



The Burning Bush—Online article archive

“Modern Music” — the popular vehicle to advance ecumenism



There are very few who cannot relate to a pleasant melody, especially if it is accompanied by appealing words. It is this simple fact that underwrites the whole £multi-billion music industry. Music is universal in its appeal. It penetrates national borders and crosses cultural differences. It was beloved of ancient man every bit as much as his modern counterpart and has ever featured in mankind’s festivities and recreational pursuits. It ought not to be surprising, therefore, if the devil makes full use of the attraction of music.

I believe that the devil has never made better use of popular music to deceive, to waylay and mislead Christians than at this present time. I believe that we can now see how that innovations in hymn music, introduced some twenty to thirty years ago amongst conservative Christians, whereby the melodies and rhythms of “country and western” music were employed to present a sentimental, non-doctrinal “gospel,” have helped to break down the long-established and God-ordained barriers between the Christian and the world.

Such melodies are sensual and pleasing to the flesh. Declining spiritual perceptiveness and sensitivity have made this fact hard to get over to those who gladly embraced such musical innovations. Consequently, the only hymn music many people know or listen to today is that emanating from Nashville and its environs. Much of the “country and western” output is doctrinally impure and more often than not, downright unbiblical. Of course, this matters little because it is what the people want and its doctrinal shortcomings are sweetened by its foot-tapping rhythms.

I believe that such music has led a generation, pied-piper-like, down the road to casualness toward God, His law, His day, His honour and glory, the oversight of His house and those ordinances which lie at the heart of good order in His Kingdom. The dress of the devotees of the “country and western” concert has become a feature of the fringe evangelical gatherings but, sadly, it is not unknown for the jeans and tie-less shirt attire to be seen in Free Presbyterian meetings. It is usually excused by a distinction being drawn between the services on the Lord’s Day and a prayer meeting or a young people’s meeting. Our apparel is not decided by the day upon which we gather but the One before Whom we gather in a young people’s meeting, prayer meeting or Sabbath service. His glorious person sets the pattern of how we attire ourselves.

However, the mode of a Christian’s attire in the place of worship is but one of the matters affected by the innovations in music. Music-led thinking has intruded into matters of Christian behaviour. There has been manifested a greater tolerance of improper behaviour and erroneous religious views and practices toward those who have a talent for pleasing the crowd with their music.

Christians who would profess to be opposed to ecumenism and attempts to reconcile Romanism and Protestantism, will, it seems, happily listen to the music of those who mingle with the world, assist the apostasy and fellowship with the enemies of God. It is not unknown for musicians, who earn their living by producing the music of the world, to be



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used in the producing of a “Christian” CD, simply because their skill on a musical instrument will enhance the sound of the CD! Some musicians who are welcomed into a separatist church meeting may have but recently performed in an apostate church.

Why this should be acceptable in the realm of music, but would not be acceptable if it were taking place in the pulpit, is a mystery to me. Of course, the sad and alarming fact is that the breakdown of the walls of separation, which is presently becoming acceptable in musical circles, will inevitably become acceptable in the pulpits of separatist churches if a halt is not called now to this decline. Outrageous, you say. But then that is what was said at the suggestion that those who by their music promote the cause of the enemy of righteousness, would be singing for us!

Newspaper article

A little article appeared recently in The Belfast Telegraph. It serves to underscore and to illustrate the dark invasion taking place before our eyes.

SPREADING THE ROCK GOSPEL

A Youth For Christ band is making Larne its sole stop in Northern Ireland during a UK tour. TVB is a nine-piece band made up of young people and is in the town this week at the invitation of the YMCA and various churches. During their visit they are appearing at schools to take workshops. A major concert for young people in the town is being planned at the McNeill Theatre tonight. The visit has been organised by representatives of local Methodist, Roman Catholic, Elim, Presbyterian and Church of Ireland churches, working with the YMCA. (February 15th, 2002.)

Note the involvement of the Elim church, a church that has placed great emphasis upon singing and which gave a lead to the introduction of the modern “hymn.” They are now exporting “rock” music to the young people and that in company with the Church of Rome and the ecumenical denominations which have forsaken the Word of God.

The lesson is there for all to see. This thing is not being “done in a corner.” There is a need for God’s servants to cry out against this trend, irrespective of who or what takes offence. Failure to do so is to deliver the next generation into the darkness of a Christless Ulster.