

ROOTED — LESSON 12

Biblical Apostolic Worship: Music in the Church

Introduction

Worship is extremely important to the church. Because **worship belongs to God**, we must be careful that our worship—including our music—is biblical, Christ-centered, and doctrinally sound. Rooted Lesson 12.pages

Key Scripture: 2 Corinthians 11:3–4

Paul warned the church about accepting:

- Another Jesus
- Another spirit
- Another gospel

Something can sound Christian and still present an understanding of Jesus or the gospel that does not agree with Scripture. This is especially important when considering the music we allow to influence us.

I. MUSIC HAS SPIRITUAL INFLUENCE

Music is more than entertainment. Music can:

- Reinforce our beliefs
- Prepare us for action
- Affect our emotions
- Make us receptive to particular messages
- Shape the way we think about God

Songs have a way of staying with us. We may forget much of a sermon, but continue singing a song throughout the week.

Because **belief can be woven into our hearts through music**, we should always ask:

What message is this song teaching me? Rooted Lesson 12.pages

II. THREE DANGERS IN CHRISTIAN MUSIC

Danger #1 — Music Can Smuggle in Bad Theology

A song may sound Christian while communicating ideas that are inconsistent with Scripture.

We must remember:

God is sovereign.

We believe in miracles, healing, signs, and wonders. However, God is not obligated to perform a miracle simply because we make a declaration.

True worship teaches us to trust God **even when He chooses not to perform the miracle we desire.** Rooted Lesson 12.pages

Danger #2 — Music Can Draw People Toward Bad Doctrine

Our focus must always remain on **the Lord Jesus Christ.**

Miracles should never become more important than the Miracle Worker.

Our worship should emphasize:

- Who Jesus is
- His Lordship
- His works
- His truth
- His glory

Everything we do should **shine the spotlight on Jesus.** Rooted Lesson 12.pages

Danger #3 — Music Can Divorce the Heart From the Head

Music is emotionally powerful. A catchy melody can cause us to sing words without stopping to consider what those words actually mean.

Biblical worship involves both **heart and mind.**

Jesus taught that true worshipers worship:

“in spirit and in truth.”

Emotion is not wrong, but emotion must never replace truth. Rooted Lesson 12.pages

III. THREE AUDIENCES OF CHRISTIAN MUSIC

Christian music should minister to three distinct audiences.

1. Those Who Do Not Yet Know Jesus

Some people enter church without knowing the Lord.

Music can help communicate the **good news of Jesus Christ** and create an atmosphere where a guest becomes aware of the presence of God.

2. Those Who Know Jesus

Music should help believers:

- Express thanksgiving
- Remember God's goodness
- Remember His blessings
- Find comfort during trials
- Move from praise into worship

The focus should ultimately be on **Jesus and His works rather than ourselves and our desires.**
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3. The Lord Jesus Christ

This is the most important audience.

Worship is not ultimately about the musicians, singers, congregation, or guests.

Worship is about Jesus.

True worship is directed **TO Him.**

We tell Him:

- How great He is
- How wonderful He is
- How much we love Him
- How thankful we are for Him

The music portion of a church service should ultimately lead the congregation toward **worshiping Jesus in spirit and in truth.** Rooted Lesson 12.pages

IV. MUSIC SHOULD GLORIFY GOD

Talent should never become the focus of worship.

Musicians and singers should not use worship as an opportunity to show off their abilities.

All music should glorify God—not people. Rooted Lesson 12.pages

Talent is valuable, but **spiritual character matters more than musical ability.**

V. THREE TESTS OF RIGHT MUSIC

Test #1 — Try the Spirit

1 John 4:1

“Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God...”

We should consider both:

The musician — What kind of spiritual life and character are represented?

The music — What spirit and influence does the music produce?

James 3 teaches that the same fountain should not produce both fresh and bitter water.

We do not choose musicians simply because they are talented. Rooted Lesson 12.pages

Test #2 — Try the Statements of the Music

Ask:

What is this song actually saying?

Good music should tell the truth about:

- God
- Life
- Biblical doctrine

Bad music communicates misconceptions or falsehoods about God, life, or doctrine. Rooted Lesson 12.pages

Never accept something as true simply because it is contained in a Christian song.

Compare the message of the song with the Word of God.

Test #3 — Try the Fruit

Matthew 7:20

“Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.”

Consider the fruit in two areas.

The Lives of the Performers

Ask:

- What kind of lifestyle is being promoted?
- Is there evidence of godliness?
- Is the music being used merely for personal profit or popularity?
- Does the lifestyle behind the music agree with its message?

The Lives of the Listeners

Ask what the music produces:

- Does it produce pride or rebellion?
- Does it produce bitterness or dissatisfaction?
- Does it encourage sensuality or self-gratification?
- Or does it draw me closer to Jesus?

The fruit helps reveal the influence of the music. Rooted Lesson 12.pages

VI. THE GUIDING PRINCIPLE

Romans 13:14

“But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof.”

This should be our guiding principle when choosing the music we listen to and use in worship.
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The ultimate question is not simply:

“Do I like this music?”

Instead, we should ask:

Does this music glorify Jesus?

Does it agree with Scripture?

What spirit does it promote?

What fruit does it produce in my life?

Does it help me put on the Lord Jesus Christ?

Key Takeaway

Biblical Apostolic worship is not primarily about musical style, talent, preference, or emotion. It is about truth, spiritual influence, godly fruit, and ultimately bringing glory to the Lord Jesus Christ.