

Gospel
BAPTIST CHURCH

Christ - Honoring, Independent, Fundamental

Pastor Joey Willis

"And of some have compassion, making a difference."—Jude 1:22

To Whom it may concern:

As Pastor of Gospel Baptist Church, I must always remember when making decisions regarding worship music and specials, that I am accountable—not only to this Congregation, but to Almighty God. As the under-shepherd, I must do all I can to guide the flock—which belongs to the Great Shepherd—in a way that honors the LORD and gives no place to Adversary. Our music program must therefore be such that adheres to the following Scriptural objectives:

- I. All music must focus hearts and minds toward spiritual things to help each individual be more receptive to the leading of the Holy Spirit and to the preaching and teaching of God's Word.
- II. All music must provide a high quality, meaningful alternative to the high pressure influence of popular worldly and contemporary "Christian" worship music. To help meet this objective, all of our music must meet certain basic standards of excellence:
 - A. The Text must be Scripturally accurate, above reproach and Christ-honoring.
 - B. The Melody, Harmony and Rhythm must focus attention on the text, maintain an atmosphere of reverence and not glorify the performer or promote inordinate emotional displays that detract from reverence to the LORD.
 - C. It must not incorporate worldly styles (Pop, Rock, Country, CCM, etc.).

I realize that Scripture permits considerable flexibility in our music, but my conscience demands we err on the side of caution and reverence. Because of the overwhelming majority of recording studios and pre-recorded music being irreverent, overly emphatic of the beat and detracting from glorifying Christ—any form of pre-recorded music is strongly discouraged and not preferred.

Any person singing or playing special music in the church is to recognize their testimony and that of the Church's are of utmost importance. For this reason, their dress must reflect their holiness unto the LORD in heart and flesh. For ladies, this must include a dress or skirt that is at or below the knee, and modest. Low necklines and revealing garments have no place in the house of God, and especially in public worship. Christian ladies must reflect an attitude of modesty and lady-likeness in their dress for public worship, as it reflects on the entire congregation. Their appearance must look neat, clean and reflect an attitude of reverence, holiness and dedication to the LORD. Men should have their shirts tucked in and dress in a manly, dignified manner. Men must look neat, clean and reflect an attitude of reverence, holiness and dedication to the LORD.

While some of these things are not demanded explicitly by Scripture, they are reverent guidelines that help me as your spiritual shepherd hold us all accountable before God and remove hinderance to the glorification of Jesus Christ and God the Father.

All music must be either that which has already been checked by the pastor, from the hymnbooks, an approved Christian music company or else be checked to avoid an embarrassing and awkward situation for me, the church and the performer(s).

Thank you in advance for your ministry in our music program at GBC. We must remember that it is not really our music program, but it belongs to the LORD of Heaven and serves a vital role in the church—preparing hearts and minds to receive the Word of the LORD and the moving of the Holy Spirit. The LORD bless you for your willingness to be a part of His glorious work; may He bless your labors and reward you with peace, joy and blessings.

Because of Christ,
Pastor Joey Willis