

January 30, 2022

Life Song Family Class 3: The 4 Passions of Life Song Church

Please remember to sign in if you want to receive credit for our Family Class #3. Also, if you choose to become a part of our family, there will be some homework to complete this class.

Passion: a strong feeling and enthusiasm about doing something (Webster). Everything stems from our vision; "Teaching Answers for *Life!*" We believe the Bible is the infallible Word of God and holds all of the answers to life. From this we developed four passions (purposes) that are to give identity and direction to our ministry.

1. **Commitments for Christ**
2. **Living a God-honoring Culture**
3. **The Power of Life Changing Music**
4. **Reaching the Young and the Young at heart**

It is our desire to reach everyone with the love and Gospel of Jesus Christ, but how we walk out our ministry is expressed in our passions.

1. Commitments for Christ

There are several expressions that relate to "being saved" through Jesus Christ, but we chose "Commitments for Christ" because we believe it best describes what is actually taking place. When a person says a prayer to ask Jesus to forgive them and come into their heart a supernatural process starts to take place...we start to become like Jesus. He said we must follow Him and the only way that is possible is by His shed blood allowing us to receive His grace and power of the Holy Spirit. The motivational force behind our commitment is love. **Once we receive His love, the commitment will follow.** We are committed to Him because we chose to be, not because we are forced to. Jesus shed His blood and died in order to establish the New Covenant. Covenant means "contract" which is a commitment between two parties. We enter into a blood covenant with Jesus when we ask Him into our heart. **Agape love** is basically a choice to love someone unconditionally, to make a commitment to them to always have their best interest in our heart.

5 times in the Gospels Jesus said we must be willing to leave all, take up our cross and follow Him.

Matt 10:37-39 *He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. 38 And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me. 39 He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for My sake will find it.*

John 13:34-35 *A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. 35 By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."*

2. Living a God-honoring Culture

Sometimes we might think it is impossible to honor God in a culture that is self-indulgent, self-absorbed, and many times anti-God. It is possible because we have all we need in Christ Jesus. We should never be made to feel ashamed for being loved by our Heavenly Father and living a life committed to Jesus Christ.

Living a God-honoring culture simply means **putting God first in every area of our life**. If we want to change the culture around us, it starts with changing ourselves! When we honor God by putting Him first, we bring the presence of God into every situation we are in and sometimes we don't even have to say a word. In **Isaiah 58:8-9** the Word of God promises us that if our heart is to help other people especially the poor and oppressed, then we will shine like the morning, our righteousness shall go before us, the glory of the Lord will be our rear guard, and God will always answer us! People can sense something about us and many will be drawn to us through the charisma of the Holy Spirit that lives inside of us.

Seek God First! God wants to be first in our lives, not a left-over.

Matt 6:33-34 *But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.*

Seek: Strong's 2212 *zeteo* (dzay-teh'-o); to worship God, go about, desire, endeavor, enquire, require. Webster; to go in search for, try to discover.

God is new and fresh every day. His promises and blessings open to us as we seek Him first. When we **seek God first** He puts His blessing on the rest of the day, our finances, our family, our job, our life!

Prayer: seek God first by praying in the morning before you leave home. For some people this will work better at night and that is okay. Make an **"appointed time"** to get with God every day and pray.

Media: What we allow ourselves to see and hear or let into our heart will change our lives. How much time do we spend every day on face book, internet, video games, watching TV, and so on? **Seek God first** before any media stuff by watching 30 minutes of Christian media first.

Music: This is one of the most powerful, influential weapons of all time. Yes, music is a weapon that affects the brain and therefore affects the choices we make. Satan has used this weapon to take millions of people captive. Our words have the power of life and death. **Seek God first** by listening to Christian music. 90.7, 89.3, 99.7, 88.1, FM.

Sunday Church: Sunday is the first day of the week, so **seek God first** by faithfully attending church on Sunday and this will put a blessing on your entire week. Sabbath means rest and the Law of the Sabbath promises rest and blessings for those who are faithful.

Gal 6:7-8 *Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.* **Seek God first** by sowing time into relationships by coming to our **Life Group**, and all of your relationships will be blessed. No one can plug you in to a church and relationships; you have to plug yourself in! Get together with people outside of church. Come to our Women's Bible study on Mondays.

Finances: Jesus said in **Mtt 6:24**, *"You cannot serve God and money"* therefore **seek God first** with our finances and He will bless the rest! 90% of our income with God's blessing on it will go further and do more than 100% without God's blessing. Tithing is a "test" to see if we trust God in good times and in bad times. No matter how much you give, we care about you. It is not about your money it is about your heart.

3. The Power of Life Changing Music

Why did God make music so powerful? Because it is a weapon that allows believers (through Jesus Christ) to break through depression, guilt, shame, lies, heaviness, sickness and all of the powers of the enemy so we can go (spiritually) into God's throne room, into His presence where every stronghold of the enemy is broken and His love permeates our soul and renews our body and spirit. **Music opens up our mind and is a direct pathway into our heart** allowing us to receive be it the Word of God, or the

word of Satan. These words come in as seeds and will bring forth fruit. Satan knows this because he was the head worshipper in Heaven. He wanted to be worshipped so God cast him to Earth (**Ezekiel 29**). Music is a form of worship and what we worship, we give authority to.

What we give authority to can put us in bondage (depression, addiction, anger, discontentment, lust, greed, illness, ect). Much of secular music is about our own selfishness (sex, drugs, booze, divorce, money, my way, suicide, a broken life,

partying, and rebellion), not about God's amazing grace and power. Jesus is the answer and worthy to be praised! We have a choice to listen to something that could put us in bondage or something that will strengthen us and draw us closer to God.

Why do we lift our hands, get excited, dance, shout and clap during praise and worship?

There are over 500 verses in the Bible describing how God likes to be praised and this is called "**expressive worship**." We are so thankful and excited about what Jesus has done for us, and we can't help but to shout praises to His name!

***Thank:** Strong's #3034, Hebrew, *yadah*, (yah-dah); to revere or worship **with extended hands**; to praise, give thanks, acknowledge, declare the merits of someone. *Yadah* is an important word for "praise" or "thanks" and occurs over 100 times in the OT, with over half being in the Book of Psalms.

***Word Wealth, The Spirit Filled Life Bible**

David wrote Psalms to *yadah* the Lord!

1 Chron 16:7 "On that day David first delivered this psalm into the hand of Asaph and his brethren, to thank (**yadah**) the LORD:"

***Clap,** Strong's # 8628, *taqa* (tah-kah); indicates energy and enthusiasm and all the nations are commanded to clap their hands and shout triumphantly to God.

Ps 47:1-7 "Oh, **clap** your hands, all you peoples! **Shout** to God with the voice of triumph!...5 God has gone up with a shout, The LORD with the **sound of a trumpet**...4 He will choose our inheritance for us...7 For God is the King of all the earth; Sing praises with understanding. (See **Eph 1:18** and **Acts 1:9, 10**)

***Great Shout** Strong's # 8643 *teru'ah* (teh-roo-ah): A shout of joy a clamor blast of trumpets: the sounding of an alarm (especially with a trumpet); a cry of jubilee; a victory shout. *Teru'ah* is an ear-piercing great noise that cannot be ignored. ***Word Wealth Spirit Filled Life Bible.**

Our great shout of praise terrifies demons because our *teru'ah* is the same battle cry that the demons will hear at the last battle When Jesus Christ comes back to rule!! Our worship brings us into God's throne room breaking every bondage. It was a *teruah* shout and a blast of the shofars that brought down the walls of Jericho.

Our name "Life Song Church" actually means "Living Psalmist Shouting Praises to God."

When our praises, singing, and instruments come together in unity to make one sound, the glory of God will fall on us and empower us to ignite others with God's glory and love.

2 Chron 5:12-14 *indeed it came to pass, when the trumpeters and singers were as one, to make one sound to be heard in praising and thanking the LORD, and when they lifted up their voice with the trumpets and cymbals and instruments of music, and praised the LORD, saying: "For He is good, For His mercy endures forever," that the house, the house of the LORD, was filled with a cloud, 14 so that the*

*priests could not continue ministering because of the cloud; **for the glory of the LORD filled the house of God.***

Isa 6:1-4 *I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and the train of His robe filled the temple. 2 Above it stood seraphim; each one had six wings: with two he covered his face, with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. 3 And one **cried to another** and said: "**Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; The whole earth is full of His glory!**" 4 And the **posts of the door were shaken by the voice of him who cried out**, and the house was filled with smoke.*

True praise comes from a heart of worship as the revelation of God's holiness and glory builds in our spirit it breaks forth into shouting; "*Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; The whole earth is full of His glory!*"

John 4:23-24 *"But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. 24 God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."*

The Heart of Worship

True worship is one of the most beautiful, intimate experiences we can have as Christians. In true worship God hugs us, His love peace and joy resonates through our entire body. Tears of joy fill our eyes as our humility joins with His holiness. All the burdens of heaviness are lifted and we feel light as a feather while dancing with our Daddy God. We are laughing as He twirls us around. He looks at us in the eyes and says, "I love you, I always have and I always will!" This takes our breath away and melts our heart. We are so overcome by His love we can't even speak. We wrap our arms around our Father, kiss His cheek and He smiles. "I'm proud of you!" He says. "Go share My love by telling others about Jesus and remember whenever you need a hug and a kiss just lift your hands to Me and I'll pick you up." This is the heart of worship. Our heart is now ready to receive the Seed of the Word. We love You Daddy!

4. Reaching the Young and the Young at Heart

Approximately 85% of people who give their life to the Lord do so by age 18. We do Commitments for Christ in our Children's ministry! 75% of Christian Youth that enter a 4-year university program come out and are no longer active in a church because they were conformed by secular socialist professors and teachers. Often, Christians are ridiculed for their faith.

Only 5% of the 20-29 year old age group are active in a church because they no longer find it relevant.

When Life Song Church first started, we had a strong desire to create a church that would reach this young generation in a language and format that they could relate to, so we set up our Action Plan:

Sunday Action Plan: be blue jean friendly, piercing, tattoos, gothic, or whatever is fine. It is not about our dress it is about our heart. It is not about our past, it is about our future. We keep the messages relevant, upbeat and around 30 minutes long. We make it real by giving answers to real problems, and start each Sunday Celebration with a great band (worship team), offer delicious snacks and great coffee in order to create an ambience of friendship and family. We have a casual atmosphere, but teach a message that is very powerful and life changing.

This paper was written by Pastor Mike Smith for Speech 101 class at Saint Clair Community College

Music is one of the Most Powerful Influences Known to Man!

Did music make Brian Bassett kill his mother, father, and five-year-old brother? No! The correct question should be, "How much influence did music have in Brian Bassett's life?" Influence is defined in Webster's Dictionary as 1. the power to produce effects on others by intangible or indirect means. 5. to move or impel a person to some action. According to Webster's dictionary, influence can move us to action and murder is definitely an action.

How powerful of an influence, does music have? After all, the kids say that "It's all in fun; nobody is supposed to take the message seriously!" Well that logic completely ignores both the nature of man and the power of music. As Ken Wooden, investigative journalist and reporter with ABC's 20/20 has said, "Why do we spend billions on advertising? Because people answer the ads, this type of music is a form of advertising, and I've seen kids who have responded to the ads. I've seen them dead on marble slabs (1)."

Eric Holmberg has done extensive research for many years about the influence of music, and has produced many videos about this subject. Holmberg has interviewed many teenagers and most of them are oblivious to, and deny the influence music has on their live (2).

The Medical field is starting to understand the power and the influence of music through music therapy. According to an article written in the Journal of the American Medical Association by Charles Marwick, music is being used as a basis for communication for patients with learning disabilities, autism, psychiatric illnesses, and brain injuries, among other conditions (3).

Rick Weiss wrote an article for The Washing Post in the health section. He stated that music is being used to treat Parkinson's disease, Alzheimer's and dementia because, "brain areas dealing with cognition and language degenerate, the parts that respond to music are left intact, providing an alternate pathway into the mind," could this "alternate pathway into the mind" be reaching directly into the subconscious, and therefore bypass any defense mechanisms according to the mind model by Stephen Parkhill (4)?

Richard Pellegrino is a medical doctor and consultant for Billboard magazine; He stated, "Take it from a brain guy. In 25 years of working with the brain I still cannot affect the state of mind the way that one simple song can (5)."

As Dr. David Elkind noted in his book *The Hurried Child*, one of the most underestimated influences on young people today is the music industry (6). The American Academy of Pediatrics wrote their concern about musical lyrics, and titled the article "Impact of Music Lyrics and Music Videos on Children and Youth (RE9648)". "During the past four decades rock music lyrics have become increasingly explicit particularly with reference to sex, drugs and violence... Pregnancy, drug use, Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome(AIDS) other sexually transmitted diseases, injuries, homicide, and suicide have all become part of the landscape of everyday life for many American teens... Numerous studies indicate that a preference for heavy metal music may be a significant marker for alienation, substance abuse, psychiatric disorders, suicide risk, sex-role stereotyping, or risk-taking behaviors during adolescence (7)."

What about the people in music, what do they have to day? Eddie Mansion is an Oscar winning composer and one-time president of the American Society of Music Arrangers. He has stated "music is used everywhere to condition the human mind. It can be just as powerful as a drug and much more dangerous, because nobody takes musical manipulation very seriously (8)".

Perhaps rock's greatest genius Jimi Hendrix, told Life magazine in 1969, "I can explain everything better through music, you hypnotize people to where they go right back to their natural state, and when you get people at their weakest point, you can preach into their subconscious what we want to say (9).

"Tori Amos is a famous composer and signer, she has stated; "Music is the most powerful medium in the world because of the frequencies (10)."

Stuart Goldman, a former rock musician and critic, wrote in his essay for National Review, "You needn't go to a slasher film to see a woman being disemboweled in a Satanic-ritual, just turn on your local music video station. In short, rock has trivialized evil... Rock's sheer persuasiveness makes it the most profound value shaper in existence today. Unless you are deaf, it is virtually guaranteed that rock music has affected your view of the world. (11)".

The network MTV understands the power of influence as reflected in their statement, "We don't shoot for the 14-years-olds; we own them (12)." Dr. Joseph Arezzo, is the vice chair of the Department of Neuroscience at Albert Einstein College of Medicine. Dr. Arezzo stated, "Music can drive electrical networks within the brain and can help in the organization and reorganization of brain networks (13)." One of the ads for MTV has a scientific diagram of a brain and says "MTV aggressively reorganizing your brain, nothing could be more natural (14)."

Many artists when criticized of immoral lyrics and videos, claim their personal right to free speech, I ask you, how much is their "free speech" costing our society? There currently is an emergence of youth detention centers in large cities that house youth with an addiction to drugs and alcohol. The irony is that these centers are filled with more middle school aged children than high school students. A recent poll found that a majority of 6-9th grade students felt that date rape was justifiable. Persons under the age of 17 commit 70% of all violent crimes in the U.S. Police records are now starting to link many of these murders with rock music in some way (15). Suicide is the second leading cause of death for teenagers.

Lucas Salmon is serving life in prison for rape and murder, and he believes, "The music gets into your heart and soul and becomes who you are." Ted Bundy a mass serial killer accused of killing 25 women spoke to Dr. James Dobson in a recorded interview the day before his execution and warned us of the dangers of movies, music and pornography.

In his famous work Laws, Plato wrote "Through foolishness they, the people, deceived themselves into thinking that there was no right or wrong in the music, that it was to be judged good or bad by the pleasure it gave... As it was, the criterion was not music but a reputation for promiscuous cleverness and a spirit of law-breaking." Plato also wrote, "When modes of music change the fundamental laws of the state change with them." Aristotle noted that music has the power to form character.

"Vladimir Lenin, the co-founder of communism and one of history's greatest expert on subversion and revolution said, "One quick way to destroy a society is through its music (16)."

The Medical Field has done studies, and has posted warnings. The TV journalists are reporting about the dead and devastated teenagers. Youth detention centers are packed with middle school aged alcoholic and drug abusive children. Some of the most respected philosophers and authors in history have warned us of the dangers. Music artists themselves claim to be able to hypnotize people through their music in order to further their own agenda, and know they can get away with it because nobody takes musical manipulation very seriously. Apparently, this hypnotic state is working because most teenagers believe that music doesn't influence them and that the choices they make are their own. MTV claims to own our teenagers because they understand how music reorganizes brain networks.

Could Henry David Thoreau be correct when he wrote, "Even music may be intoxicating such apparently slight causes destroyed Greece and Rome and will destroy England and America (17)."

Music is a seed of influence and we have planted rebellion, chaos, drugs, the occult, Satanism, sex, alcohol, hatred for Christians, violence, and suicide. As Ted Bundy has warned, watch out for your women and children! What do you to say?

Works Cited

- (1) Wooden, K Richmond Times-Dispatch
- (2) Holmberg, E (2000), Hells Bells. Video Reel 2 Real
- (3) Marwick, C (1996) Journal of the American Medical Assc.
- (4) Parkhill, E (2000) Answer Cancer Health Communications Inc.
- (5) Holmberg, E (2000) Hells Bells. Video Reel 2 Real
- (6) Elkind, D. (1998) The Hurried Child, Addison Wesley Publishing
- (7) American Academy of Pediatrics (1996) Volume 98 number 6
- (8) Manson, E. (1983) Family Weekly magazine
- (9) Life magazine October 3, 1969 p. 4
- (10) Holmberg E. (2000), Hells Bells. Video Reel 2 Real
- (11) Holmberg E. (2000), Hells Bells. Video Reel 2 Real
- (12) Holmberg E. (2000), Hells Bells. Video Reel 2 Real
- (13) Holmberg E. (2000), Hells Bells. Video Reel 2 Real
- (14) Holmberg E. (2000), Hells Bells. Video Reel 2 Real
- (15) Rhode Island Rape Crisis Center video Rising to the Challenge.
- (16) Tame, D. (1984) The Secret Power of Music Destiny Books