

Music Philosophy

This statement is the institutional philosophy of FBBC&TS. It is not intended to be a model for any individual, church, or organization.

We believe that music is a gift from God to be used for His glory (Colossians 1:16). Music is important in our culture, in the church, and in the believer's life. It is a language with which we can communicate with God and with each other. Music influences us in many ways: physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually (I Samuel 16:23).

As a language for the Christian, music should express that which is pure and wholesome. Since there are over 500 references to music in Scripture, we conclude that God considers music to be an important aspect of the Christian life about which we should make wise, discerning choices. We believe that a godly Christian testimony necessitates a guard against music that might dishonor the name of God or lessen the Christian's influence in the world. We desire to honor God in our music philosophy and practice as we seek to prepare men and women to serve the Lord in local, fundamental Baptist churches.

Our policies stem from Biblical principles upon which the institution is founded. We are seeking to instill in the lives of our young people a passion for that which is excellent as commanded in the Scriptures (Philippians 1:9, 10). We believe that music expresses morality and is not amoral. The Bible is clear that we are to be different from the world, set apart unto the Lord, and living a Christ-like life (Romans 12:1, 2; Philippians 2:5; 1 John 2:15-17). We believe that a Christian's music should be an expression of this separation.

Great music through the years has been based upon an appropriate, skillful organization of melody, harmony, and rhythm. This organization is not merely the product of a particular cultural preference but is rooted in the natural order of created things, reflecting the image of God in man (Genesis 1:27; 1 Corinthians 14:33, 40). We believe good music is based primarily upon appealing melody, is enhanced by harmony, and is supported by appropriate rhythm. There is a wide variety of acceptable styles available to the believer in both sacred and secular realms. Our music emphasis is directed to help students acquire a taste for God-honoring music about which there is no question. In this way, we hope to encourage students to grow and expand their knowledge and understanding of music and to honor God in the use of music both in practice and performance.

We further believe that music is a vital part of the life of our student body, and it is our desire to help them in this area to be fully equipped for the ministry. Most

importantly, we want to help our students conform to the image of Christ and to be an accurate reflection of Him. This is a primary goal of all our Christian education programs.

To achieve the above, we believe basic guidelines are needed for making decisions about the choice of music which students listen to or perform. The following are in keeping with that principle:

1. In the area of vocal music, special attention should be given to insure that the text is appropriate to a godly testimony. This includes both content and literary style (Colossians 3:16; Ephesians 4:29, 5:4).
2. Performance techniques should reinforce the message of the song and should avoid sensuality or the glorification of the performer (1 Corinthians 10:31).
3. While enrolled at Faith, students should refrain from listening to or performing rock, rap, country and western, new age, and jazz, as well as any "Christian" music that borrows these styles (1 John 2:15).
4. Songs or styles, which are strongly identified with unbiblical movements or worldly practices, should be avoided (Romans 12:1, 2). We do not wish to lead students toward music which is questionable or which might violate believers' consciences. However, we do wish to "follow after the things which make for peace and things where with one may edify another" (Romans 14:15-19).