

Dangerous New Trend in Church Worship: Mercenary Musicians

<http://www.wnd.com>

Note from Pastor Kevin Lea: I am very thankful that Jesus has brought talented musicians who love Jesus into our church to lead us in worship. As this article points out, not all churches are as blessed.

If there's anyone in the body of Christ who should be an example of purity of heart and purity of life, it is the worship leader, the man or woman who leads God's people into his holy presence.

Yet it is increasingly common to hear about worship leaders getting drunk after church services and dropping f-bombs while they boast about their "liberty" in the Lord. Some churches even hire unsaved musicians to play on their worship teams because of their talent. How can this be happening in the house of the Lord?

A few months ago, a young man posted a mocking, irreverent comment on my personal Facebook page. Because I didn't recognize his name, I clicked on his profile to find out more about him, only to be shocked to see that he described himself as a guitar player at a church in Plano, Texas. When I posted a scriptural response to his mocking comment, he explained that he didn't care about Jesus or the Word of God. I asked him, "But don't you play guitar on a church worship band?" He replied, "I'm an atheist and don't believe any of this stuff, but my father goes to the church and they needed a guitarist, so they hired me to play."

What? A God-mocking atheist playing guitar on a church worship team? And what happens when they pray together and seek God's heart? Or do they even pray together at all?

Little did I realize that it is becoming more and more common for churches to hire musicians who have no connection to their church - and sometimes no connection to the Lord - to play in their Sunday morning services. Forget about unity in the Spirit. Forget about harmony in the Lord. Forget about ministering under the anointing. The show must go on!

Oh yes, it's important that we do things with excellence, and I know that a poor musician or an off-key singer or a lousy sound system can drag down a whole service. And as a musician myself, saved as a 16-year-old, heroin-shooting, LSD-using rock drummer in 1971, I fully understand the power of music, especially anointed music. And I believe that the laborer is worthy of his hire and that those who sacrificially serve should be compensated. But I also understand that God hates foreign mixtures, that a little leaven leavens the whole lump, and that the spirit of the world and the Spirit of worship are incompatible.

One of my closest ministry colleagues posted this on his Facebook page last year: "There was a knot in the pit of my stomach this afternoon after I hung up the phone with a friend of mine who pastors a growing church in our city. He relayed to me an anguishing story..."

To read this article in its entirety, go to:

<http://www.prophecynewswatch.com/2013/February13/137.html#.UR58PvJgKel>