

*Are there subliminal messages in some Christian music, or is it all a lie?*

Christian music attempts to share a gospel message. No, a believer should not be concerned about subliminal messaging in Christian music today.

Modern worship bands use passages of scripture to share the good news of Jesus Christ. Christians are encouraged in scripture to listen to edifying music.

The apostle Paul wrote:

Be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ (Eph 5:18–20).

Subliminal messaging, backward masking and demonic imagery<sup>1</sup> has been used in the past more for sales gimmicks than for evil intentions. With that said, some music *is* Satanically inspired. Certain beats are demonic. Satan and his followers seek to undo God's work (Mk 4:15) and insinuate doubt in God's people (Gen. 3:1). A close relationship with the Holy Spirit will enable the believer to discern what influences are helpful and what influences are harmful (1 Jn 4:1–6).

Media can be used for good or for bad (Phil 4:8). There have been entire books written by demons. John MacArthur said:

There is a woman by the name of Taylor Caldwell who's written some books, only she didn't write them--Demons wrote them. She's written one called *Dear and Glorious Physician*, and another called *Dialogues with the Devil*. Both of these books sound Christian but are demonic. She says the material came from another source. It flooded her. She doesn't know where it came from. She said demons followed her all around.<sup>2</sup>

Christians should guard the eyegate and eargate. The bible says: Guard your heart above all else, for it is the source of life (Pr 4:23). If one spends his time viewing inappropriate images, or listening to godless music (e.g. country--promoting adultery or hip-hop--disparaging women) he should not be surprised when he finds himself headed down a wrong path in life.

Ralph Waldo Emerson wrote: "Sow a thought and you reap an action; sow an act and you reap a habit; sow a habit and you reap a character; sow a character and you reap a destiny." The bible says: For as [a man] thinks in his heart, so is he (Pr 23:7).

Reaping and sowing is an unchanging law of the universe. Paul wrote: Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap (Ga 6:7). Henry Wadsworth Longfellow wrote: "Though the mills of God grind slowly, yet they grind exceeding small."

The apostle Peter wrote: Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him, steadfast in the faith (1 Pe 5:8–9A).

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<sup>1</sup> The album jacket of The Eagle's *Hotel of California* was said to have included an image of a leading Satan worshipper in the top window. Most believe it was merely a publicity stunt.

<sup>2</sup> Sermon: *Demons and Magic* by John MacArthur: Selected Scriptures January 14, 1973.