

The Music & The Dance

Imagine this scene: There's a dancer in a studio. She puts earbuds in and hits 'play,' and because she hears the music she loves the best in all the world, she begins to dance. She's captivated and enthralled by the music, so the dance flows out from her.

A second dancer enters into the studio and looks at the first and thinks "that looks like fun!" And though she can't hear the music herself, she begins to dance by copying the moves of the first dancer.

For a time, it works. Sort of. But because she can't hear the music, her movements become clunky, hesitant, and self-conscious. She doesn't enjoy the dancing the way the first dancer does, partly because it's not springing from the music—it's entirely dependent on her getting the moves just right without any help. And before too long, she runs out of energy and motivation.



The past number of weeks, we've looked at the song beneath the stories of Scripture: the biblical symphony of Creation/Fall/Redemption/Restoration. Notice that the biblical symphony is primarily about *God*. It includes us, of course. But at its core, it's a song about God's grace in creating, redeeming, and restoring. We are swept up into this story to find it as our own.

Our invitation is, like the first dancer, to hear this song and be moved into a life of responding to the rhythms of God's grace. It's his grace that sets the tone. It's his grace that gives us rhythm. We hear the music and we dance.

Many Christians are so concerned with the Dance that they completely miss the music. But if we can't hear the music, then our dance will inevitably become out of rhythm and impossible to sustain. We'll become like the second dancer, who tries to do the dance by simply learning and copying the steps.

The question for us is this: When we are struggling, what's our impulse? To beat ourselves up for missing a step? To try harder to get it right next time?

What if, instead, we turn up the Music?

Questions for Discussion

- 1) What are the ways that you're tempted to focus on the Dance instead of the Music?
- 2) What are some ways to "turn up the Music?"