

Country Music

A Safe Alternative?



By Jeff Royal

Many Christians Are Turning To A New Venue
- Country Music -

Why Are They Turning To This Musical Venue?

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Country Music, A Safe Alternative?

By Jeff Royal
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Music is a very important part of most people's lives, and a quick scan of the radio dial reveals what people are listening to. Rock /rap/pop music dominate the airwaves, therefore many Christians are turning to a new venue—"country music." Why are Christians turning to this musical venue? I will try to give some insight on "country music" in this report that may help shed light on this growing problem in the church today.

Consider what Forbes Business said about the influence of country music on American society.

There's no disputing that on radio dials, country music is king. The format has been the most popular among American adults for several years in a row. Its 15.2% market share of the listener base dwarfs news/talk (10.6%), top 40 (8%) and adult contemporary stations (7.6%). Radio stations are flipping to the country format in large numbers: there were 4,002 monitored country stations in 2015, up almost 40% from the 2,874 stations in 2008. According to a new report by Nielsen, country fans aren't just listening: they're spending big bucks, too.



Nielsen pegs the median household income for country fans at \$65,000-26% higher than the national average. Country fans are also 29% more likely than listeners of other formats to purchase a truck or a pickup as their next vehicle. Perhaps unsurprising, since recent hit radio songs include "Somethin' 'Bout A Truck," "Truck Yeah" and "I Drive Your Truck," just to name a few.

Nielsen also reported a strong correlation between country music and sports: 71% of country fans surveyed said sports are important to them. There is plenty of country music to be found this football season: Garth Brooks' song "Pure Adrenaline" is the kickoff track for SEC football games on CBS, Brad Paisley just finished his second annual Country Nation College Tour, and Granger Smith's alter ego Earl Dibbles Jr. gets in on the fun each week with his popular "Dip 'Em & Pick 'Em" video series.

Country Superstar, **Carrie Underwood** who currently serves as the voice of Sunday Night Football, clocks in as country's most marketable star. Nielsen gave her an N-Score-or marketability index for endorsement deals and brand extensions-of 90. That puts her higher than all of her country-music peers and among the Top 50 celebrities in the world. Underwood, who made the FORBES list of Highest Earning Country Stars, flexes her N-Score with her Calia by Carrie Underwood activewear line at Dick's Sporting Goods stores, a long time Almay endorsement deal, and a gig co-hosting the Country Music Association Awards.

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/brittanyhodak/2016/10/31/country-musics-popularity-and-influence-continues-to-rise/#1619ec9c1f91>

Carrie Underwood's 2005 CD called "Some Hearts" had a huge hit called "Jesus Take the Wheel." Many thought Carrie was a contemporary Christian singer after the hit because it mentioned Jesus. But her claim to fame was her 2004 American Idol debut in which she ended up winning the contest for that year.

Carrie Underwood claims to be saved. She also claims to be a believer in Jesus Christ yet consider her thoughts on gay marriage. Something God forbids in no uncertain terms.

"As a married person myself, I don't know what it's like to be told I can't marry somebody I love, and want to marry," the singer told the outlet. "I can't imagine how that must feel. I definitely think we should all have the right to love, and love publicly, the people that we want to love."

Underwood also told the publication that she and her husband, pro-hockey player Mike Fisher, attend a "gay-friendly" non-denominational church. The songstress went on to say that God wants Christians to love others.

<http://www.theblaze.com/stories/readv-singer-carrie-underwood-cites-her-christian-faith-in-gay-marriage-endorsement/>



But God's Word has something very different to say than does Carrie Underwood.

Romans 1:26-27 says, "For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet."

I also wanted to point out that on that same cd that featured the song "Jesus Take the Wheel" also featured a song called "Before He Cheats". Here are a few lines from the song.

*Right now, he's probably slow dancing with a bleached-blonde tramp
And she's probably getting frisky
Right now he's probably buying her some Fruity little drink
'Cause she can't shoot whiskey*

*Right now, he's probably up behind her with a pool-stick
Showing her how to shoot a combo
Oh and he don't know...*

*That I dug my key into the side of his
Pretty little souped up four wheel drive
Carved my name into his leather seat
I took a Louisville slugger to both head lights
Slashed a hole in all four tires
Maybe next time he'll think before he cheats*

<http://www.cowbovlrics.com/lvrics/underwood-carrie/before-he-cheats-16593.html>

Consider the song on Carrie's 2009 cd "Play On" called "Cowboy Casanova".

*You better take it from me,
That boy is like a disease
You're running, you're tired, you're trying to hide
And you're wondering why you can't get free
He's like a curse he's like a drug.*

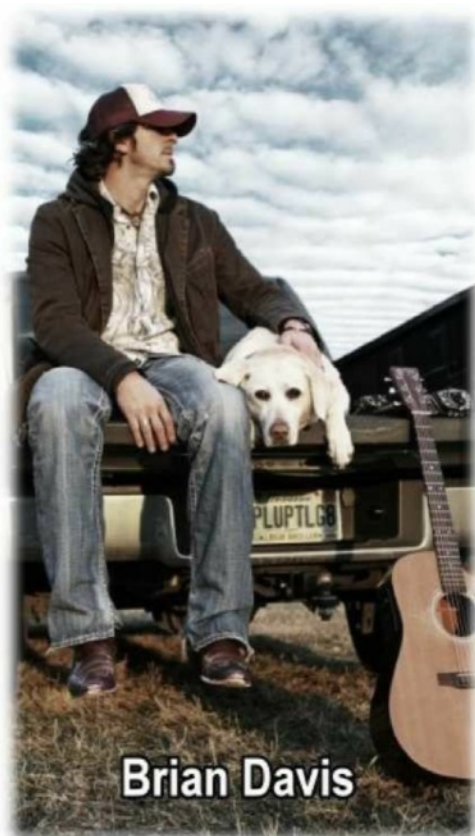
*You get addicted to his love.
You wanna get out but he's holding you down
'Cause you can't live without one more touch.*

Chorus:

*He's a good time cowboy Casanova; leaning up against the record machine
He looks like a cool drink of water but he's candy coated misery
He's the devil in disguise, a snake with blue eyes and he only comes out at night
Gives you feelings that you don't wanna fight
You better run for your life.*

<http://www.cowboylrics.com/lyrics/underwood-carrie/cowboy-casanova-28425.html>

This is not a good example and testimony from Carrie Underwood if she claims to love Jesus Christ and is one of His children. In fact, it is contributing to leading many astray because she influences so many with her God-given talent. Once again I refer you to what God says in 1 Peter 1:15-16 *"But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy."*



Brian Davis wrote the following song that is typical for many now within country music. Here is his biography from his website. Brian Davis was raised in the Carolinas between the Saturday night honkytonks and the Sunday morning steeples...surrounded by fields, farms and everything in-between that makes country...country.

You can hear it in his voice and the way he bends the strings on his telecaster, but there is also a side to him that along with his country roots, has brought the mass appeal and extensive fan base that he now enjoys...and that is his diverse love of music in everything from Matchbox-Twenty to Waylon to Counting Crows to Hank to Dwight Yoakam to Bob Marley to Garth to AC/DC to Tom Petty...and it's ALL PACKED INTO HIS MUSIC!!!!!!

Brian brings every ounce of influence to every show and delivers country music with an explosive high-energy sound and style that is THE perfect combination of every great concert that you have ever experienced rolled up in to one. Brian's five studio albums are the fuel for his live shows, encompassing everything from heart breaks to good times to tailgating to fishing to tryin' to forget to tryin' to remember to first times to last times to fallin' in love and EVERYTHING IN BETWEEN!!! There is everything for everybody inside of his music!!!..

<http://www.briandavislive.com/about.php>

Artist: Brian Davis ([Return To Table Of Contents](#))
Song: Dirty Kind of Country

*She's got a Baptist background, raised in a small town
Sunflower queen'd crown two years in a row
She's got that Cindy Crawford beauty mark*

*The classic southern bell charm
The kind you take home that momma that momma doesn't know
All she wants to do when she gets in my ol' truck
Is crank up some Haggard and put it in the mud*

Chorus:

*She's a lady, when she needs to be
The country club girl, the country boys' dream
She's the best of both worlds, if you know what I mean
She's a lady when she needs to be
But she can be down right, turn me on
Dirty kinda country*

I am reminded of these verses in the Psalms.

Psalms 1:1-2 *"Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night."*

Here is a song that is typical in what you'll find in country music today. It's a song about a supposed Christian girl that brews moonshine and goes honky-tonkin all the time. But once again the Bible says something much different. It says in 1 Thessalonians 5:22 *"Abstain from all appearance of evil."*



Artist: Anthony Smith ([↑](#))

Song: If That Ain't Country

Album: If That Ain't Country

*Where she grew up, there ain't no roads.
Out in the sticks where the ginseng grows.
She'd float down the river to get to school,
Then her daddy'd come get her on an old black mule.
She run back and forth from shed to shack.
Checkin' on the moonshine brewin' out back.
If you don't get the picture by now,
Then wait a minute.*

Chorus:

*She got a bible; she's born again.
She got a shotgun; she ain't afraid of sin.
She got rebel-rousin', rowdy friends singin', oh oh oh.
She got a Trans Am, with a trailer hitch.
She got horses, cows and Dixie Chicks.
Goes honky-tonkin' just for kicks.
If that ain't country,
I don't know what is.*

The accompanying video for this song shows a scantily dressed women that is enjoying the sinful things of the world. The Bible says this about her actions.

It says in 1 John 2:15-17 "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the

eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever."

Blake Shelton who co-hosted the 47th annual CMA Awards gives out this philosophy on life with the song "Drink on It" which he performed on the show.

Artist: Blake Shelton ([↑](#))

Song: Drink On It

Album: Red River Blue

*Hey girl hey where ya goin'
Come back and sit back down
You look too good to be heading home so early now
You say you gotta work tomorrow
Got a lot on your mind
Let me buy another round
Girl I think you and I should just drink on it
Put our heads together and think on it
Maybe later on we can sleep on it
But for right now girl we just need to drink on it*

*We can talk Rocket Science, Jesus or Politics
Hey your boyfriend cheated on you
Man he sounds like such a prick
I could use another whiskey and your Cosmo's gettin' low
While we're trying to figure out the next place we should go*

*We can drink on it
Put our heads together and think on it
Maybe later on we can sleep on it
But for right now girl we just need to drink on it*

*This place is closing down
But I don't wanna quit
Gotta good thing going girl
Let's find out what it is and drink on it*

1/4 of SoundScan's Top 200 Albums Chart's Top 40 Were Country Music Albums

Jason Aldean's My Kinda Party remained steady on the charts with sales briskly heading towards 2.4 million copies scanned. The Band Perry rode the Grammy Wave with 24k sold while Luke Bryan's Tailgates and Tanlines slid on the SoundScan Top 200 Current albums chart but gained sales figures. Last Week's #1, Dierks Bentley's Home, slid as nearly all debuting albums do. 21,000 fans still brought the album home.

<http://www.roughstock.com/blog/weeklv-soundscan-chart-news-for-week-of-2-22-2012-ladv-antebellum-back-at-number-one>

I wanted to list just a few recent lyrics to songs from these three mega giants of country music. Christian, I want to ask you this question. Do you really think listening to this day after day will not affect your walk with the Lord and your testimony for Jesus Christ? Just consider the ramifications of what this music will have on your life.



Artist: Jason Aldean ([↑](#))

Song: Church Pew or Barstool

Album: My Kinda Party

*Not a whole lot going on, a small town Friday night
Revvng up at a red light, on your mark get set go
Past a mom and pop restaurant
Same four trucks parked out front
I guess you gotta make your own fun
When you're stuck in a place this slow*

*There's only two means of salvation
around here that seem to work
Whiskey or the Bible, a shot glass or revival*

Chorus:

*When you don't seem to run on either side of the fence
People act like you don't make sense
These big town dreams that I've been chasing
Will never come true if I wind up staying
And I don't want to fall in, the same rut
That everybody here seems to be stuck in now
Why do I hang around
In this church pew or bar stool kind of town*

Artist: Luke Bryan ([↑](#))

Song: Drunk On You Album:

Tailgates & Tanlines

*Cottonwood fallin' like snow in July
Sunset, riverwide, four wheel drives
In a taillight circle*

*Roll down the windows, turn it on up
Pour a little crown in a Dixie cup
Get the party started
Drip of honey on the moneymaker gotta be
The best buzz I'm ever gonna find
Hey I'm a little drunk on you
And high on summertime*

*If you ain't a 10, you're a 9.9
Tippin' and spillin' that homemade wine
On your tied up t-shirt*

*Every little kiss is drivin' me wild
Throwin' little Cherry Bombs into my fire
Good God all mighty*

Chorus:

Girl you make my speakers go boom boom

*Dancin' on the tailgate in the full moon
That kinda thing makes a man go mmm hmmm
You're lookin' so good in what's left of those blue jeans
Drip of honey on the moneymaker gotta be
The best buzz I'm ever gonna find
Hey I'm a little drunk on you
And high on summertime*

Artist: Dierks Bentley ([↑](#))

Song: Gonna Die Young

Album: Home

*I can feel my heart beat now, beatin' like a popgun, pow
Gone crazy, knocked out by the hottest thing this side of the sun
She knows just how to move, shoot the blood pressure through the roof
Foggin' up the kissing booth, she's one in a million, I'm a million to one
Hot dang, honey, like poison*

*Oh my, I'm gonna die, send my soul to the by and by
I can't breathe, I'm gonna be pushin' up a daisy 'fore the old gets me
She's so fine, matter of time, sooner than later gonna flat line
The way she moves me probably gonna die young
The way she moves me probably gonna die young*

*Tick tock and the world turns 'round, there's only one way out
All I know is since she came to town
It's a fast forward, baby, merry go round,
Got a hearse on my tail and he's wavin' me down*

*Oh my, I'm gonna die, send my soul to the by and by
I can't breathe, I'm gonna be pushin' up a daisy 'fore the old gets me
She's so fine, matter of time, sooner than later gonna flat line
The way she moves me probably gonna die young
The way she moves me probably gonna die young*

*Oh, come on, you're killing me girl
It feels good*

*Oh my, I'm gonna die, send my soul to the by and by
Hot little angel's gonna watch me fly
Oh my, I'm gonna die, send my soul to the by and by
I can't breathe, I'm gonna be pushin' up a daisy 'fore the old gets me
She's so fine, matter of time, sooner than later gonna flat line
The way she moves me probably gonna die young
The way she moves me probably gonna die young
The way she moves me probably gonna die young
The way she moves me probably gonna die young
Yeah, yeah
Oh, the way she moves me probably gonna die young*

Is Country music a viable alternative to the secular, worldly mainstream music of our day?

My concern is that a steady diet of Country music will not help you in your daily walk with the Lord, but it will actually hinder and ultimately weaken you.

Consider some additional song lyrics and information that will help shed light on the spiritual and moral dangers of this music.

Dolly Parton (↑)

Dolly Parton has been a key figure in country music for 40 plus years. Her first label was Goldband back in 1957. The following lyrics are from her album "Something Special" titled "Speakin' Of The Devil":

Speakin' Of The Devil

*He's got a way of walkin'
He's got a way of talkin'
A way to fascinate me all the time
And he's got a way with women
A way to keep my head a swimmin'
He's got away too many times*

*Ooh, speakin' of the devil
He is drivin' me wild
With that wicked little grin
And that fire in his eyes He's got me dreamin'
Got me steamin'
Ooh, speakin' of the devil
It feels mighty close to heaven
And I'd go through hell to make him mine*



This is very typical of country music. Country takes a flippant, whimsical view when it comes to the Bible, Jesus Christ and the Devil. The Bible makes it clear that the devil is our adversary and sin is horrible that it nailed God's Son to the cross.

"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour" (1 Pet. 5:8).

Dolly Parton in her album, "Halos and Horns," covers the heavy metal band Led Zeppelin's "Stairway to Heaven."

Here's what Dolly had to say about the song: "I was scared to death to send it to Robert Plant and Jimmy Page. They sent word back that it was fine and they loved it. In fact, Robert Plant said he'd always thought of it as a spiritual song, and he was thrilled we'd used a choir on it, because he thought about that, too. If they like it, that's most important to me. But I do hope the public will accept it too. I even hope they love it. (<http://www.dolly.net/cutbycut.htm>).

Dolly also performed the John Lennon song "Imagine" on her 2005 album called "Those Were The Days." She performed a duet of "Imagine" with blatant homosexual Elton John at the 2005 CMA awards. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Uo66sfdk008>

Here are the lyrics:

*Imagine there's no heaven
It's easy if you try
No hell below us
Above us only sky
Imagine all the people
Living for today*

*Imagine there's no countries
It isn't hard to do
Nothing to kill or die for
And no religion too
Imagine all the people
Living life in peace*

*You may say I'm a dreamer
But I'm not the only one
I hope some day you'll join us
And the world will be one*

*Imagine no possessions
I wonder if you can
No need for greed or hunger
A brotherhood of man
Imagine all the people
Sharing all the world*

*You may say I'm a dreamer
But I'm not the only one
I hope some day you'll join us
And the world will live as one*



Hank Williams Jr. (↑)

Hank Williams Jr., the son of legendary Hank Williams, tells his philosophy of life in many of his songs. Here are just a few:

Good friends, good whiskey, and good lovin', I want to thank you Lord. - Hank Williams Jr., "Good friends, good whiskey, and good lovin'"

Somewhere between raising hell and amazing grace, Lord I know just how they feel. - Hank Williams Jr., "Country State of Mind"

We say grace and we say M'am. If you ain't into that, we don't give a EXPL. - Hank Williams, Jr., "Country Boy Can Survive"



We make our own whiskey and our own smoke, too. Ain't too many things these ole boys can't do. - Hank Williams Jr., "Country Boy Can Survive"

I get whiskey bent and hell bound. - Hank Williams, Jr., "Whiskey Bent and Hell Bound"

Artist: Hank Williams Jr

Song: If Heaven Ain't a Lot Like Dixie

Album: That's How They Do It In Dixie - The Essential Collection

*If heaven ain't a lot like Dixie
I don't wanna go
If heaven ain't a lot like Dixie
I'd just as soon stay home*

*I was one of the chosen few
To be born in Alabam
I'm just alike my daddy's son
I'm proud of who I am*

*I went through a lot of good women
And shook old Jim Beam's hand
If I never see the pearly gates
I've walked through the promised land*

*If heaven ain't a lot like Dixie
I don't wanna go
If heaven ain't a lot like Dixie
I'd just as soon stay home*

*If they don't have a Grand Ole Opry
Like they do in Tennessee
Just send me to hell or New York City
It would be about the same to me*

*I've got wild honey trees and crazy little weeds
Growin around my shack
These dusty roads ain't streets of gold
But I'm a happy right where I'm at*

*All these pretty little southern belles
Are a country boy's dream
They ain't got wings or halos
But they sure look good to me*

Country music is no doubt a much sought after commodity, but at what expense to the listener. The Bible clearly points out the fallacies of following such things.

Psalms 5:5 *"The foolish shall not stand in thy sight: thou hatest all workers of iniquity."*

Proverbs 9:6 *"Forsake the foolish, and live; and go in the way of understanding."*

Proverbs 18:2 *"A fool hath no delight in understanding, but that his heart may discover itself."*

Tanya Tucker (↑)

Tanya Tucker has a song called "Texas When I Die" that basically talks about loving Texas more than heaven. In I John, God gives us a much different story.

1 John 2:15 "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him."

Artist(Band):Tanya Tucker

Texas When I Die

Lyrics Ed Bruce/Bobby Borchers, Patsy Bruce

*When I die I may not go to heaven
I don't know if they let cowboys in
If they don't just let me go to Texas, Boy!
Texas is as close as I've been.*

*New York couldn't hold my attention
Detroit City couldn't sing my song
If tomorrow finds me busted flat in Dallas
I won't care, 'cause at least I'll know I'm home.*

*When I die I may not go to heaven
I don't know if they let cowboys in
If they don't just let me go to Texas, Boy!
Texas is as close as I've been.*

*I'd ride through all of Hell and half of Texas
Just to hear Willie Nelson sing a country song
Beer just ain't as cold in old Milwaukee
My body's here, but my soul's in San Antone.*

*When I die I may not go to heaven
I don't know if they let cowboys in
If they don't just let me go to Texas, Boy!
Texas is as close as I've been.*

Charley Pride (↑)

Kiss an Angel Good Morning, 1971

*Whenever I chance to meet
some old friends on the street
They wonder how does a man get to be this way
I've always got a smiling face
Anytime and any place
And every time they ask me why
I just smile and say*





*You've got to
Kiss an angel good morning
and let you know you think about her
when you're gone
Kiss an angel good morning
and love her like the devil
when you get back home*

*Well people may try to guess
The secret of a happiness
but some of them never learn
it's a simple thing*

*The secret I'm speaking of I
s a woman and a man in love
and the answer is in this song
that I always sing*

*You've got to
Kiss an angel good morning
and let you know you think about her
when you're gone
Kiss an angel good morning
and love her like the devil
when you get back home*

Your So Good When You're Bad, 1982

*You're a lady, you're an angel,
Bringin' sunshine to my life.
You're closest thing Heaven that I've ever had.
Oh, but sometimes, you're a devil,
When you reach out and dim the lights,
An' I say, mmm mmm, you're so good when you're bad.*

*You would never hurt anybody,
You're too gentle sweet and kind,
Still I keep on doin' things that make you sad.
But you don't hold out on your feelin's,
When there's lovin' on your mind.
An' I say, mmm mmm, you're so good when you're bad.*

*I could say that you're the perfect woman,
And if it's not, it's just because of me.
'Cause I'm hung up on the perfect woman,
An' I don't know how I deserve to be.*

*I see other pretty women,
An' Lord, they still, they look good to me.
An' there are some ladies that can drive some men mad.
But when an angel let's her hair down,*

*Oh, that's something else to see.
An' I say, mmm mmm, you're so good when you're bad.
An' I say, mmm mmm, you're so good when you're bad.*

We should heed these strong warnings from God's Word and not take them lightly. Groups like the Kendalls have been around for years. This song came out in 1977. Sin is such a serious thing with God. Many in Country music have an almost nonchalant, lackadaisical view of sin, but God Almighty sees it so seriously that He sent His only begotten Son to die for it.

John 3:16-17 *"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved."*

James 1:15 *Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death."*

The Kendalls (↑)

from the album Let the Music Play / Heaven's Just a Sin Away

*Heaven's just a sin away, oh oh just a sin away
I can't wait another day, I think I'm giving in
How I long to hold you tight, oh oh be with you tonight
But that still don't make it right, cause I belong to him*

*Oh way down deep inside, I know that it's all wrong
But your eyes keep tempting me, and I never was that strong
Devil's got me now, oh oh gone and got me now
I can't fight him anyhow, I think he's gonna win
Heaven's just a sin away, oh oh just a sin away
Heaven help me when I say, I think I'm giving in*

*Oh way down deep inside...
I think I'm giving in
I think I'm giving in
I think I'm giving in*

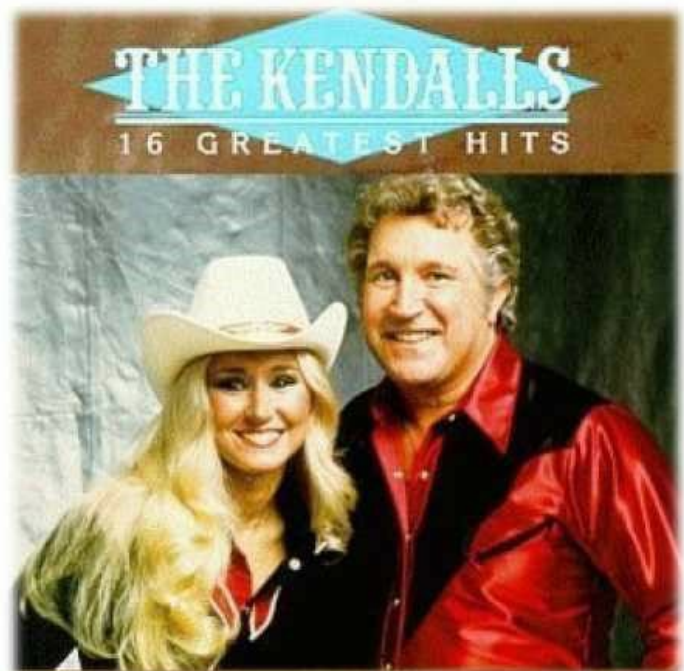
Recorded by the Kendalls

It Don't Feel Like Sinning To Me

Written by Curly Putman and Michael Kosser

*When we're holding each other in the dark
hours of the night
There are those who say it's wrong but it's right
Cause the way that we feel how much sin can it
be
Lord it don't feel like sinning to me
No it don't feel like sinning to me
Feels like love feels like love
No it don't feel like sinning to me*

*Feels like love feels like love
So let them talk about us let them gossip away*



*Jealous tongues will find something evil to say
But if they could remember first love they recall
That it don't feel like sinning at all*

Hank Williams Jr. and others in country music have been chummy with the likes of performers like Kid Rock.



Artist (Band): Kid Rock (↑)

Rock N Roll Jesus Lyrics

*Been alotta cheap talk but I rock still
From the streets of Shanghai back to Knoxville
Sittin' high on a mountain top holdin' shop
spreadin' the good news
Been alotta false prophets and quick hits
And a lot of unAmerican bull#\$%A
But the time has come to settle
and the devil's gonna make u choose*

*And just like a cold wind blowin'
can u feel me comin' for u
Just like a freight train rollin' packed tight full of
rhythm and blues
It's a Rock revival
Don't need a suit
Ya don't need a bible
Get up and dance
I'm gonna set you free yeah
Testify*

*It's all sex, drugs, rock n roll
A soul sensation that you can't control
And you can see I practice what I preach
I'm your rock n roll Jesus
Yes I am*

*Been alotta bling bling but it ain't real
And alotta new kings but I won't kneel*

*Sittin' high on a mountain top, holdin' shop singin' the raw dog blues
Like in old Mississippi's dirty cotton fields
Or in Detroit City's unforgotten wheels
It's the same song spinning but the same song's always been true*

*And I'm gonna take my roll cuz I ain't got nothin' to lose
And I'm gonna save your soul if it's really what you want me to do
Get on your knees
I'm your rock n roll Jesus*



Big & Rich (↑)

Album Lyrics: Between Raising Hell and Amazing Grace [2007] Between Raising Hell And Amazing Grace

*I was raised by the good book
learned to work hard every day
Thought that if you can't say something good
there's nothing good to say
And I caught on pretty early it's no use to work
no harder than you play
So I guess that's how I ended up this way*

Chorus:

*Somewhere between raising hell and amazing grace
Is a place I keep finding myself
Yeah I get a little crazy trying to have a little fun
Then I end up back where I started from
Down on my knees, I pray
Oh Lord let me see another day
Somewhere between raising hell and amazing grace*

*Well I give everything I got, try to give more than I take
For Heaven's sake I keep on smiling
no matter what comes my way
And I may be passin' out on Friday night
But come Sunday I'll be passing the collection plate*

*Yeah I know I'm a sinner, but I've got faith
Oh my good side is what he's gonna see
When I'm standing at them Pearly Gates
He'll have nothing but mercy for me*

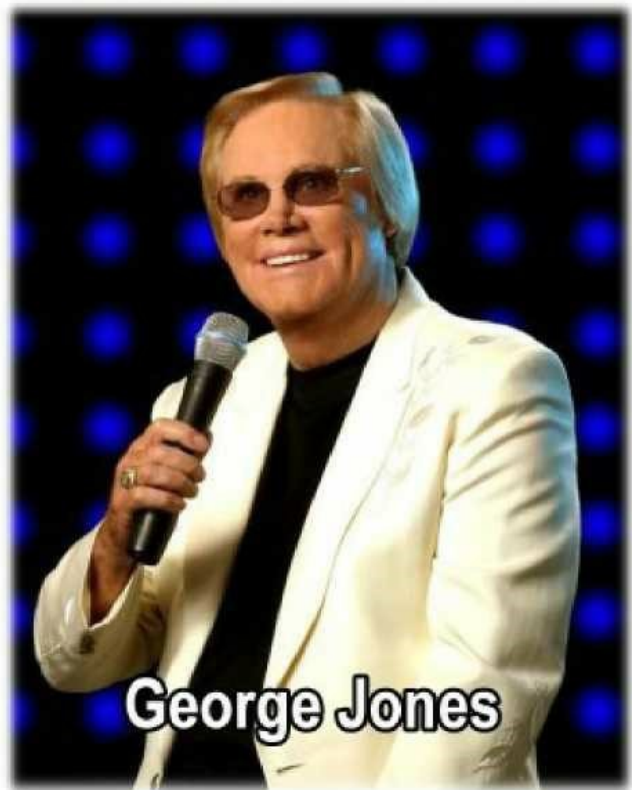


George Jones (↑)

These are just a few examples of George Jones who many consider the father of country music. Many performers today list George Jones as their greatest influence and the reason they are in country music today.

George Jones as many in country has done several "gospel" albums. Here are some of them.

- 1) Country Church Time (1959)
- 2) Homecoming in Heaven (1962)
- 3) We Love to Sing About Jesus (1972)
- 4) In a Gospel Way (1974)
- 5) The Gospel Collection (2003)



Many country singers have no problem going from gospel to secular and back again. One more example from George Jones is his song "Honky Tonk Myself to Death"

Song: Honky Tonk Myself to Death

Album: Other Songs

*Well I don't know why you left me
But I do know that you're gone
Colder nights, you've turned my life into a sad ol' song
And one way or another, I gotta get me over you
And I think there's only one thing left for me to do*

*Lord, I don't wanna die of a broken heart
That would be too sad
Or drive my car off a cliff
You see, that would just hurt too bad
And if I tied a rope around my neck
I couldn't get my breath
So I think I'll just honky tonk myself to death*

*Well, I might get a little bit crazy
But I don't wanna go insane
Young Wendy and Dan's ol' whiskey
Well it might just kill the pain
I'm gonna find the highest barstool and I'mma
climb up to the top
Yeah, I think I'll just drink and two-step till I
drop*

*Oh, I don't wanna die of a broken heart
That would be too sad
Or drive my car off a cliff
You see, that would just hurt too bad
And if I tied a rope around my neck
I couldn't get my breath
So I think I'll just honky tonk myself to death*

*And if I tied a rope around my neck
I couldn't get my breath
So I think I'll just honky tonk myself to death*



16 Biggest Hits Tammy Wynette and George Jones (↑)

God's gonna get 'cha for that(1975)

*God's gonna get 'cha for that
God's gonna get 'cha for that
There's no place to run and hide
For He knows where you're at*

*God's gonna get 'cha for that
God's gonna get 'cha for that*

*Every wrong thing that you do
God's gonna get 'cha for that*

*This doggone world we're living in
It's giving me a fit
It seems like everywhere I turn
I see a hypocrite*

*Well, if ya wanna go to heaven
Well, you can't live like that
So let me tell you, brother
God's a-gonna get 'cha for that*

*Now, the preacher in our church
He's a mighty devoted man
Everybody thinks, that he's a-goin'
to the Promised Land*

*But the other night on a country road
While I was a-drivin' through
I caught the preacher makin' love*

*Now oh Sister Bessie, she like to testify
She says, 'I'll always love the Lord,
someday I'm a-gonna fly
But the other night while goin' by the local liquor store
I caught oh Sister Bessie, flyin' out the door*

*God's gonna get 'cha for that, yeah (get 'cha for that)
God's gonna get 'cha for that (get 'cha for that)
There's no place to run and hide
For He knows where you're at*

Garth Brooks (↑)

**Song: Beer Run (B-double E-double Are You In?)
(Garth Brooks with George Jones)
Album: Scarecrow**

*Twenty-five minutes past quitting time
Seven of us crammed into that truck of mine
Paying no attention to them highway signs
Going 90 mile an hour toward that county line
Quick sack, 12 pack, back again
t's a B-double E-double are you in?*

*My buddy and their babies letting down their hair
As long as were together it don't matter where
Ain't got a lot of money but we just don't care
Knowing that the fun is in the getting there*



*Aztec, long necks, paychecks spent
It's a B, double E, double R, U, N*

*Oh I cant stop thinking
What the hell they were drinking
When they made this county dry
I got a week long thirst and what makes it worse
Lord it's my turn to drive*

*Laughing and a bragging and a' carrying on
We loaded up the wagon and we headed home
I guess half a dozen cases doesn't last that long
Come tomorrow morning it'll be all gone
It's turn around, leave town, sounds again
Like a B, double E, double R, U, N*

<http://www.cowboylyrics.com/index.html>



Here are a few of the more recent song lyrics from current country music performers.

Eric Church (↑)

Song: Sinners Like Me Album: Sinners Like Me

*I was fifteen when my daddy's old man
aught me half way through my first beer
He laughed so hard when my face turned green
He said "You come from a long line of sinners like me"*

*Now me and my brother go to see him some times
But he don't have much to say anymore
So we sit on his headstone with a fifth of Jack D.
Here's to a long line of sinners like me*

*La de dah de dah La de dah dah de de
I come from a long line of sinners like me*

*My mama had a soft spot for a hell raisin' boy
So she had two more just like him
It takes an angel to raise a family
That comes from a long line of sinners like me*

*Well now maybe who knows
one day I'll settle down
Give my dad a grandson of his own
And when the doctor smacks him,
he'll probably take a swing
Cause he'll come from a long line of sinners like me*



*La de dah de dah La de dah dah de de
I come from a long line of sinners like me*

*On the day I die
I know where I'm gonna go
Me and Jesus got that part worked out
I'll wait at the gates til his face I see
And stand in a long line of sinners like me
I'll stand in a long line of sinners like me*

*Here's to a long line of sinners like me
I come from a long line of sinners like me*

<http://www.cowboylyrics.com/index.html>

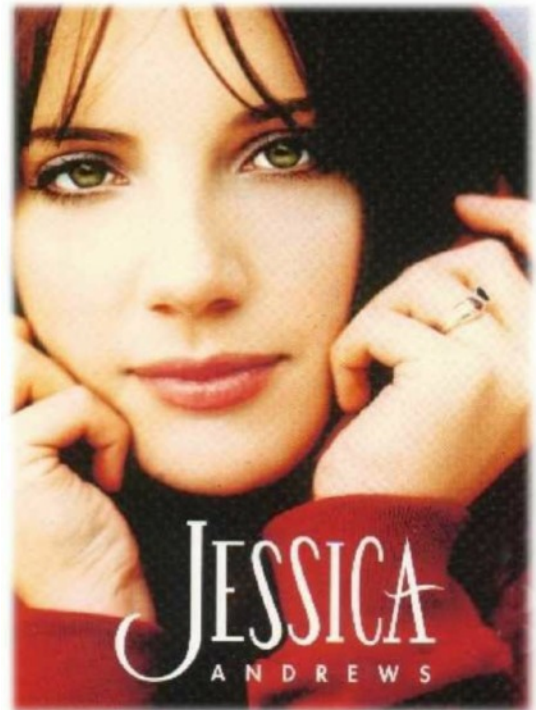
These songs pretty much sum up what country music is today. Living a shallow and weak "Christian" life is good enough and there seems to be little desire if any to live a godly, faithful Christian life.

Jessica Andrews (↑) **Summer Girl**

*I drive an army jeep
My bumper sticker reads
"Drink till he's cute"
That's what I'm gonna do
Ain't got no serious thing
Don't wear a diamond ring
I got a new tattoo
I think you'll like the view
And in my mind the sun shines
All the time*

*Chorus
'Cause I'm just a summer girl
I wear my flip flops
When I let my hair down
That's when the party starts
Who needs a boyfriend
I got my girlfriends
When we get together
The summer never ends*

*Tank tops and cut-off jeans
Bikinis and belly rings
We'll make that scene
When the DJ plays "Dancing Queen"
Fellas lay your money down
We'll let you buy a round
Don't push your luck*



*Don't get more than your hopes up
In my world, day or night
Rain or shine*

Bridge

*Everybody needs a little ray of sunshine
Everybody needs time to unwind
Everybody's gotta have a good time
I'm just a summer girl*

*Everybody get up on your feet
Everybody gotta shake your body
Everybody got a right to be free
I'm just a summer girl*

Andy Griggs (↑)

Song: How Cool Is That

Album: Freedom

*She's the last girl
I thought I'd ever see here
There stands a preacher's daughter
Holdin' a beer
Tattoo of angel
On the small of her back
How cool is that?*

*She probably don't remember me
It's been a long, long time
About then she turned around
And kinda stared at me and smiled
She said, "I had the hots for you
In Sunday School class"
But tell me how cool is that?*

*How cool is a hot summer night
When the stars line up
And everything feels just right
How cool is knowing inside
That I'm the one she's looking at
With that look in her eyes.*

*About then I asked if
She was still seeing old what's-his-name
She said, "Has it really been that long
Ow, how things have changed"
She brushed her hair back and said,
"Let's not talk about the past"
How cool is that?*

How cool is a hot summer night



*When the stars line up
And everyting feels just right
How cool is knowing inside
That I'm the one she's looking at
With that look in her eyes.*

*How cool is knowing inside
That I'm the one she's looking at
With that look in her eyes.
She was the last girl
I thought I'd ever see here
There stands a preacher's daughter
Holding a beer.*

Ty Herndon ([↑](#))

Lyrics for Song: Steam

*Steam from a summer raindrop
Rising off the blacktop
I wipe the sweat from my brow
Steam on my radiator
I'm late and getting later
Should be at your place by now
Bank sign says 102
But that ain't nothing when I'm next to you*

*There's fire in your fingertips
Flames in your touch
Desire in your burning lips
Can't get enough
Today was a scorcher
But I'll go you one better
Tonight when we get together
We're gonna make steam*

*I dream of you there on my front steps
Sunning in that short dress
Hotter than the Texas heat
Seems I'm never gonna get there
Traffic's going nowhere
But when I feel you next to me
Girl the things you know to do
Just make my heat index go through the roof*

*There's fire in your fingertips
Flames in your touch
Desire in your burning lips
Can't get enough
Today was a scorcher
But I'll go you one better
Tonight when we get together*



*We're gonna make steam
Girl the things you know to do
Just make my heat index go through the roof*

*Flames in your touch
Desire in your burning lips
Can't get enough
Today was a scorcher
But I'll go you one better
Tonight when we get together
We're gonna make steam*

*Steam Ha ha ha
We're gonna make steam Come on*

John Michael Montgomery (↑)

Lyrics for Song: Little Devil

Lyrics for Album: Letters From Home

*C'mon sugar, take off your sneakers
C'mon Baby, let down your hair
I wanna see what's behind those glasses
I gotta know what's under there*

*Don't worry about what your mama told ya
Don't worry about what your friends might say
Slide over here, lemme kiss and hold you
Time for you to come out and play*

*Chorus:
C'mon little angel wontcha be my little devil tonight
C'mon little angel wontcha be my little devil tonight
I got a batch of margaritas, a jacuzzi in the back
Clapton on the radio, how about that
We could build a fire, yeah we could go nuts
Dancing all around 'til the sun comes up*

*I know a place between here and heaven
We could cut loose and come undone
Ain't nothin' wrong with a little livin'
The day is gone but the night's still young*

*(Repeat Chorus)
This can be our little secre*

George Strait (↑)

George Strait is one of the most influential figures in country music. Here is a quote in which he gives some insight into his outlook on life.



"I'm a country singer. I love all kinds of music, but country is where my loyalty lies. That's just me and what I do, and I'm not going to change it."

<http://www.billboard.com/articles/news/77824/georgestrait-takes-the-road-less-traveled>

George Strait performed his farewell tour at AT&T Stadium in Arlington, Texas, Saturday, June 7, 2014. About 105,000 people packed in for the last concert of Strait's final tour —exceeding the stadium's official capacity by 5,000— and shattering the previous record set by The Rolling Stones at The Louisiana Superdome in 1981. (The Fort Worth Star-Telegram, Jamie B. Ford)

The following is a list of awards that many think will not be duplicated.

In more than 30 years of recording, all of which have been spent with MCA Records, George Strait has garnered 60 No. 1 songs on all country charts (including Mediabase 24/7, the former Radio & Records chart, and the now-defunct Gavin Report chart), and has more No. 1 hits than any other artist in any genre. His 44 Billboard magazine country No. 1's are a record, four more than Conway Twitty's total that includes several duets with Loretta Lynn. Additionally, Strait is also the first artist in the history of Billboard magazine to have at least one single enter the Top 10 of a Billboard chart for 30 consecutive years, starting in 1981 when his debut single "Unwound" peaked at No. 6 on the Hot Country Singles chart. All of his Top 10 singles have been on that chart. Strait has sold more than 68 million albums in the United States and his certifications from the RIAA include 13 multi-platinum, 33 platinum, and 38 gold albums. "Top Awarded Artists". Riaa.com. Retrieved 2012-11-20.

His songs reflect much that the world offers. Here is a quote from George Strait concerning his upbringing.

"My dad, of course, raised my brother and me on his own, and he raised us in a real religious atmosphere. We're all Baptists, and he always told me that the Lord would tell me what He wanted me to do with my life; and I kind of believe that's really true. So I didn't worry about it much, didn't think about it that much."

<http://hollowverse.com/george-strait/>

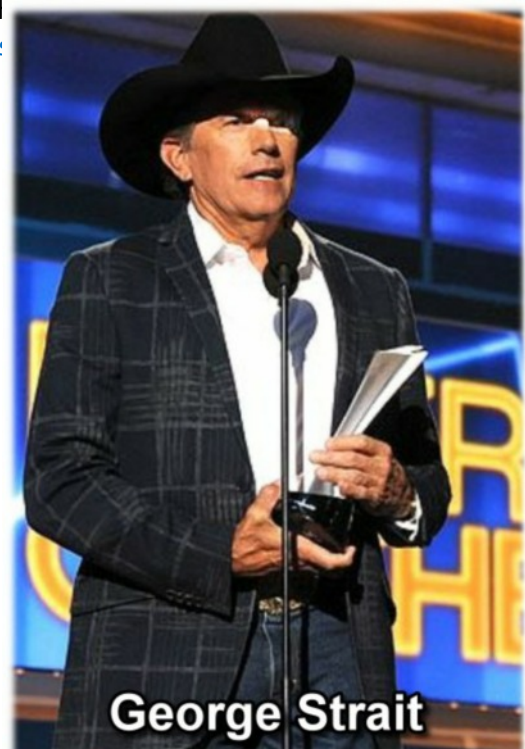
Here are just a few of his many hits that reflect the world and the Bible:

2:16 *"For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world."*

Song: She's Playing Hell Trying To Get Me To Heaven

*I let it all hang out last night
Come in hung over this morning
My woman met me at the door
Preaching me this warning
She said "You're gonna have to change
Your sinful way of living"
She's playing Hell
Trying to get me to Heaven*

*Well I promised to go to church with her
About a month of Sundays ago
And here it is, it's Sunday again
And I ain't been once in a row
And everytime that old church bell rings
You can hear my rod and reel singing
She's playing Hell*



Trying to get me to Heaven

She's playing Hell

Trying to get me to Heaven

'Cause there ain't no way

All my sins could be forgiven

There's only Ten Commandments

But I broke at least eleven

She's playing Hell

Trying to get me to Heaven

<http://www.cowboylrics.com/lyrics/strait-george/shes-playing-hell-trying-to-get-me-to-heaven-8899.html>

Song: Honky Tonk Crazy

There's a hundred dollar bill on the table

To get me through the night.

I've got a tight blue jean honky tonk queen

To hold me tight.

And a cowboy band's rendition

Of a Texas waltz.

It's music to my ears that I need to hear

To keep me from climbing the walls.

'Cause...

Tonight I'll be honky tonk crazy;

Rip-roaring wild one more time.

Tonight I'll be honky tonk crazy;

Let the whiskey whisk her out of my mind.

Let the whiskey whisk her out of my mind.

<http://www.cowboylrics.com/lyrics/strait-george/honky-tonk-crazy-8905.html>

Song: The Fireman

Well they call me the fireman, that's my name.

Making my rounds all over town, putting out old flames.

Well everybody'd like to have a what I got.

I can cool 'em down when they're smold'ring hot.

I'm the fireman, that's my name.

Last night they had a bad one a mile or two down the road.

Well my buddy walked out and left his woman burning out of control.

Well I was down there in about an hour or so.

With a little mouth to mouth she was ready to go.

I'm the fireman, that's my name.

Well they call me the fireman, that's my name.

Making my rounds all over town, putting out old flames.

Well everybody'd like to have a what I got.

I can cool 'em down when they're smold'ring hot.

I'm the fireman, that's my name.

*Got a fire engine red - T - bird automobile.
In a minute or less I can be dressed fit to kill.
I work 24 on, 24 off.
When they get too hot, they just give me a call.
I'm the fireman, that's my name.*

*Well they call me the fireman, that's my name.
Making my rounds all over town, putting out old flames.
Well everybody'd like to have a what I got.
I can cool 'em down when they're smold'ring hot.
I'm the fireman, that's my name.
They call me the fireman, that's my name.*

<http://www.cowboylyrics.com/lyrics/strait-george/the-fireman-8752.html>

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FORNICATION AND ADULTERY (↑)

As we have seen, the sensual pleasure of sex outside of holy matrimony is a major theme of country music. If it feels good and the two parties agree, it is O.K. "Nothin' wrong with a little livin'."

This is the devil's lie. God's Word issues powerful warnings against fornication and adultery. Not only does it have major consequences in this life, but it also has eternal consequences. Fornication will not be "our little secret," because God sees all things, and His Word warns, "*be sure your sin will find you out*" (**Numbers 32:23**).

"So he that goeth in to his neighbour's wife; whosoever toucheth her shall not be innocent. Men do not despise a thief, if he steal to satisfy his soul when he is hungry; But if he be found, he shall restore sevenfold; he shall give all the substance of his house. But whoso committeth adultery with a woman lacketh understanding: he that doeth it destroyeth his own soul. A wound and dishonour shall he get; and his reproach shall not be wiped away. For jealousy is the rage of a man: therefore he will not spare in the day of vengeance. He will not regard any ransom; neither will he rest content, though thou givest many gifts" (**Proverbs 6:29-35**).

"Furthermore then we beseech you, brethren, and exhort you by the Lord Jesus, that as ye have received of us how ye ought to walk and to please God, so ye would abound more and more. For ye know what commandments we gave you by the Lord Jesus. For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication: That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour; Not in the lust of concupiscence, even as the Gentiles which know not God: That no man go beyond and defraud his brother in any matter: because that the Lord is the avenger of all such, as we also have forewarned you and testified. For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness" (**1 Thessalonians 4:1-7**).



TOP 20 COUNTRY DRINKING SONGS (↑)

Recently *The Boot* online magazine voted on the top 20 "Drinking" songs. This gives a crystal clear look at the character of country music and how drinking is glorified. Some of the songs and musicians go back to the 50' and 60's.

Only the Lord knows how many country music fans have committed violent acts, estranged their children and friends, committed fornication and adultery, destroyed their marriages, crashed their vehicles, ruined their health, died before their time, and lost their souls -- all because of "drinking."

Consider some examples:

Whiskey River by Willie Nelson (1973)

"Whiskey River take my mind / Don't let her mem'ry torture me. / Whiskey River, don't run dry / You're all I've got, take care of me."

Friends in Low Places by Garth Brooks (1990)

"I've got friends in low places / Where the whiskey drowns / And the beer chases my blues away / And I'll be OK."

Alcohol by Brad Paisley (2005)

"Since the day I left Milwaukee / Lynchburg, Bordeaux, France / Been makin' the bars lots of big money / And helpin' white people dance." [The song is sung from the perspective of a bottle of booze.]

"All My Rowdy Friends" by Hank Williams, Jr. (1984)

"Do you wanna drink? / Do ya wanna party? / ... I cooked a pig in the ground, we got some beer on ice / And all my rowdy friends are coming over tonight."

"Pop a Top" by Alan Jackson (Under the Influence album, 1999)

"Pop a top again / I think I'll have another round / Sit 'em up, my friend / Then I'll be gone and you can let some other fool sit down."

"I Gotta Get Drunk" by George Jones, Merle Haggard, Willie Nelson (1970)

"A lot of doctors tell me / That I'd better start slowing it down / But there's more old drunks than there are old doctors / So I guess we'd better have another round"

"Six Pack Summer" by Phil Vassar (2000)

"Got the ultra-ray wraparound sunglass vision / Got the sails up, iced down, a cool ambition / Just to relax and let the six-pack summer roll."

"Get Drunk and Be Somebody" by Toby Keith (2003)

Keith also wrote "I Love This Bar," "Whiskey Girl," and "Beer for My Horses."

"Chug-aLug" by Roger Miller (1964)

Sumpin' like I ain't never seen / And I'm just going on 15 / But with the help of my finaglin' uncle I get snuck in / For my first taste of sin."

"Beer in Mexico" by Kenny Chesney (2005)

"Sit right here and have another beer in Mexico / Do my best to waste another day / Sit right here and have another beer in Mexico / Let the warm air melt these blues away"

"Margaritaville" by Jimmy Buffett (1977)

"There's booze in the blender / And soon it will render / That frozen concoction that helps me hang on."

"Killin' Time" by Clint Black (1989)

"If I did the things I oughta / You still would not be mine / So I'll keep a tight grip on the bottle / Gettin' loose and killin' time."

"It's 5 o'clock Somewhere," by Alan Jackson and Jimmy Buffett (2003)

"Pour me something' tall and strong / Make it a hurricane before I go insane / It's only half past twelve / But I don't care / It's five o'clock somewhere."



"Who hath woe? who hath sorrow? who hath contentions? who hath babbling? who hath wounds without cause? who hath redness of eyes? They that tarry long at the wine; they that go to seek mixed wine. Look not thou upon the wine when it is red, when it giveth his colour in the cup, when it moveth itself aright. At the last it biteth like a serpent, and stingeth like an adder. Thine eyes shall behold strange women, and thine heart shall utter perverse things. Yea, thou shalt be as he that lieth down in the midst of the sea, or as he that lieth upon the top of a mast. They have stricken me, shalt thou say, and I was not sick; they have beaten me, and I felt it not: when shall I awake? I will seek it yet again" (Proverbs 23:29-35).

CONCLUSION (↑)

I could have cited many more examples, but I think this is sufficient. I have no animosity towards anyone within country music or anyone else for that matter. I think most people would agree that today's country music has changed drastically from the old country and western music. Today's country music has a thin veneer of wholesomeness about it, but in reality it's laced with worldly themes, pushing the envelope whenever it can.

I know that it had a very powerful influence on my life and while was listening to country my relationship with my Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ suffered. I'm convinced country music played a part in distancing me from the Lord. I never want to go back to those days.

We're all sinners who need a Savior. None of us merit God's favor and forgiveness, but by His grace and regeneration through salvation, we are acceptable in His sight.

True Christianity is not trying to "live the Christian life." It is being born again and living a new life by the power of the indwelling Spirit. Jesus said that those who are not born again or converted will not see the kingdom of heaven. The reason so many country singers and listeners seem to hang between "amazing grace and hell" is that they have not been saved. They might have prayed a prayer and been baptized; they might have been raised in a Christian home; they might go to church; but they have not been converted and therefore they have no power to live for Christ. The Bible warns about those who have a "profession" without the "possession."

Matthew 18:3 *Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven.*

John 3:3 *Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.*

2 Corinthians 5:17 *Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.*

Titus 1:16 *They profess that they know God; but in works they deny him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate.*

1 John 2:4 *He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.*

1 Corinthians 6:9-11 *Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.*

The "grace" preached through country music is not the grace described in the Bible. A grace that allows Saturday night fornication and Sunday morning offering taking is not the true grace of Christ.

"For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ" (Titus 2:11-13).

My concern is that many Christians are listening to country music as an alternative to rock. While not all country music is like the examples I cited, country music does have the power to weaken a Christian's testimony and render us unfit to serve the Lord as we are called to do.

My admonition to those that read this is to be on guard against ALL forms of worldly music. Ask the Lord for discernment.

For those that read this that aren't saved, my plea is and my desire is for you to be saved today. Here are some verses that will help you to understand how to become a Christian.

1 Corinthians 15:3-4 *For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:*

John 3:3 *Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.*

Romans 3:10 *As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:*

Romans 3:23-24 *For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:*

Romans 10:9-11 *That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.*

Ephesians 1:7 *In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;*

1 Corinthians 15:3-4 *For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures.*



Country Music

A Safe Alternative?