

CPYU 3(D) REVIEW

Song/Video: "Moves Like Jagger" - Maroon 5

By Walt Mueller

Background/summary: This single from Maroon 5 was released as a digital download on June 21, 2011, the same day the band's lead singer, Adam Levine, performed the song live on the *The Voice* with fellow vocal coach Christina Aguilera. The catchy and upbeat pop dance tune quickly became a summer chart-topper, continuing to chart well after the August 8 release of the song's video. "Moves Like Jagger" continued to top the airplay charts at the beginning of October 2011. Levine and his musical crew hope that the song introduces young music fans to The Rolling Stones' frontman, Mick Jagger. . . who has remained a cultural icon for many of their parents.

Discover: What is the message/worldview?:

- The video opens with a black and white shot of the front of LA's Palace 100 Theater and marquis advertising "Today Jagger Auditions." A stage crew sets up as a host of Jagger impersonators prepare to perform for judges. Archived footage of a mid-60s era interview with Jagger himself captures the young lead singer saying that his band's been at it for about two years and that looking back, he couldn't even imagine being able to do it for those two years.
- A shirtless Levine sings and moves for the camera interspersed with shots of the Jagger impersonators doing their best "Mick moves," including some footage of Jagger moving in his trademark manner. A boasting Levine works to win the attention of his subject by showing off and singing: "You want the moves like Jagger?/I've got the moves like Jagger."
- The singer pursues her lyrically: "You wanted control so we waited/I put on a show now I make it/You say I'm a kid/My ego is big/I don't give a s____." His big ego speaks as he tells her, "I don't need to try to control you/Look into my eyes and I'll own you."
- He recognizes her brokenness and promises to serve as her savior, seeing a physical encounter as redemptive: "Maybe it's hard when you feel like you're broken and scarred/Nothing feels right/But when you're with me/I make you believe that I've got the key." He states his redemptive method simply: "Take me by the tongue and I'll know you/Kiss me till you're drunk and I'll show you."
- Christina Aguilera appears on stage and begins to answer his overtures: "You wanna know how to make me smile?/Take control, own me just for the night/And if I share my secret/You're gonna have to keep/Nobody else can see this/So watch and learn/I won't show you twice/Head to toe, ooh baby, roll me right."
- The song ends with all the impersonators on stage together, dancing energetically as the band plays and confetti drops. The old black and white interview footage of Mick Jagger returns, with Jagger speculating about the length of his musical future: "I think we're sort of pretty well set up for at least another year." At least. . . . !

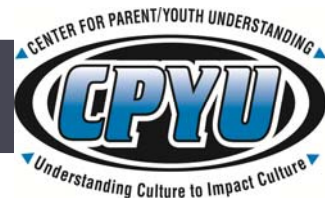


Discern: How does it stand in light of the biblical message/worldview?

- Deep and lasting relationships take great time, care, and effort. Because we are broken people, commitment is needed to carry those relationships through the inevitable difficulties life brings, especially the breakdowns between couples. The reality is that love is hard work. In the case of "Moves Like Jagger," relationships are portrayed as instant, feeling-based and driven, initiated through physical contact, and perhaps nothing more than sexual.

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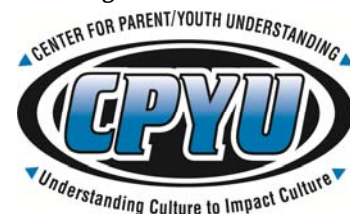


- Healthy romantic relationships are marked by mutual submission – one to another - under the authority of God. The only types of control that should exist are living life in accordance with God's will (under God's control), and maintaining self-control. . . especially when our impulsive feeling-driven tendencies surface. The book of Proverbs is full of wisdom on these matters. In the song, there is a tendency towards a type of sexual control that is not only beyond the bounds of God's will for His gift of sexuality, but a self-serving control that leads the other to give up whatever it is that you selfishly desire.
- Lyrical references to being "broken and scarred" capture the reality of life in our sinful and fallen world. In fact, as one's life progresses, both the occurrence and awareness of one's breaks and scars deepens. While romance and sex are often pursued as redeemers, they can never work that way. While they may temporarily sedate, the reality is that they break and scar even deeper. Redemption only comes through Jesus Christ, the one who was wounded, broken and scarred in our place on the cross (Isaiah 53:5).

Decide: What do I do with it?

- Children and teens – the primary listening audience for this song – are incredibly vulnerable to media influence as a result of where they're at in the developmental process. They want answers to their questions. Their beliefs and behaviors are shaped by catchy tunes like "Moves Like Jagger." They look up to talented singers like Levine and Aguilera as role models to emulate. As a result, this simple and relatively tame song/video have a built in ethos that is extremely influential. For that reason, parents and youth workers must understand the music's message and be ready to answer even the most simple and subtle messages with biblical truth.
- The video can be shown to students and used to spark discussion on a variety of topics including sexuality, love, commitment, brokenness, hurt, pain, male/female roles, respect, humility, pride, etc.
- The "Moves Like Jagger" story offers a case study in how to effectively cross-market to children and adolescents in today's world. Consequently, we should take steps to make kids aware of how the use of two pop stars, performances on *The Voice*, and carefully selected release dates combine with other marketing tactics to draw them in. The song can be used to make kids savvy to marketing.
- As with all media, a chart-topper like "Moves Like Jagger" must be carefully deconstructed and discussed by parents and youth workers. It offers a compelling window into the world of children and teens. The video should be shown and discussed at training events and parents meetings with an eye toward uncovering beliefs and behaviors. Discuss which can be celebrated and embraced because of their conformity to the Scriptures, and which must be challenged and corrected because they don't line up with God's Word.
- "Moves Like Jagger" is an ideal song to use to teach students how to think Christianly and biblically about all music and media. Show it to your group and then take the time to break into groups to filter the song and video through CPYU's *How to Use Your Head to Guard Your Heart 3(D) Media Evaluation* guide (available online at www.cpyu.org).

Dr. Walt Mueller is the president of the Center for Parent/Youth Understanding.



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