

CPYU 3-D Review

Song/Video: "So What" by Pink



Background/summary: This song is the first single release off Pink's (real name: Alecia Moore) new album, *Funhouse*, which is set for release on October 28, 2008. Leaked online 11 days before its scheduled August 18 release, the single shot to #1 on the Australian charts within 6 hours. On September 18, the song hit the #1 spot on the *Billboard* singles chart after being the number one radio airplay gainer for four weeks running.

Discover: What is the message/worldview?

- The song is Pink's lyrical and visual response to her separation and divorce from Motocross star Carey Hart. The two met at the X-Games in 2001 and shortly thereafter began a relationship. They were married in January 2006 after Pink proposed to Hart via his Pit board during a race.
- Known as a pop singer who helped move formulated female pop beyond the stereotype of the innocent young objectified singer (think early Britney Spears, Mandy Moore, Jessica Simpson, etc.), Pink continues to be consistent to her original image by showing her "don't mess with me" tough girl bravado in "So What."
- This song is one more angry song about relational brokenness from a young woman who experienced a tremendous amount of alienation as a child and teen, including a broken relationship with her father.
- As she struts angrily through a variety of scenarios, she tells viewers, "I guess I just lost my husband/I don't know where he went/So I'm gonna drink my money/I'm not gonna pay his rent/I got a brand new attitude/And I'm gonna wear it tonight/I wanna get in trouble/I wanna start a fight."
- She takes out her anger and frustration by getting a tattoo, stopping at a liquor store, slowing traffic, beating up a music store clerk, cutting down a tree that's been carved with "Alecia and Carey," harassing a young just-married couple in their car, stripping naked for the media, and giving two bottles of urine to two unsuspecting fans to drink.
- Pink declares how she will get through it, albeit in a manner in which she is attempting to convince herself that she *will* be alright. "So what?" she asks. How will she get through it? "I'm still a rock star/I got my rock moves/And I don't need you. . . . And guess what/I'm having more fun. . . . na, na, na, na, na, na, na/We're all gonna get in a fight." Her happiness will return because of her fame and determined bravado.
- Interestingly enough, Hart appears in the video with Pink, posturing in ways that show he is disinterested in continuing the relationship. Reports are that while the breakup has been difficult for Pink, the two are still amicable friends.

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

- Our current culture continues a slide away from a Biblical view of committed marriage. While Pink and Hart should be applauded for stepping out of the celebrity mold and getting married in the first place, the breaking of that commitment in just two short years is not in line with God's design for the institution of marriage as a life-long monogamous bond between two people. . . for better or for worse.
- While anger is a very real emotion that we should be allowed to experience, especially when we've been hurt deeply by someone else, revenge should not be a path we pursue. God has told his followers that vengeance is his. We are called to choose to forgive, and – as Jesus said – to forgive and keep forgiving (seventy times seven). It is through showing the grace and forgiveness we've been shown that we find freedom.
- Redemption and healing do not come through riches or resolve. It is through God's healing Spirit who lives in and through us while ministering to us that we experience renewal and joy. Granted, renewal and joy most likely will not be immediate, but we should prayerfully pursue these paths rather than pursuing any other way.
- Violence is never an option for the Christian who has been forsaken or hurt. We are called to be peacemakers.
- With relational brokenness running rampant among childrens, teens, and young adults, those of us who encounter the broken should assume a Christ-like posture, caring for and ministering to those like Pink who are broken, hurt, and in deep need of understanding and love.

Decide: What do I do with it?

- "So What" is perfect video to show to a variety of audiences of adults as a window into the world of media and youth culture. Pastors, youth workers, educators, and parents should view and discuss the video, looking at it for insights into the emerging values, attitudes, and behaviors that are now a mainstream part of today's youth culture, including the depth of systemic abandonment, relational brokenness, and their very personal results.
- With marriage declining in American culture, "So What" reminds us of our need to not only model healthy marriages, but to be intentional and diligent about promoting strong marriages through educational efforts with children, teens, and young adults. This is a reality the church must address from the perspective of a Biblical world and life view.
- Because "So What" is so pervasive as a music and video piece familiar to children and teens, view it together. Follow up with a discussion using CPYU's *How to Use Your Head to Guard Your Heart 3D Media Evaluation Guide* (available in the CPYU Resource Center online at www.cpyu.org).
- "So What" can also be used as a springboard for discussion with teenagers on a variety of topics including marriage, revenge, conflict-resolution, forgiveness, finding peace, the Holy Spirit, grace, and redemption.

**For more information on today's youth culture, visit the website of the
Center for Parent/Youth Understanding at
www.cpyu.org.**