

A Grid for Evaluating Music

You need to ask good questions about the music you hear and sing and play ...

Questions related to truth and worldview:

- 1) What is this song saying?
 - Ask this of the words; the music doesn't "say" anything.
- 2) What worldview is expressed in the words of the song?
 - What does the song say about God, the world around us, reality, humanity, the meaning of life, right and wrong, etc.?
- 3) Are the words true? Are they biblical? Are they God-honoring?
 - Philippians 4:8

Questions related to affections and emotions:

- 4) What affections does the music raise?
 - How does the song make me feel?
- 5) Are these affections reflected in the music itself or are they the result of associations I am imposing on the music?
- 6) Do the affections reflected in the music faithfully express the intent of the words?
 - Does the message of the words and the affections of the music undergird one another or distract from one another?
- 7) When and where and for what purpose would this song be useful?

Questions related to identity and expression:

- 8) Why do I want to hear (sing) this song?
- 9) Do I connect with this song? Is this who I am?
 - Do the words express what I want to say?
 - ♦ Why or why not?
 - ♦ Who says these kinds of words?
 - ♦ As a Christian, should I be saying this?
 - Does the music express the way I feel?
 - ♦ Why or why not?
 - ♦ Who feels this way?
 - ♦ As a Christian, should I be feeling this way about what is being said in the song?
- 10) Can I listen to (sing) this song to the glory of God?
 - 1 Corinthians 10:31