

Here's How It Works VI – Ears

Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God.

Romans 6:13

REVIEW

Guarding our ears is so significant because they are doors to the very complicated insides of who we are. We guard sand from getting into our engines. We guard poison from getting in our food. Our ears are portals to our mind, our soul, and our body.

I. The Miracle of Physical Hearing

Sound travels at 786 mph. When something makes a noise, vibrations are sent through the air and caught by the eardrum, a stretched membrane smaller and thinner than the nail on your little finger. The eardrum sends the vibrations to your three smallest bones: the hammer, anvil, and stirrup, which transfer them to a coiled tube in the inner ear called the cochlea. Inside the cochlea there are thousands of hair-like nerve endings known as cilia, which send messages to the brain via the auditory nerve.

II. Observations about Physical Hearing

- A. Different Abilities** – from creatures that can be profoundly deaf to owls, who can hear a gopher under the snow from 300 yards.
- B. Different Refinements** – mothers can discern their baby's crying from 100 paces; men can detect a rattle in their car; youth can pick up inflections in a parent's voice.
- C. Different Efforts** – some people are too lazy or unpracticed to catch an assignment while in old times some could recite verbatim a speech they heard.

III. The Miracle of Spiritual Hearing

This is a greater miracle than physical hearing – that somehow the truth and will of God can be communicated to “spiritual ears.”

IV. Observations about Spiritual Hearing

- A. There are those who are stone deaf spiritually.**

“Hearing they hear not.” (Matt. 13:13)

- B. This lack of hearing may be judicial deafness.**

“Make the heart of this people fat, and make their **ears heavy**, and shut their eyes.” (Isa. 6:10a)

C. There are some who are lazy.

“Rise up, ye women that are at ease; hear my voice, ye careless daughters; give ear unto my speech.” (Isa. 32:9)

D. There are some whose ears are itchy.

“For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; and they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.” (II Tim. 4:3-4)

E. Ears that can hear spiritually are made to hear by God.

“He openeth the ears of men.” (Job 33:16)

F. Of these, some ears have been enabled to hear spiritual things audibly.

God “spake unto Moses face to face, as a man speaketh unto his friends.” (Ex. 33:11)

The Lord spoke to Samuel, saying, “Samuel, Samuel.” (I Sam. 3:10)

The Lord said to Isaiah, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” (Isa. 6:8)

The Lord spoke to Elijah “in a still small voice.” (I Kings 19:12)

The Lord said to disciples, “This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.” (Matt. 17:5)

The Lord said to Saul, “Saul, Saul, Why persecutest thou me?” (Acts 9:4)

G. More commonly those whose ears God opens hear things soulfully.

“And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left.” (Isa. 30:21)

H. Hence, we have a tremendous responsibility of stewardship.

“Give ear.” “Give ear.” We are repeatedly told. (See Ex. 15:26, Ps. 49:1, etc.) “He that turneth away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer shall be abomination.” (Prov. 28:9) “Whoso stoppeth his ears at the cry of the poor, he also shall cry himself, but not be heard.” (Prov. 21:13)

V. Application to an Important Issue Today

A. If you were thoroughly convinced that souls will burn forever in hell unless they come to Christ, would it be OK to speak? In keeping with this logic, ...

1. If you were convinced that some music dishonors God, would it be OK to speak?
2. If you were convinced that some music hurts the church, would it be OK to speak?
3. Would you require absolute and irrefutable proof before it was OK to speak?

B. Why some music may *dishonor* God (and what crime is worse than *that*?)

1. He *made* music.

“All things were made by him, and without him was not anything made that was made.” (Jn 1:3)
“The morning stars sang together” at the founding of the earth. (Job 38:7)

2. Things He made have a pattern and a purpose, principally, to honor Him.

The Bible speaks of the “purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will . . . that we should be to the praise of his glory.” (Eph. 1:11)

3. Sin corrupted all things on earth that God made.

“For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now.” (Rom 8:22)

4. Sin corrupted music on earth

Solomon got men singers, women singers, and musical instruments of all sorts, “and behold, all was vanity and vexation of spirit.” (Ecc. 2:8-11) Nebuchadnezzar used it to promote idolatry. Moses came off the mount with the 10 Commandments and heard the “noise” of singing and saw dancing in religious worship in the camp when he returned.

5. Some music dishonors Him.

This truth especially, surely applies to music since it is such an *expression of the soul*. Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. Out of the abundance of the heart the lips sing. And the Bible does not paint a pretty picture of the heart. “The heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked. How can know it?” (Jer. 17:9) Have you considered the honor of God? Can you picture Him saying, “You may be piping, but I am not dancing.”

6. Yet honoring God is our primary purpose.

God “worketh all things after the counsel of his own will: that we should be to the praise of his glory.” (Eph. 1:12) “The Lord hath made all things for himself.” (Pro. 16:4)

7. That truth certainly applies to music as a form of *worship*.

Worship is commanded (I Chron. 16:29), but worship can be done erroneously (See Cain, Nadab and Abihu, etc.). Jesus said God must be worshiped in spirit and in truth (John 4:24). This is not a discipline about which to be sloppy or careless.

8. So we must see the sin of not honestly, reverently, assiduously *inquiring*.

“The ox knoweth his owner, and the ass his master's crib: but Israel doth not know, my people doth not consider.” (Isa. 1:3) “Enquire, I pray thee, of the Lord for us.” (Jer. 21:2) “One thing have I desired of the LORD, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to enquire in his temple.” (Ps. 27:4)

Sadly, we may be entering a time when inquiring about the acceptability of some forms of music is not even happening anymore.

DISCUSSION

1. Are there some things you wish your ears had never heard? Why? What impact did they have on you?
2. Describe some of the sweetest sounds in your experience. What impact did they have on you?
3. Explain how important accurate worship is to God and how that truth applies to music.