

## MVBC Church Music Philosophy\*

Music is a biblically-prescribed means by which God's people worship the Father in spirit and truth. Therefore, its elements must be regulated by Scripture alone.

In corporate worship, the text of a song must find its source directly in Scripture or clearly and accurately reflect the truth of God's Word.

The lyrics of the music must be balanced, reflecting both doctrine, practice, and the complete experience of the Christian life. They should be beautiful in both order and meter<sup>1</sup> and presented in a clear manner.

While worshipping in song is a personal choice, the tune or melody should properly reflect and enhance the meaning of the text<sup>2</sup> to aid the believer's heart in engaging the spirit and emotions of the singer. A good tune can motivate whole-hearted singing to the Lord.

Musical performance and presentation should be godly in its character, reflecting the holiness (separateness) of God's character. Since the qualities of the Spirit are in direct contradiction to the desires of the flesh, so also the performance style of music should stand in contrast and opposition to the sinful aspects of culture. That being said, however, music can still reflect the godly elements of the cultural setting from which it is written, thereby enhancing its impact when used within that context.

Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16; I Corinthians 14:15

*1. "Order and meter" refer to the lyrical structure and format of the music - how the text of the music flows and makes sense. This is a general principle since beauty is not always objective.*

*2. Oftentimes the tune that reflects the meaning of the text fits the message temporarily. Time and culture have impact on the tune's ability to reflect a message to varying audiences resulting in the occasional need for rewriting or restructuring the tune.*

***A living document of Merrimack Valley Baptist Church***

*Updated 10/2011*