

Come As You Are (CAYA) Service
Wednesday, July 6, 2011
Rev. Howard-John Wesley, Alfred Street Baptist Church

Hip Hop and Christianity

Scripture Reference - **Daniel 3: 1-7**

The Image of Gold and the Blazing Furnace

1 King Nebuchadnezzar made an image of gold, sixty cubits high and six cubits wide, and set it up on the plain of Dura in the province of Babylon.

2 He then summoned the satraps, prefects, governors, advisers, treasurers, judges, magistrates and all the other provincial officials to come to the dedication of the image he had set up.

3 So the satraps, prefects, governors, advisers, treasurers, judges, magistrates and all the other provincial officials assembled for the dedication of the image that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up, and they stood before it.

4 Then the herald loudly proclaimed, "Nations and peoples of every language, this is what you are commanded to do:

5 As soon as you hear the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp, pipe and all kinds of music, you must fall down and worship the image of gold that King Nebuchadnezzar has set up.

6 Whoever does not fall down and worship will immediately be thrown into a blazing furnace."

7 Therefore, as soon as they heard the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp and all kinds of music, all the nations and peoples of every language fell down and worshiped the image of gold that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up.

Lesson began with a scene from the movie Brown Sugar (When Did you Fall In Love With Hip-Hop):
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1j4M5q-6414>

No cultural force or phenomenon has changed more lives (other than Christianity) than hip-hop

It's found in every society in the world.

No other music form has spread so quickly.

The stereotype on Hip Hop Music is it is Demonic. The 1980's was the birth of Hip Hop in this Nation. It would span all over the world. Hip Hop changed the minds and thoughts of many. Besides Gospel, Hip Hop has changed many in this Nation.

Hip Hop began in Urban obscurity and can now be found in every culture around the world. Hip Hop has gone through some Unstoppable Moves.

MTV owns its whole existence to Yo, MTV Raps!

Things Birthed/Influence by Hip-Hop

- Video Vixens
- Clothing lines { Baby Phat, Sean Jean, Apple Bottom }
- Alcohol { Cristal, Henny, Grey Goose, Ciroc }
- Magazines { King, Smooth }
- TV Shows { MTV birthed by Yo MTV Raps }

Hip Hop has always been Controversial! Lyrics and Labels were always protested to be cleaned up ! Theories have evolved that some artists have sold their souls to the Illuminati.

Definition: Illuminati - those who've sold their soul out to the devil.

There has been a knee jerk reaction between the world of Hip Hop and the Kingdom.

Question: What do you do when you have been molded by the Gospel and Shaped by Hip Hop? How do we balance Sanctification and Socialization ?

We are called the Redeemed but we are young and like Hip Hop Music

To what degree do we as Christians engage the World (partying, clubbing, dancing, etc.)

I Corinthians 10:23

You say, "I am allowed to do anything"—but not everything is good for you. You say, "I am allowed to do anything"—but not everything is beneficial.

We, as Christians, have to have to be serious about our witness to the World. God holds us accountable when our witness becomes a stumbling block for an unbeliever. As they may see us in the club and not be hypocritical of us when they see us at church on Sunday. We should be concerned about being a stumbling block.

Question: What will you be doing when Jesus comes back ? It may not be on a Sunday @ 8AM!

Be Careful of your judging. We have to be cognizant of our witness, but careful of judgement of how others walk with God. Be careful you may indict yourself when you are judging others

II Corinthians 6:17

Therefore, come out from among unbelievers, and separate yourselves from them, says the Lord. Don't touch their filthy things, and I will welcome you.

Question: Can you be 100% filled with the Holy Spirit refrain from drinking, dancing sexually, not look @ someone as a jump off and leave as Saved as you came ?

Enjoy life without violating your faith.

Read Luke 15 (story of the prodigal son).

Parable of the Lost Son - Riotous Living : Older Brother implies his younger brother spent his money on prostitutes. {False Judgement} Brother is implying that is what he would have done with the money.

Seven Areas where Hip-Hop and Christianity Clash

1. Promotes unbridled Materialism

Materialism - preoccupation with or emphasis on material objects, comforts, and considerations, with a disinterest in or rejection of spiritual, intellectual, or cultural values.

🕒 Example: Get, Get, Bling, Bling, Buy Buy, Show, Show

🕒 Young people yearn to possess to show they have arrived. Cars are promoted by Hip Hop. Videos show the new Fashion Trends and people gravitate to them.

🕒 Contrary to Christianity

🕒 Mark 8:36

🕒 And what do you benefit if you gain the whole world but lose your own soul

🕒 Matthew 19:24

🕒 I'll say it again—it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the Kingdom of God!

2. Advocates an Ungodly sexual hedonism

- 🎧 Hedonism - the doctrine that pleasure or happiness is the highest good.
- 🎧 Example: By any means necessary
- 🎧 Contrary to anything in Gods Word

3. Embraces the use of Profanity

- 🎧 Profanity has no value in our walk with God.
- 🎧 Mouths that praise shouldn't be full of vulgarity

🎧 James 3: 9-10

- 🎧 9 Sometimes the tongue praises our Lord and Father, and sometimes it curses those who have been made in the image of God.
- 🎧 10 And so blessing and cursing come pouring out of the same mouth. Surely, my brothers and sisters, this is not right!

4. Spotlights Violence

- 🎧 Tupac vs Biggie. It is not cool to get shot.
- 🎧 Some artists have become more popular when they have a jail record or have been shot.

🎧 Matthew 5:9

- 🎧 9 Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

5. Presents a degrading portrait of Women

- 🎧 Chris Rock - sign of success is keeping your daughter OFF the poll.
- 🎧 Women calling each other B's but your are rocking to the song.
- 🎧 Imagery - Video Vixens - Not Modeling
- 🎧 Doesn't Glorify God
- 🎧 Proverbs 31:30
 - 🎧 30 Charm is deceitful and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the LORD, she shall be praised.

6. De-emphasizes Education

- 🎧 The Lord calls us to develop our hearts, minds and souls
- 🎧 I'm a hustler
 - 🎧 Hussling ain't cool....benefits are Cool!
- 🎧 Educate yourself to the Fullest

7. Giving into Idolatrous Images

- 🎧 Idolatrous - worshiping idols/blindly adoring
- 🎧 God Complexes - Jehovah is a direct idolatrous term.
- 🎧 Most of hip-hop has an anti-church message
- 🎧 most of society knows more Hip Hop lyrics that scriptures

- ✅ Enjoy and Be Critical
- ✅ Enjoy and Beware of its dangers
- ✅ Draw the Line

When Christ dwells in you, some stuff should offend you (ouch)!

We as a people have racial sensibility but no holy sensibility. Some people will argue hip-hop is just art and a musical expression.

Question #1: Do you see Hip Hop as an Artistic Form and how does it influence your life?

- ☉ Those who are immature in the world receive more from hip-hop than they do from the Gospel.
- ☉ Russel Simmons said, "I'm a God because I can influence more people than a preacher can"
- ☉ Kayne West compared a concert to church saying, "It's just like church because you go to a concert, you raise your hands in the air, you get dressed up, you sing songs, and you definitely pay some money."

Psalm 125:3

3 For the scepter of wickedness shall not rest upon the land of the righteous,
So that the righteous will not put forth their hands to do wrong.

- ☉ Be careful what authority controls your life.
- ☉ Music is Powerful - a song can become stuck in your head immediately
- ☉ Know what Satan's job was in heaven? He was the Chief Musician!

Usual Suspects movie quote

"The greatest trick the devil ever pulled was convincing the world he didn't exist" - Keyser Soze

{ <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KnGo6QmOWt8> }

Question: Do you just like the beat while satan is giving you the message?

Question #2: Is your enjoyment an endorsement?

- ☉ When we respond to the music are we endorsing the message from it.
- ☉ What are we saying when we purchase and play the music?

Question #3: How do you separate the art from the artist?

- ☉ When they are not a born again in Christ ?
- ☉ Can an ungodly vessel pour into a Godly vessel?
- ☉ Some of us have given more to iTunes than to the Kingdom of God!
- ☉ Hip hop is not going away and neither is the gospel of Jesus Christ

(notes are combination from Morrice Scott and Tamara Y. Washington)

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