

CPYU 3(D) REVIEW

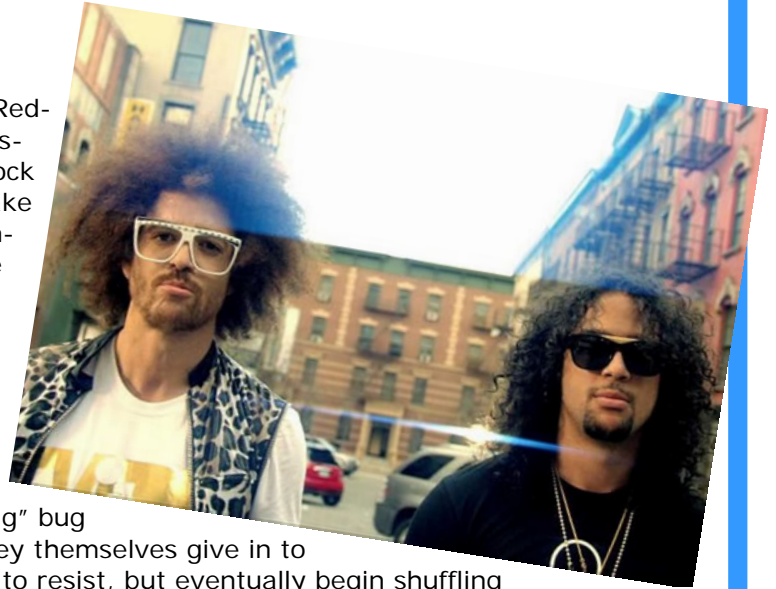
Song/Video: "Party Rock Anthem" - LMFAO

By Chris Wagner

Background/summary: "Party Rock Anthem" is the hit song from the electro-pop group LMFAO. The group's name is an acronym often used in texting which stands for "laughing my f***ing a** off" though the band's name is pronounced by saying each letter. Off of the album *Sorry for Party Rocking*, the song has spent over 20 weeks on the Billboard Hot 100 chart where it spent 6 consecutive weeks at the #1 spot. The duo that makes up LMFAO consists of Stefan Kendal Gordy, known as Redfoo and Skyler Husten Gordy, who goes by SkyBlu. Their musical style is geared toward partying while their looks combine a modern and 80's induced vibe.

Discover: What is the message/worldview?:

- The video opens up with text explaining that Redfoo and SkyBlu slipped into a coma after excessive "party rocking" the night before "Party Rock Anthem" was released. 28 days later, they wake up from their comas and walk out into a seemingly deserted city street. They encounter one young man down the street, dancing, but as they try to get his attention another young man quickly attempts to warn them that ever since "that song" was released the entire world has been "shuffling" or dancing to the irresistible sound.
- Those who haven't succumbed to the "shuffling" bug yet are dance-attacked on the streets until they themselves give in to the craze. At first Redfoo and SkyBlu attempt to resist, but eventually begin shuffling themselves. The rest of the video heavily relies on dance sequences demonstrating different shuffling techniques. The ending lyrics "Everyday I'm Shuffling" has become a pop culture phenomenon.
- The dance song is clearly made for partying and the chorus encourages listeners to "just have a good time." Partying at the club, or party rocking as the group calls it, is at the forefront of importance to LMFAO.
- Besides being encouraged to shuffle, the lyrics also suggest that a night of party rocking includes drinking, spending money, as well as "getting naked" or other sexual activities.
- An interesting cast of young party rockers makes up the dance crew throughout the video. Many of them are very talented dancers. They embody the party rock style that LMFAO has come to represent. Some of the characters are even in costume, such as a nurse, robot, and even a young man dressed as Jesus.

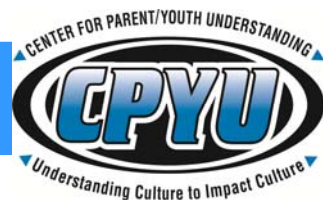


Discern: How does it stand in light of the biblical message/worldview?

- God wants us to experience joy in this world, but our joy should be found in delighting in Him and His ways. Psalm 112:1 states, "Praise the Lord. Blessed is the man who fears the Lord, who finds great delight in his commands." Behaviors suggested in the song and video, such as excessive drinking and sexual behavior outside the establishment of marriage stand in stark contrast to God's boundaries as given in the Bible.

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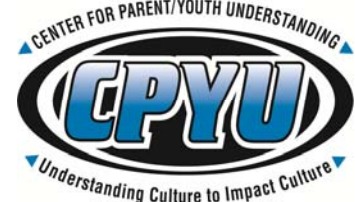


- Shuffling, or any kind of dancing, can be a great way to worship God and display the talents and abilities that God has given us (Psalm 149:3). Students should be encouraged to do everything to the glory of God, even shuffling. Some of the dance moves seen in the video are imaginative works of art by talented performers. With or without knowing it, their creativity and skill points to their Creator.
- Party rocking exemplifies wanting to have a good time and get along with everyone. One lyric suggests “Stop. Hatin’ is bad.” In Mark 12:28-34, Jesus answers one of the teachers of the law saying, in part, “Love your neighbor as yourself.”
- The zombie-like way that the world has yielded to the shuffling craze as portrayed in the music video demonstrates how easily it is for us to get caught up in the latest fad, or to mindlessly follow the crowd. Romans 12:2 bids us not to fall into this kind of behavior but instead “be transformed by the renewing of your mind.”

Decide: What do I do with it?

- “Party Rock Anthem” has been sitting at or near the top of the charts and therefore deserves the attention of those who work with and minister to youth. Use the song and video as a glimpse into today’s youth culture and the messages being portrayed to teens through media.
- Use the lyrics and video to spark discussion about what it means to “have a good time.” Are there appropriate ways for us to have fun? As Christians, should our standards be different from the rest of the world? Help your teens dig into scripture to find answers to these questions.
- Chances are, if this song has already become popular among the teens you minister to, then many of your teens have probably already mastered the shuffling dance craze popularized by LMFAO. Perhaps there is a way you could safely encourage this healthy expression and creativity. Provide teens with an appropriate setting at which to display their dance moves. Affirming students’ gifts is a great way to remind them of their Creator while helping them build their identity in Christ.
- The follow-up song and video from LMFAO, titled “Champagne Showers” contains much of the same party rock themes and the video is actually a continuation of the story begun in “Party Rock Anthem.” Some of the same characters return to this continuing story, including the robot and Jesus. The character of Jesus plays a much more prominent role in the second video. Watch this video and any others released by LMFAO in the future so that you can stay attuned to the messages being portrayed. Filter each of their videos through the *3(D) Guide* steps. The popularity of their music ensures that the narrative being played out through their music videos will continue to influence today’s youth culture. Be culturally informed so that you know what plot lines to affirm and which ones need an injection of truth.

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