

Unavoidable. Pervasive. Inescapable. Secular pop music is everywhere. Even if you can get your young Christian friends to switch their listening habits from secular to sacred, they are still going to hear the top popular songs everywhere they go. In this section we provide you some

ideas to take advantage of some of the most popular secular songs. Use the opening questions, the thematic concepts and discussion ideas to spice up your Bible study, Sunday School lesson, camp/retreat meeting or outreach event message.

Artist:

Cardi B

Song: WAP (feat. Frank Ski, Megan Thee Stallion)

Album: WAP - Single

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EDITOR'S EXTRA WARNING

Because of the raunchiness of this song (even Cardi B agrees) we almost didn't include it in this edition of *Youth Leaders Only*. Because it is the #1 song on the planet (and most of your kids have heard it) we had to include it. This should remind us all of the battle we are in!

Theme

God's Creation, Sex; Purity, Sex; Lust/Pornography

Teaching Point

God is our creator who made us out of love, for love, and to be love. Cardi B sings about sex as a simple means of self-gratification and fornication without regard to the dignity of the human person – that sex is an act void of love and respect. This is not true love – sex is meant to be the ultimate gift one can give through a marital act.

Opening Question

Have you ever thought about why God created us? We were made to love and serve Him in this life and the next. **Genesis 2:24** notes that man and woman were created for marriage.

Discussion

"WAP" talks about sex as merely an act of perverse gratification with no regard to the woman or the man involved or the dignity they possess. The woman is originally not an object for the man; only when the nakedness makes the other an "object" is nakedness a source of disgrace. Purity of heart prevented this originally and allowed them to see in each other the meaning of this true gift.

Christ stated that "someone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart." (**Matthew 5:27-28**) The Ten Commandments had already said, "You shall not covet your neighbor's wife." **1 John 2:16-17** describes the three forms of lust that are "not of the Father but the world" – lust of the flesh, of the eyes, and the pride of life. This is not the "world" created by God, which was good, but the world that results from man's breaking the covenant in his heart. Sin transforms the world into a source and place of lust. With the lust of the eyes and the flesh, it leads to making the human being an object.

NOTE: This song's lyrics are EXPLICIT – we don't condone them, or recommend that kids listen to this song – but we know that many of your students are familiar with it, and want to give you a tool to help them think Biblically about it.

Christ wants the heart to be a place for the fulfillment of the law. The commandments must be kept in "purity of heart." The severity of the prohibition against sin is shown by Christ's figuratively speaking of "plucking out one's eye" and "cutting off one's hand" if they cause one to sin. Christ wants to remove lust from the relationship between man and woman so that, in purity of heart, the person can shine in mutual self-giving and sacramental unity. Purity of heart must mark mutual relations between man and woman. Lust is opposed to purity. The pure of heart shall see God. The heart is the source of purity and lust.

For St. Paul, following Christ, real purity comes from man's heart and concerns more than the sexual. As he writes to Titus, "To the pure all things are pure, but to the corrupt and unbelieving nothing is pure; their very minds and consciences are corrupted. They profess to know God, but they deny him by their deeds..." (**Titus 1:15**) There is the call to put to death the deeds of the body by the Spirit in order to live. (**Romans 8:12-13**) This is the same appeal Christ made to the human heart to control its desires.

Conclusion

The heart has become a battleground between love and lust. The more lust dominates the heart, the less there will be love, self-gift, and nuptial meaning. We need to keep the heart under control.

St. Paul shares a contrast between what is "of the Father" and "of the world," in the opposition between "flesh" and the "Spirit" (meaning Holy Spirit). The desires of the flesh are against the Spirit. (**Galatians 5:16**) "For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit." (**Romans 8:5**)

Unfortunately, "WAP" reminds us that we are to stay pure in spirit and heart if we are to win the cultural battle for the salvation of our souls. This is why St. Paul says those who do the works of the flesh will not inherit the kingdom. (**Galatians 5:21**)