

Articles and Sermons :: Stop the music**Stop the music - posted by lylewise, on: 2011/5/15 11:25**

This is no plea on behalf of the CoC or any other denomination wishing to silence or ban instruments from a service. It is however a question as to the productivity and beneficiality of their use in stirring up that which would be better solicited in silence. One motivated by sound contrasting the other motivated by the still inward voice. Some will say it is but an accompaniment to the inward voice and therefore a compliment. If that be the case then the question should be can we really provide such a compliment?

My thoughts go to the small house church or the meeting of a few. Where there is no background music? What are they missing? While there may not be agreement on the alter call, or the tithe in the traditional sense, is it not a strange phenomena that the soundtrack played in many a church setting is common to the service. Do we really need the soundtrack that is played ever so lightly in the background as we pray and worship our Lord and Savior? It is so appropriate in a movie that one does not notice. Take the soundtrack out of the movie and you have a different movie altogether.

It seems as though silence is no longer golden but has become rather awkward. Might this in any way be an indicator or barometer as to the state of lethargy that has become the norm in the church? Since when has there ever been a greater crescendo than God Himself? By the noise of men do we drown out the very still voice that we purpose to hear? I know this might bother some but on many an occasion a corporate prayer has been crashed by an unnecessary score.

I do not run to put on my earphones and hit the background music when I glance at the sun set on my drive home. I don't ask my wife in the birthing room if she packed the ipod for when our child's head appears. When I look up in the sky and gaze up into the vastness of space and feel the awe I do not hit play on the mp3 player. Even when I go into my prayer closet I do not take such an accompaniment. If it is not necessary that we should carry a soundtrack with us for such an occasion(s) then why is it such a needed background to the service. Even if one does not agree with the prayer for the alter call and the prayer that precedes the tithe, does this accompaniment not seem a bit more fitting for a movie than a church service?

Re: Stop the music, on: 2011/5/15 11:42

Well, none of us wants to judge every service or sermon by this, but I agree in the many cases with your bottomline.

We don't need mood music to work up a move of GOD on our hearts. It's either there and genuine or it's not and no amount of background music could or should attempt to work it up.

Nevertheless, we'll have to just not let it interfere with the Voice of the Holy Spirit in our spirit if we do hear it in a audio message or in a live service. If we're really in the spirit - nothing but what HE's doing in us, at that moment, will matter in the least nor can anything take away from Him.

Interesting thing that you've brought this up. I noticed it last week in an audio - after not hearing that type 'working up' in many years.

As much as I love hearing our classic hymns of the Church - Silence is also a beautiful thing in His Presence. Gives Him opportunity to let us hear Heavenly songs as well.

Have a Blessed Sunday!

Re: - posted by lylewise, on: 2011/5/15 11:55

All of the years previous to marrying my wife, I had slept in total silence. I am a light sleeper and silence was necessary for a good nights sleep. However, this was not true for my wife. She brought into the bedroom a fan and some white noise, creating a very different atmosphere for sleep. The result? I conformed and today I can no longer sleep in silence as the silence itself has become unbearable. Funny what we get use to.

Re: , on: 2011/5/15 12:00

:) Yes. - and all for the love of The Bride.

Bless you Brother!!

Re: - posted by HeartSong, on: 2011/5/15 14:46

When I lived in the city, I would occasionally go to the mountains for some peace and quiet. When I would first arrive at the cabin, my ears used to ring terribly in the silence - craving the noise of which they were so accustomed.

Now, since the LORD has gotten a hold of me, and I have moved to a quieter place, it is the reverse. Loud music and noise drives me away. My whole insides cringe and my head starts to throb in the driving chaos - and just now, as I write this, I have become aware of the problem and solution. It is the enemy trying to silence me and drive me away from certain situations.

"And arose, and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, Peace, be still. And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm." - Mark 4:39

Re: - posted by TrueWitness, on: 2011/5/15 17:17

From the title of this thread and the initial post it sounds to me like you want to make an iron-clad law that there shall be no music whatsoever in the church. I don't think that is reasonable. Everything being done decently and in order, there is a time for music and a time for quietness. Let us be led by the Spirit of God.

Ephesians 5:19 -addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart,

Re: Stop the music - posted by DEADn (), on: 2011/5/15 17:37

I have thought the same thing many, many times. Why is there the need for music in the church, especially at those moments when maybe there should be silence or low singing.

When I have pondered this, the catholic church doesn't have it. They have choirs but I don't think they bring actual music into the scene. Yet at altar calls in protestant churches it seems to be brought in as mood or emotional music.

I have wondered why it was used a lot at Times Square church as well, especially at the end. It is my own thinking though.

Re: - posted by lylewise, on: 2011/5/15 18:37

No Truewitness, that was not my intent. I may not have done a very good job at communicating my concern. I assure you there is enough law (I live in the bible belt) burdening people here that no additional need be added.

It is more an awareness of how much it resembles those things outside the church. My intention in attending the fellowship is to worship and draw closer to my Lord and Savior. I do not want what is artificial stirring me to that end if it is possible that what it has stirred in me was instilled artificially as well.

Might it be better served by example? Shall we take our ipod and play music in order to compliment our prayers when we are alone with God. Who does this? I often have trouble listening for God's voice in prayer because my mind races and so many things compete for what is most important. Should I impede it more with music that may further drown Him out? I hope I have distinguished between the two for I'm not advocating eliminating song or instrument. Where in scripture would

uld one find that or even want to? We should seek Him with all we have in us. There should be times that men fear to to uch the key or string. There just doesn't seem to be enough of them.

Re: - posted by rusaved1, on: 2011/5/15 18:43

Excellent point, lylewise. You might be interested to know that the term "a Capella" actually means "of the church." Just something to consider...

DEADn, the catholic church actually does have music in their mass. Personally, I highly dislike their whole style of music , which is a blasting organ and some high soprano which virtually drown everyone else out. Not that what they do matter s...but they are truly one of the "congregations of the dead" and have ruined a (great) hymn or two for me just because o f how they go about it. Anyway, forgive my rambling.

rusaved1

Re: Stop the music - posted by Enochh (), on: 2011/5/15 21:31

I speak only from experience as a former pastor and american christian. We use music for a couple of reasons. 1). The peoples hearts are so filled with trash (love of the world) that we think the only way the Lord can get to their heart is if we soften it with our beautiful praise teams efforts. So proud of our selfs. What would He do without us. 2) we are so uncom fortable with silence. "Be still and know that I am God"

With our I Phones, Laptops, I Pods, cell phones, TV when can we be still. so at the end of the service please play a little something for us real softlyI might hear my heart convict me of sin if you don't

Re: - posted by PaulWest (), on: 2011/5/15 21:37

Quote:

-----It seems as though silence is no longer golden but has become rather awkward. Might this in any way be an indicator or barometer as to the state of lethargy that has become the norm in the church?

It's not so much the lethargy of the church, I believe, as the human habit of men and women constantly needing somethi ng to occupy and stimulate their minds to escape the void. When the mind is not occupied with Christian meditation, it se arches for something to fill it: Music, conversation, reading, visual stimulation, et cetera. The incessant need to "fill the v oid" by electrifying a human sense, and thus touch the soul.

When a person is in accord with the Holy Spirit, however, he may only sing a few verses of hymn and suddenly be trans ported into God's presence. We need to be careful in differentiating between that which vivifies spirit and that which touc hes the soul. The reason so many fellowships seem to go overboard with the music and dynamic choirs (I'm sure you've noticed, some sessions will go on for an hour or more) is because of this failure to differentiate. If your heart is right with God, you won't need an hour of singing. A few hymns or pious songs will normally suffice, and then you're ready for the preaching of the Word of God.

But we live in an entertainment-laden world, and many believers have yet to be weaned from the habit of "occupation", e ven after years and years of following Christ. We simply expect something to fill the void of corporate silence each time. There's got to be some person performing, a chorus, a stimulation of some sort, otherwise it can get uncomfortable prett y fast! The very fact that we grow uncomfortable in the face of silence, speaks of our lack of filling and abundance. A per son in the presence of the Lord, on the other hand, is perfectly comfortable in silent introspection (yea, he even welcome s it), for his "occupation" is within, and not dependant upon any outer stimulai.

Re: Stop the music, on: 2011/5/15 22:56

I once walked into a church here that was so full of noise i never went back. They have a large tv (ON) hanging from the ceiling in the entryway and then in the sanctuary a huge movie screen like you see in theaters, with loud speakers and s urround sound!! The place screamed WORLDLY. It was like a concert hall and so loud i could not hear myself THINK, le t alone pray.

Then I encountered a teenager in the lobby who's appearance and behavior were dripping with carnality. One of the elde rs of the place had also been arrested for drunk driving after killing someone. Despite all this i gave the church a chance and sat through a sermon by the pastor. The sermon was on spiritual gifts and it was alright but i did not find the place to

be Christ-focused much. Rather it seemed entertainment focused and i know from personal experience the pastor is desperate to get as many people in as possible and build up his congregation; he wants a LARGE church. I, however, never went back.

Re: - posted by JB1968 (), on: 2011/5/15 23:20

I don't blame you CyAn. Church is to be a place to meet God, not a carnival.

Re: , on: 2011/5/16 1:36

Thankyou for that! What a breath of fresh air you are!

It seems when i mention this to other "Christians" they dont agree; they just want their rocknroll religion and entertainments. I just want to barf. On the other extreme is the church i grew up in which had only organ music and hymnals. You would be instructed to stand up, sing, sit down, stand up, sing, sit down, stand up, sit down. It felt so ritualistic and false. And the organ music was so awful and so loud I would always sit in the very back to protect my poor eardrums but it was never far enough. Organs are not the instruments God tells us in His Word to use to worship Him, maybe that is the problem. When will the churches begin obeying God? God lists the instruments HE wishes to be praised with. Drums and organs are not on there. Just my two cents.

Re: - posted by HeartSong, on: 2011/5/16 1:54

We are to be the instruments of His praise.

Quote:

-----It's not so much the lethargy of the church, I believe, as the human habit of men and women constantly needing something to occupy and stimulate their minds to escape the void. When the mind is not occupied with Christian meditation, it searches for something to fill it: Music, conversation, reading, visual stimulation, et cetera. The incessant need to "fill the void" by electrifying a human sense, and thus touch the soul.

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But we live in an entertainment-laden world, and many believers have yet to be weaned from the habit of "occupation", even after years and years of following Christ. We simply expect something to fill the void of corporate silence each time. There's got to be some person performing, a chorus, a stimulation of some sort, otherwise it can get uncomfortable pretty fast! The very fact that we grow uncomfortable in the face of silence, speaks of our lack of filling and abundance. A person in the presence of the Lord, on the other hand, is perfectly comfortable in silent introspection (yea, he even welcomes it), for his "occupation" is within, and not dependant upon any outer stimuli.

God bless you brother Paul. I pray that the LORD would send you around more often.

Re: Stop the music - posted by sonsigns (), on: 2011/5/16 11:10

Amen. Music has its place during worship service. Maybe even at an altar call. There are many times the preacher gives an altar call and starts praying out loud, then the music picks up a few octaves then I can't hear and agree with the prayer. Such a waste of breath when it was intended for instruction and salvation.

Music has its place. I would rather hear a good prayer than the choir and piano.

Was there good music in the background when our Christ gave us "the Lord's Prayer?"

How about when John the Baptist strolled into town. Did he strut in with a boom box on his shoulder singing "Repent, ya, Repent, ya baby, repent for the kingdom of God is at hand. Oh ya, Repent"

Did the strings of a symphony play when the Apostles said to the cripple at the gate beautiful "silver and gold have I none, but what I have I give to you. Rise up and walk!"

No, a million times NO!

Music has its place, but not during the preaching like I see televangelists do all the time. It is an annoyance.

Not during the prayer service or alter call. For the Holy Spirit doesn't need an introduction or an accompaniment.

And not in ones prayer closet because how can you hear the still small voice during your prayer or a watch. You can not.

"Be still and know that I am God". I believe that is the message for many today.

Are you listening?