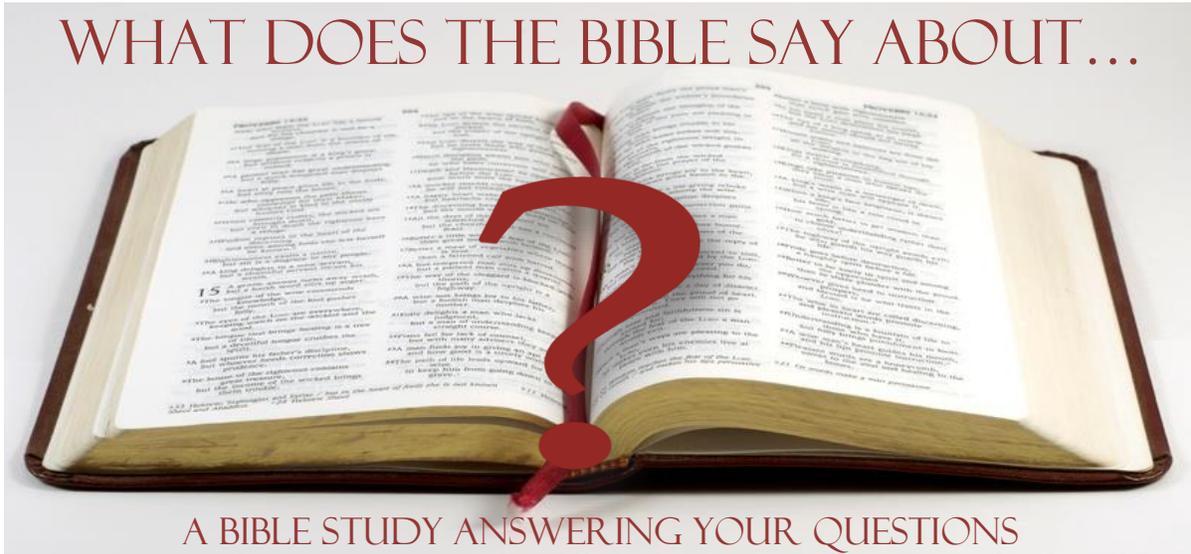


# WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT...



## A BIBLE STUDY ANSWERING YOUR QUESTIONS

### Lesson 6

#### Music and the media we watch or listen to...

**Psalms 101:3** I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes: I hate the work of them that turn aside; *it shall not cleave to me.*

**Philippians 4:8** Finally, brethren, 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.

#### Music:

Music can have an alluring and intoxicating effect (not as getting drunk, but, it has a way of drawing you into it).

The Scriptural principle is "not to set any wicked thing before you".

Can we and/or should we listen to non-Christian music?

You ever hear the phrase, "you are what you eat"? In principle I think this applies.

Is all "non-Christian" music bad? No

Some music, in my opinion, is bad by association.

Rather than give you a list of good and bad music here is a list of things to consider:

1. What do the words say? Godly/Ungodly
2. Does it honor God or not?
3. What does the music promote?
4. What about the musician/singer? What is their lifestyle like? Do you feel like you can emulate your life after their example?
5. What effect will this music have in my life? Will it draw me closer to or further away from God?

Most (not all) Christian music will at least promote Godly thought and worship.

Remember, Satan was created an angel who was the worship leader in heaven, it's said that his body was like a musical instrument. He uses music to draw people away from God.

### **Television / Video etc...:**

I believe the same principle applies, **Psalm 101:3** "I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes: I hate the work of them that turn aside; *it shall not cleave to me.*"

We as individuals and also as a family need to set the standard by which we will guide what we allow in our homes. Would you allow someone to curse, commit murder, and/or rape in your home? Would you allow two unmarried individuals to sleep together in your home and with the knowledge of your children???

Would you allow someone to do drugs in front of you or your children? You get the idea.

There is little programming available today which has redeeming value.

If a program/video has sexual content, immoral behavior, and/or promotes behavior that is against what the Word of God promotes, it ought to be avoided.

Videos and programs that used to be rated "R", are now "PG" and "PG-13".

Another subject is, how much time am I giving to these influences?

Whether we like it or not, we live in a media driven society. Almost everyone has some sort of screen in front of them every day.

The principles we use need to be applied to every aspect of our lives, even in what we allow on our computers.

## Speaking in tongues:

There are different kinds of tongues mentioned in the Bible.

1. Tongues as the initial sign of receiving the Holy Ghost: Acts 2:38, Acts 10:46, Acts 19:6
  - Acts 2:1-4 The 120 on the Day of Pentecost
  - Acts 8:5-17 The Samaritans saved under Philip's ministry
  - Acts 9:3-18 When Ananias laid hands on Saul (later called Paul)
  - Acts 10:44-46 Cornelius and his household. The first gentiles saved, filled with the Holy Spirit, and spoke with other tongues.
  - Acts 19:1-7 Paul laid hands on the Ephesian disciples which had been saved. A year later when Paul laid hands on them, they were filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke in other tongues.
2. Tongues and interpretation of tongues: 1 Cor. 12:10, 1 Cor. 12:28, 1 Cor. 13:8
3. Diverse kinds of tongues: 1 Cor. 12:28

When someone receives the Holy Ghost, they will "speak in tongues". It is the initial sign of receiving the Holy Ghost.

Can someone speak in tongues in their sleep? Yes

Jesus took the most "unruly member of the body" (James 3:8), the tongue, and when we are filled with the Holy Ghost, he uses it to speak praises to God and as a sign to others that this person is filled with the Holy Ghost.

**Then there are tongues and interpretation of tongues:** This is a gift which God uses to exhort and encourage the church. Often someone will speak in tongues and another will interpret what the Lord said. When this happens in a service, it needs to be done for edification, secondly no more than two or three messages and interpretations in a service. 1 Cor. 14:27

**Diverse kinds of tongues:** First, the word "*diverse*" is in italics, meaning it was added by the translators.

Everyone who receives the Holy Ghost will speak in tongues.

Most people will not give a message in tongues and/or interpret the message.

Tongues can also be "devotional". Meaning, in prayer you can talk in tongues, the Lord knows what you are saying.

Tongues can also be used in intercession.

**What should you do when you feel like the Lord has called you into the ministry of intercession? Is intercession a ministry? If so, how do you prepare yourself for this ministry?**

Intercession is a prayer ministry that is vital to the church.

Simply stated, an intercessor prays for others and the church and often gains insight as revealed by the Lord.

Here are some of my observations:

1. Intercessors can be powerful and dangerous.
  - a. God can definitely speak to them. However, they can also be led astray easily.
  - b. If an intercessor is not willing to submit their gift to their pastor, they will likely cause damage and problems. It's easy to feel superior to other people who don't have the gift.
  - c. Sadly, some intercessors start to feel they are more in touch with God than the pastoral leadership. This is a tactic the devil uses to cause an intercessor to become rebellious.
  - d. Pastoral leadership is the highest level of authority in the church. God will never put you in a position to usurp authority in the church.
2. When properly submitted to leadership, the intercessor needs to work with the pastor but not overstep their responsibility.
  - a. Example, God shows you sin in someone's life, you bring it to the pastor and let Him deal with it, leave it alone after that.

- b. God tells you something about someone, what do you do? Pray... Intercede... Most of the time you are to say nothing to anyone. Certainly, you are to never confront the person without the pastor's direction or blessing.
3. The ministry of intercession must be driven out of a love for God and His people. You must desire to see God work in the lives of others. You must be compassionate.

What should you do when you feel a calling to become an intercessor? How do I prepare?

1. Study the Word about prayer and intercession. Ask for help from the pastor.
2. Pray and ask the Lord to show you how to become an intercessor and submit to His leadership and the pastor's leadership.

Is Intercession a ministry? Definitely yes!

### **Women in Ministry:**

Can women open a church, can they preach? What does the Bible say about women in ministry?

Rev. Clifford Readout sent me an extensive lesson on this subject; that lesson is attached.

Those that teach against women in ministry use 1 Tim. 2:12 to support their belief.

**1 Timothy 2:12** But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence.

This is a strong Scripture and should not be ignored.

Historically, however, we should also know that this was not the norm in the early church. Paul was writing to Timothy and likely dealing with a specific problem (later in the lesson).

The Biblical historical evidence supports women in ministry just as strong if not stronger.

The instruction Paul gives Timothy is that, "I suffer not a woman to teach not to usurp authority over the man".

As long as she is not "usurping" or taking authority over a man, it's permissible for women to be in ministry.

A common objection is that Paul only restricted the women of Ephesus from teaching (1 Timothy was written to Timothy, who was the pastor of the church in Ephesus). The city of Ephesus was known for its temple and worship to Artemis, a **false Greek/Roman goddess**. Women were the authority in the worship of Artemis. This may be a likely reason for Paul's instructions to Timothy.

### **Old Testament history includes accounts of strong female leadership in many roles.**

Miriam was a prophet to Israel during the Exodus, alongside her brothers Moses and Aaron (Exodus 15:20).

Deborah, both a prophet and a judge, directed Barak to lead the army of Israel into successful combat against Israel's oppressors (Judges 4 to 5).

Huldah, also a prophet, authenticated the scroll of the Law found in the temple and helped spark religious reform in the days of Josiah (2 Kings 22:14–20; 2 Chronicles 34:22–28).

### **The New Testament also shows that women filled important ministry roles in the Early Church.**

Tabitha (Dorcas) initiated an effective benevolence ministry (Acts 9:36).

Philip's four unmarried daughters were recognized prophets (Acts 21:8,9).

Paul singled out two women, Euodia and Syntyche, as "women who have contended at my side in the cause of the gospel, along with Clement and the rest of my fellow workers" (Philippians 4:2,3).

Priscilla was another of Paul's exemplary "fellow workers in Christ Jesus" (Romans 16:3,4).

In Romans 16, Paul greets numerous ministry colleagues, a large number of them women. In these greetings, the word Paul uses to speak of the work (*kopiaō*), or labor, of Mary, Tryphena, Tryphosa, and Persis (Romans 16:6,12) is one he uses

extensively for the labor of ministry (1 Corinthians 16:16; 1 Thessalonians 5:12; 1 Timothy 5:17).

Phoebe, a leader in the church at Cenchrea, was highly commended to the church at Rome by Paul (Romans 16:1,2).

Phoebe was diakonos of the church at Cenchrea. Paul regularly used this term for a minister or leader of a congregation and applied it specifically to Jesus Christ, Tychicus, Epaphras, Timothy, and to his own ministry.

Junia was identified by Paul as an apostle (Romans 16:7). Beginning in the thirteenth century, a number of scholars and translators masculinized her name to Junias, apparently unwilling to admit that there was a female apostle. However, the name Junia is found more than 250 times in Rome alone, while the masculine form Junias is unknown in any Greco-Roman source. Paul clearly was a strong advocate of women in ministry.

These instances of women filling leadership roles in the Bible should be taken as a divinely approved pattern, not as exceptions to divine decrees. Even a limited number of women with scripturally commended leadership roles affirm that God does indeed call women to spiritual leadership.