

CHRISTIAN ROCK AND ROLL

By: Dr. Hal Webb, Evangelist

"How long will you turn my glory into shame," Psm. 4:2

It seems everything in our nation is under flux and change. Some things are for the better but other things are tragic beyond words. A watered down, present day Christianity is characterized by slipping standards, deadly compromise, and worldliness. This is easily seen in the religious music many have accepted in this gullible age. For over a half century I have used music to prepare for the preaching of the Word. From this reservoir of experience I qualify to speak up against Christian Rock and Roll.

The very name is reason enough for it to be wrong. In 1950 a Detroit disc jockey gave it the name from local black vocabulary meaning fornication. How then can such a meaning be forgotten and called Christian. A music said to promote such feelings and desires surly cannot bless the true believer and bring the sinner to Christ. Music planned to raise sensual enjoyment cannot be spiritual.

It is wrong secondly, because of the fleshly beat and the deliberate instrumentation which copies the worst of secular Rock and Roll techniques. The beat that arouses the flesh cannot possible become a good vehicle to present the claims of Christ. It is often argued that since teens are hooked on the beat why not use it for Christ. Or we hear, "Look at the crowds that come to hear it." Such reasoning is very weak. One can get a crowd with free beer and cigarettes but it is certainly not a Biblical way to reach men. The music itself feeds the flesh. A spring cannot bring forth evil and good water at the same time. When the mind is assaulted with a fleshly beat and deliberate

musical perversion, the Christian words are lost and cannot do their work. The little truth that is contained is lost in the racket of worldly, flesh pleasing sounds.

Thirdly, the words are vague and really lacking in the meat of the Word. They can often be adapted to mean different things to the listener. Seldom do they speak of deep surrender, dying to self, total consecration and deep commitment to Christ. Shallow phrases are repeated, crooned, whined, and shouted in the style of the world's garbage music. Biblical promises tailored for listener enjoyment miss the goal of Biblical Revelation. Thus, the listener is weakly entertained instead of seeking a firmer relationship with Christ.

A fourth reason focuses the spotlight of reason upon those who write and perform the music. Professionalism and self glorification become the main thing. Popularity with the Christian masses becomes paramount as hero worshipped musicians press for the top of the charts. The singers spiritual depth is not measured and their shallow experience often leads to the musical slaughter of great musical and Biblical truths. Biblical musicians must live lives of true holiness, possess unquestionable example in personal things and lead the way with genuine, true, quality musical service that pleases God. Making more money and drawing bigger crowds seems to be the goal of those seeking personal gain. They sing anything to leap to great prominence; "pied pipers" with tremendous appeal among weak believers but a careless spiritual attitude toward God. To dress like, admire and copy after the worldly crowd to be an "in" musician certainly does not glorify Christ.

Lastly, as a lifetime evangelist, I notice the results.irate lovers of religious rock write some of the meanest letters we receive. They sometimes appoint themselves to set us

straight, accusing us of preventing true revival and keeping thousands of youths from Christ. One irate Christian school teacher ranted I would have a lot to answer before God. I know who will win at the judgment. Respect for age, years of music training, experience etc., are shoved aside in the rush to defend an ugly style of music that cannot glorify God. Lovers of Christian Rock and Roll music rush to a heated defense, because they are an immature compromising crowd. Shallow music sung by shallow singers results in shallow listeners. True separation demands that a true Christ honoring believer must avoid such music. Religious rock loving fans seldom develop into Godly, holy, lifetime Christ honoring servants. True Christian leaders must keep such music out of our churches and from our youth. We must cry with the Bible, "How long will you turn my glory into shame" Psm. 4:2.