# Singing's Gone Global: Exploring Christian Songs: Dr Steve H Hakes © 2016

## **Blemish Avoidance Grading (condensed)**

Songs are built of various parts, eg the prophetic moment, musical relevancy, teaching. As a biblically educated Christian lyricologist, I tend to focus on theology, logic, and grammar, but different folk would grade in different ways. So I've tried to make it clear what I find a problem, why, and how seriously, I judge these problems.

One of the follies of much secular politics is the idea that one mustn't discriminate, that is until the Parties seek your vote and beg you to discriminate in their favour. Moral discrimination is not immoral, but non-discrimination is. Discrimination between songs is a virtue—how well or badly I've done it, let the reader judge.

My Blemish Avoidance Grade gives each song 100 points, then takes off points if blemishes as defined, are found:

#### Minus 4 points

The slightly silly, I slightly downgrade: Mixed Themes (A),
Incompletism (B), Blessing God (D), Buddy or Boyfriend (E).

# **Minus 8 points**

A bit worse, I think, are, Archaism (C), Polytheism (F), Boasting (K), Decontextualising (L).

#### Minus 12 points

 Of moderate seriousness, I would list Misdirection (I), Hermit Harakiri (M).

# Minus 24-48 points

Of high seriousness, Voxdeism (G), and Prayer Misvisualisation (J).

## Minus 60 points

Of just fail seriousness, Soft Unitarianism (H1).

### Minus 72 points

Of bad fail seriousness, Hard Unitarianism (H2).

In spite of flawlessness, a song might be meaningless. In spite of flaws, a song might be meaningful: even the church is flawed (Eph.5:27). Usually, grade E will indicate songs damaging to trinitarianism, however trendy and talented they might be, and however much they might throw in a brilliant phrase.

