

SOUND DOCTRINE: (Week 2) – Group Guide

Icebreaker: The Ultimate Playlist

Pastor Micah shared that he listens to almost every genre of music imaginable.

- **Question:** What is your favorite genre of music to listen to when you are driving with the windows down, and what is your favorite genre when you need to focus? Does anyone have a surprising musical guilty pleasure that does not fit their usual vibe?
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1. Preference vs. Priority

Micah noted that when our musical preferences outweigh our biblical priorities, we are guilty of idolatry. He used the story of Cain and Abel to illustrate this, noting that Abel offered worship by faith with a focus on God's priorities, while Cain offered worship without faith, focusing on his own preference and convenience.

- Why is it so easy for us to let our personal preferences—like musical style, volume, or song choice—dictate our attitude during a Sunday gathering?
 - What are some practical ways we can shift our hearts away from our own preferences and back toward the priority of honoring God when we worship?
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2. The Importance of "What" We Sing

Micah emphasized that *what* we sing is far more important than *how* we sing. He explained that we often remember the choruses of songs long after we forget the sermon. He stressed that it is vital that the lyrics we sing are both biblically based and doctrinally sound.

- Have you ever found yourself singing or praying the lyrics of a worship song during a particularly difficult or joyful season of life?

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- Why is it dangerous for a church body to casually sing songs that sound nice but contain subtle theological errors?
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3. Psalms, Hymns, and Spiritual Songs

The Apostle Paul instructs believers to address one another in Psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs. 1. **Psalms:** Old Testament Scripture set to music that covers a broad range of human emotion, helping us be "human-sized" and real with God. 2. **Hymns:** Not just "old songs," but specifically newly composed songs of praise focused directly on the person and work of Jesus. 3. **Spiritual Songs:** Spontaneous, Spirit-breathed songs or melodies that come in direct response to a personal encounter with God's work.

- Looking at those three categories, which type of singing do you feel you practice or connect with the most in your personal life? Which is missing?
 - How does singing these truths *together* help build up the church body and encourage spiritual maturity?
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Closing Prayer:

To close, pray the prayer that Micah shared at the end of the sermon out loud - as a group:

"Spirit of God, cause me to have a desperate dependence, an eager expectation and a humble responsiveness to Your leading that is grounded in the Scriptures.

Fill my personal worship of You, and our congregation's worship of You, with the beauty of the cross - and the confidence that comes with it by grace - that we might worship fully in Spirit and Truth and that we might magnify You rightly.

In the name of the Father, Son, and Spirit - Amen."