

### 1. There is Something Wrong with Off-beat, Back-beat Rhythm Patterns

Contemporary Christian music is used as a tool to lure many people into the New Evangelical churches.

This practice is not aiding the work of God, but is rather destroying it. Many Christians and lost sinners yield to their lusts from the effects of listening to contemporary Christian music. This kind of music is not the correct, Biblical way for churches to sing praises unto God.

In order to explain why contemporary Christian music is wrong, we must first study the rhythm in music. Dr. Roger Kamien, a Fulbright music scholar and graduate of Princeton, teaches that hard rock, soft rock, pop, Nashville country, rap, swing, jazz, bebop, ragtime, blues, disco, and other styles of 20th century popular music use rhythm beats that stress off-beat, back-beat notes (Kamien, *Music: An Appreciation*, pages 34, 365-395). For example, the off-beat, back-beat per measure goes like 1—

2—3—4 or 1---2---

3

---4. However, classical music and hymns use rhythm beats that stress the down-beat notes. For example, the down-beat per measure goes like

1

—2—3—4.

It does not matter how light the beat is or if there is no drum accompanying. The truth is that there is always rhythm in music. As a matter of fact, even a non-instrumental Gregorian chant has rhythm in it according to Dr. Kamien,

“Gregorian chant conveys a calm, otherworldly quality; it represents the voice of the church, rather than of any single individual. Its rhythm is flexible, without meter, and has little sense of beat. The exact rhythm of chant melodies is uncertain, because precise time values were not notated. But its free-flowing rhythm gives Gregorian chant a floating, almost improvisational character” (*Ibid*, pages 68-69).

So, hard rock, soft rock, pop, Nashville country, swing, jazz, bebop, ragtime, blues, or any style of twentieth-century popular music always uses off-beat, back-beat patterns. I consider these styles of music as worldly music: music that uses off-beats, back beats. Is there something wrong with off-beats, back beats? Yes, there is...

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