

**SHAME SHAME SHAME**  
By. Dr. Hal Webb, Evangelist

" How long will ye turn my glory into shame"  
Psalm. 4:2.

Each generation seems to change from the beliefs and practices of the generation before. Sometimes a change in culture brings out that which is good. Then there are times when the new that replaces the old is bad. "Christian Music" in this new age of thinking certainly brings shame on the cause of the Saviour. A number of people are guilty before God and today push this brand of cheap music on the Christian world.

SHAME on Religious Song Writers and Publishers who style their compositions to sound like the depraved music of Rock, Disco and Rap, with fleshly beat and "copy cat" instrumental arrangements. They hide a few shallow gospel words among the beat and roar of flesh pleasing- sounds in the hope of bringing sinners to Christ. One does not have to place sizzling steak in a garbage can to entice people to eat. God's Holy Truths don't need the vehicle of worldly sounds to please the ears of electronic-dazed youths. All music either lifts the soul or feeds the flesh. It is easy to see the deterioration by comparing past and present compositions of writers and publishers. Most can no longer be trusted for decent background tapes, choir arrangements, cantatas and other church music. As long as choir directors, musicians and "Christian" stations push it, writers and publishers will keep putting the pocket book ahead of the "Good Book". They are to be blamed for spreading the jungle beat, flesh pleasing religious music of today. Their Pied Piper leadership, as they participate in the "dumbing down" of religious music, will be faced at the Judgment Throne before God. His command is to "love not the world, neither the

things that are in the world" I John 5:15. When Christian music carries the beat, instrumentation and the exact styling and sound of the lost crowd, it results in confusion and shame.

SHAME on Christian Musicians and Entertainers who with worldly hair and dress and mannerisms fail to glorify God. They croon words of shallow religious thought, singing anywhere and everywhere, gathering praise to themselves. They become youth's substitute for Rock with their so called "Christian" Rock, Disco and even country music. Their compromising squirm up the ladder of popular religious music cannot glorify God. Modern religious concerts attract the same hand-clapping, swaying, foot stomping, hero-worshipping fans as the world's Rock scene, Reveling in the praise of men, they blend worldly music techniques and lead youth away from proven musical values. Charging high prices for tickets and seeking men's praise is certainly not "doing all to the glory of God" I Corinthians 10:31. Shame on new-sound singers who's style and background tapes are the same as today's depraved secular music. Spotlights flash and drum beats roll but it's all for the flesh and little for the soul.

SHAME on Christian Radio Stations, many of whom owe their beginning to little old ladies who gave much of their life's savings to have good Christian programming on their radio. Most such stations chase the ratings and play contemptible music not fit for Christian families. Dear old saints would "turn over" in their graves and pull the plug to avoid the music coming from once good stations. A few good national programs are sandwiched between hours of local trash recording, sung by flesh pleasing groups who love and propagate the "jungle beat." Many national programs have also suffered in the quality and content of their music. They have turned from spiritually blessing the musical soul to pleasing the worldly tastes of the weak. Shame on managers

and "disc jocks" who cater to shallow listener desires and "Rock" through the day with shameful music. Perhaps the "Charismatic" stations are most guilty, playing that which "old time" Pentecostals should rise up and condemn. When spinning the dial one often wonders where is that Christian station. The new sound stations put popularity above spirituality, place worldly before Holy and sensual above spiritual. Paul would surely say "I speak to your shame" I Corinthians 6:5.

SHAME on Ministers and Music Directors who have allowed their music to deteriorate into cheap entertainment. The "new sound" has invaded the choir, the yearly cantata, and special numbers which feature the sounds and shallow faith of modern writers, publishers and singers. It is shameful to use musicians who in shallow songs confuse and daze instead of praise, who entertain instead of train. The worldly drum and guitar techniques featured in most groups will be counter productive to the ministry. Ministers who allow questionable groups and beat music are degrading the house of God. The pulpit is a holy place for holy servants, truly converted, surrendered and dedicated, to inspire people to glorify God. Failure to shepherd the flock in this area will lead to the suicide of Christ-honoring music in the church. Youth pastor's and choir directors need to beware this shameful worldly music craze. It's impossible to take a stand against the world's Rock and Roll, and welcome the same beat and sounds in Contemporary Christian music used in so many churches musical programs these days.

SHAME on Christian Parents who are so naive they can't seem to sense what such music is doing to their children. Most true believers know that worldly Rock must be banned or it will lead our kids into sex, drugs and rebellion. Teens can become just as addicted to "Christian" Rock and cheap religious music as they can to drugs. Drums, screaming guitars, and

the shallow leadership of worldly musicians will hinder spiritual growth in your children. The Bible commands "train up a child in the way he should go" Proverbs 22:6. Exercising control over listening habits along with the providing of quality Christian music is a "must" in raising Godly children. Parents must stand together for good music in their church and the youth group as well. Hero-worshipping teens must learn to love good music and be taught to avoid the bad. Good records and tapes along with control over radio and TV listening are essential. Quality parents cannot develop quality children on a music diet of cheap religious words couched in heathen tempos.

SHAME on Christian Teens who are still hooked on the world's sensual Rock and yet profess to love God. Many of you have grudgingly given it up, replacing it with the same beat and tempo of "Christian" Rock. You like it because it still speaks pleasingly to your flesh, and it's shallow message doesn't cramp you world-loving style. You "dig" modern religious singers defend their compromise and slip further away from the Saviour. It is easy to mistaken crowds and teen excitement for the real thing. Christian entertainers accompanied by "drum frenzies" and "guitar squeals" become teen idols in the same way Rock fans of the world are captured. Teens who limit their musical experience to this crowd seldom attain little depth in Christian growth. The album jackets resemble the world's and the pictures of the musicians often reveal the fact of their lack of obedience to clear Bible commands. The worship owed to Christ is transferred to "concert hopping", money hungry entertainers, who have never left the world far enough behind to stop sounding like it. We are all urged to "love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind" Matthew 22:37. This cannot be done listening to the worldly, often Charismatic religious beat music of today.

Wise teens will choose music which glorifies Christ, builds genuine devotion in their lives and results in genuine Praise before God.

SHAME on All Believers who do not cry out a warning against the rape of Christ-honoring music by today's compromising musicians. Wise believers have enjoyed too many years of beautiful, inspiring Christian music to give in to this new popular brand of counterfeit, fleshly, "Christian" entertainment. I challenge all believers to work for the return of good quality Christian music to our churches, homes, schools, radio stations and television. Never forget the Psalmist's cry "Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, Oh Lord, my strength, and my redeemer" Psalms 19:14. The "new song" we need to sing is not the contemptible, contemporary and "Christian" Rock of this age..

Let's praise the Lord for the good music that prevails in our church. Many have opportunity to participate and the hymn book is often used and just good music allowed. I have said that the first step in the down fall of a church is the cheap contemporary music. Our musicians do not perform in the style of compromised Christianity. To sing is not to show off ones talents but to bring blessing to the hearers. May I encourage you to thank Jeff for his faithfulness to good quality music and our dear choir who faithfully sing quality, heart warming numbers. Our pastor and Georlene have also done wonders to keep our music acceptable unto the Lord. As a musical evangelist I pray we will never fall into the trap of contemptible contemporary music. Lets encourage our young people to sing loudly and use their talents for the Lord. Our whole congregation should sing lustily to the glory of God raising songs of praise to glorify His name.