

What God Thinks about Your Kids' Music

I. Everything Either Glorifies God or Steals Glory from Him

- *Directly*: When we use auditory and visual cues in our communication, and our audience walks away understanding that we were deliberately pointing to God, He is glorified *directly*. This happens in preaching, sacred art, and Christian music because the theme is clearly understood to be about nothing other than God and His truth.
- *Indirectly*: Indirect glorification occurs when the audience has prior knowledge that allows them to see beyond the surface communication to the deeper truths. For example: to anyone with eyes, a flower can be described as colorful or beautiful. A dozen roses can communicate love and desire. But a Christian who looks beyond these simple concepts and views the flower as a stunning creation of God and symbol of His power has seen the glory the flower brought God indirectly. Psalm 19:1 depicts this simply with the lines, *"The heavens are telling of the glory of God; And their expanse is declaring the work of His hands."*
- A profane tongue will tear down the opinion someone may have of God. A graduate of a Christian school turns his back on God's truth and fills social media with atheistic philosophies and harsh criticisms about God and religion. This is one way of directly stealing God's glory.
- Unfortunately, it's far easier to indirectly steal His glory. When we take the credit for His working in our lives, we raise our own estimation in other's eyes and undercut His. In fact, any time we don't acknowledge God in our lives, we're ignoring Him and indirectly offending Him. Please understand that this is not somehow more acceptable or "not as bad." Sins of omission are just as sinful as sins of commission.

II. Perversion Steals God's Glory

- *"Keep your tongue from evil."* Psalm 34:13
- *"He that hath a perverse tongue falls into mischief."* Proverbs 17:20
- *"The perverted tongue will be cut out."* Proverbs 10:31
- It's a sad reality that the vast majority of pop, rap, country, R&B, alternative, and rock that our kids are filling their minds with teem with perversion. Whether it's rebellion against authority, criminal activity, or ever-present sexuality, today's popular music is brimming with it.

III. Suggestion Steals God's Glory

- *"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."* Philippians 4:8
- Isaiah 1 is an amazing passage full of surprising comments from God. Verse 13 starts a section where God tells the children of Israel to stop doing all of the sacrificial things He had previously commanded them to do. He tells them to stop because they're "doing" all of the right external things, but inside they are unrighteous and impure.

- What's the implication to suggestive content? The sacrificial system was a picture of what Christ was going to accomplish for us as the perfect sacrificial lamb. It was a beautiful and tragic image. So, if God hates the figurative picture a something beautiful and right when it's offered with a sinful heart, how much more does He hate the picture of sin sung with a sinful heart?

IV. Sinful Association Steals God's Glory

- *Paul has an extended discussion about whether or not the Christians in Corinth should eat meat lest they wrongly associate themselves with something that could cause a weaker brother to stumble. Making sure that our liberty doesn't trip someone else up is called love.*
- *"Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor;." Romans 12:10*

V. Errant Philosophy Steals God's Glory

- *"Holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power; Avoid such men as these. For among them are those who enter into households and captivate weak women weighed down with sins, led on by various impulses, always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth." II Timothy 3:5-7*
- *Consider Disney's "Let it Go." Within the context of the movie, the song makes sense because it's being sung by a very selfish woman who just hurt everyone in her life by making a very foolish choice. But when cute little five-year old girls sings, **"It's time to see what I can do, To test the limits and break through, No right, no wrong, no rules for me I'm free!"** you have to wonder if they're being taught Christ-honoring philosophies.*

VI. Idolatry Steals God's Glory

- *Consider your children and their music: 1. When they're having a bad day, do they run to their iPod before they run to the Scripture? 2. Do they talk to their friends more about their favorite bands/groups/singers than God? 3. Would they rather drown in their tunes than talk with you on the way to school?*
- *I would say music has become their idol.*
- *When we turn to our tunes before turning to God, our music has taken His place. When my music comforts me and excites me more than His truth, my music is my God. When you prove with your money and your time and your conversation that music is worth more to you than God, you're worshipping an idol.*
- *"Do not go after other gods to serve them and to worship them, and do not provoke Me to anger with the work of your hands, and I will do you no harm." Jeremiah 25:6*