

Music in the Home: Tri-part God, Man, and Music

I John 5:7 “For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one.

8 And there are three that bear witness in earth, the Spirit, and the water, and the blood: and these three agree in one.”

Some have questioned the doctrine of the Trinity since the word is not found in scripture, but it is obvious from I Jn. 5:7 that God is three in one (Tri-unity or Trinity). Though limited in their scope, I have always liked various object lessons used to teach the Trinity like how H₂O can be liquid water, solid ice, or gaseous steam.

A quick study through the Bible will reveal how much God uses the number three in His creation. From I Jn. 5:7, we see how God is a three-part being: God the Father, Jesus Christ the Son, and the Holy Ghost. From I Jn. 5:8, we learn that God has “three that bear witness in earth, the Spirit, and the water, and the blood.” Man is also a three-part being: body, soul, and spirit. Previously, we learned how all musical instruments can be divided into 3 main instrument groups (wind, string, and percussion), and how God made Satan with all 3 main instrument divisions.

In “Music's Boundaries”, we learned that music has a certain structure ordained by God that must be followed. Music itself is structured with 3 main parts: melody, harmony, and rhythm.

- **Melody:** The melody is the main part of music. **Melody is the most important part of music.** Sometimes in the Bible when God refers to music, He mentions it as melody. For instance, Eph. 5:19 exhorts, “...singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord.” The reason why God would refer to music as melody is because melody makes the song; without melody you have no song. **Someone may hum “Happy Birthday to You” with no harmony and even no rhythm, but most people will be able to figure out the song because of the melody.** The melody is what mainly makes the song. Some people, as we say, “can’t carry a tune”. When they sing, you can’t tell what they are singing. They are very good examples of how important melody is to music. :)
- **Rhythm:** Rhythm gives music its timing. Without rhythm, music would be chaotic, confusing, and disorderly. At the beginning of written songs is something called a “time signature.” It looks like a fraction, the most common being 4/4 or 3/4. These fractions reveal what the rhythm is going to be for a song. A song leader at church or a conductor in an orchestra is the person responsible for making sure that everyone plays or sings at that rhythm.
- **Harmony:** Harmony gives songs life and beauty. Harmony is the ornamentation of music. Harmony adds warmth to the melody. Harmony are the different parts you hear sung or played to accompany the melody.

Satan changes everything God creates. In fact, Satan often reverses God's order.

In God's music, melody leads, harmony supports, and rhythm follows. In Satan's music, rhythm dictates, harmony is forgotten or fights with the melody, and melody becomes the follower. Listen to the average song of the world today and you will notice immediately what we are saying. The song starts with a rock beat (slow or heavy, it doesn't matter) with the melody eventually coming into the picture. Oftentimes, the rhythm is as loud or louder than the melody. On rare occasion the melody will start the song with no apparent rock beat, and then, a loud crescendo and climax of rhythm will join in for added emotion and emphasis. **Look at the average music band of today, and you'll notice that most of the instruments are used for rhythm.** You have the drums, the bass guitar, and an electric guitar which all used for the rhythm. Some throw in an electric keyboard which is set up for added rhythm. That is not God's music! Music's three parts have been ruined, and as we'll see in future articles, this confusion affects man's three-part being.