godly music.

Let me be very specific: listen to a moment or two of "I Won't Give Up" sung by Alex G. It is easily found on YouTube.

The rhyme is elementary school; the vocabulary is almost all one syllable words limited to the intellect of a rapper; the sound is totally sensuous. Look up sensuous; it will say something like this, "appealing to the senses and not to the intellect." The thought required to write such lyrics would be sub-junior high, but if you are looking for a sound that turns someone on sexually, I guess this will fit the bill. One YouTube video opens with the camera on Alex, then it pans down her chest and pauses on her thighs where she is caressing her leg. Yet, Christians have somehow been drawn to this kind of thing, and called it a love song appropriate for a Christian's wedding.

Somehow the view of that song fails the test of Philippians 4:8...

*"Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are **pure**, whatsoever things are **lovely**, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any **virtue**, and if there be any **praise**, think on these things."*



People love our teen choir, but even more importantly, our young people love our teen choir.

Our churches are becoming contemporary in their so called worship programs because our young people are going through college filling their minds with shallow, fleshly sounding music. The end result is a generation of sensuous, fleshly minded youth, whose dating, thinking, relationships, and motivating emphasis is the flesh. That kind of emphasis can only end in trouble because **the flesh lusteth against the spirit:** Galatians 5:17 *"For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the*

*flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye **cannot** do the things that ye would."*

A carnally minded believer **cannot** become what God designs them to be.

What are we to do? We should go on a campaign against TV and secular music, and then continue that same campaign against modern music in church. Brother Hyles used to say that 9 out of 10 songs used

in church had to be written before 1960. While that is not a Biblical date, you should set a date back far enough that old music dominates the heart and mind.

Here is one of our popular quartets. Young people love good music, love to sing, and have no problem being upfront.

Find a pastor who is man enough to say, "the sound and looks of the singers and the platform will not mimic a nightclub," or "that female singer can not caress the microphone and breathe into the ears of men and boys sitting in the audience." We would be shocked if a lady came up to our son or husband and whispered breathy, enticing words into his ear. Modern microphones are designed to produce that kind of effect.



I expect it in the world. I expect the world to sell their music with sex. Believers should be so far from that kind of music that the two could never be mistaken.

Musicians will tell you the key to a song's popularity is the sound, not the lyrics. As God's people, be sure that we are the exact opposite of the world. We want quality words, and we want total control of the sound.

Music consists of three parts, and each is good in its place -- lyrics, melody/harmony, and rhythm. Likewise, man consists of three parts -- body, soul, and spirit.

The lyrics touch the mind.

Rhythm touches the body.

Melody and harmony reach the soul.

This is very simplified and will be more thoroughly dealt with elsewhere, but simply explained -- First, we want the affect of the music on our mind to receive the greatest attention; secondly, attention to the soul should follow, (behind the mind, but in front of the body), and thirdly, the body should receive the least attention.

So, our music should have lyrics that are prominent, melody and harmony that follow (to draw our attention), and then the beat, the smallest and least dominant element. Of course, today, even Christian music has beat as the dominant element; lyrics are dealt with as shallow additions with little power or influence.

At best, lyrics are shallow, one-thought statements that are repeated over and over.

While the lyrics of "In Christ Alone" are new, they thoroughly break the modern rule. The words are rich with Scripture and deep in thought and purpose, yet even this new song has been sung in a manner in which the rhythm is prominent. Guard your music; stand against the pressures of the world!