

Dear Friends,

Kileen's niece posted about her son (who is about 12) listening to some "older" music and made the comment that it wasn't "crappy 2022" music. It got a lot of likes probably because they don't like today's pop style either. But to say '2022' like there is only one style of music being produced and sung right now is fairly narrow in its scope. Parents in my day, as in every generation, had little appreciation for stuff I listened to (80's, hair bands and the beginning of rap) as did their parents for their music (Beatles, Bob Dylan, and Elvis). There are a lot of styles being sung, played, written, and new genres trying to break through. To narrow all 2022 music to what is heard on a top-40 station is like saying all Christians are the same.

I have a hard time on social media that posts about Christians only wanting to control everyone and keep power for themselves and being the cause of all wars and all conflict. But then I listen to the 'popular' preachers and the large churches and the Christian literature that sells and I too often have to agree that there is something wrong, if not despicable, about that 'style' of Christianity.

How many times have you had to say in some variation, "I am a Christian, but not that type of Christian"? It is exhausting. Do we try to rebrand and call ourselves followers of Jesus or the Way? Do we try to make them the heretics and point out their hypocrisies that they aren't the true 'Christians'? Do we leave organized religion all together and just be a community who tries to do what is right or loving? If we are successful in the last one, then in a couple generations, our spiritual descendants will be organizing structures and scriptures and decide who is in and out. There is no easy answer of what to do.

Right now, I am going to continue to call myself a "Christian", try not to be a jerk, and help when I can. What about you?

Peace
Pastor Enno