

CPYU 3(D) REVIEW

Song/Video: "Letdown" by This Providence

Background/summary: This brand new single-release from the young pop quartet known as This Providence debuted on mtv.com as the site's top music video pick. The catchy, simple and straightforward tune meets the standards for quick acceptance and adoption as a sing-a-long soundtrack to life, especially among young tween and teen listeners who are trying to juggle relationships and romantic feelings.

Discover: What is the message/worldview?:

- The singer is "letdown" because of a relationship that he had hoped would go well has gone bad. He laments his condition and describes himself as having "those lovesick blues." The cause? "She was the drug I abused/I feel a rising fever/Shaking in my sleep left me broken and bruised."
- Lyrically, the song describes how the girl let him down: "She said, 'you're just a let-down/Another one of my mistakes/I never loved you anyway/I never did and I never will ... All of your friends/They feel the same."
- He sings of how she manipulated him and lured him in: "She was well dressed and she knew what to do ... She was a ruthless artist ... She sealed my fate with her conniving sugar kisses ... I took the bait, she told me I didn't know what I was missing."
- The song's visual story alternates between scenes of the band playing on a dark lot, and stereotypical shots of a teenaged couple locked in young love and romance. They snuggle, hold hands, embrace, smile and kiss in a variety of settings, including the beach, fields, a bowling alley and a restaurant.
- In a reversal of what is normally the case, this time the girl has abused the guy. He sings, "She was a ruthless artist/Traded my skin for cheap sex and tattoos."
- The realities and complexities of teenage love found and lost are the subject matter of this song that so clearly reflects this aspect of adolescent life.

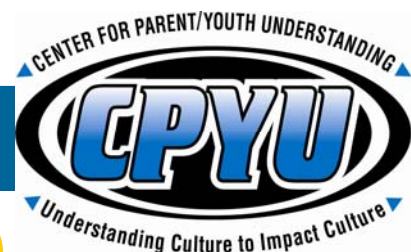


Discern: How does it stand in light of the biblical message/worldview?

- God has made us grow from childhood into adulthood. During that time, our bodies, feelings and desires change. These God-ordained developmental changes couple with cultural lessons and encouragement in a mix that brings romance and love to the surface. This is normal, but must be guided, understood and experienced in healthy ways.
- God has created romance to be experienced between a man and a woman, ultimately in all of its glory and fullness within the context of marriage. However, during periods of dating and courtship there will be ups and downs.
- Humans are created in the image of God, the crowning point of His creation. As such, our identity is found solely in Christ. Because the world is broken, we seek redemption through all sorts of avenues other than the one true redeemer. That reality couples with human depravity and we get what this song describes—cheating, hurt, casual sex outside the bounds of marriage, and the resulting hurt that comes with experiencing something that’s not meant to be.
- In a world where love is defined in a variety of ways other than what it was made and intended to be, kids need to hear the message of self-giving “agape” love. They need to learn that love is commitment, and that within the commitment of marriage, sex has a place—a wonderful place.

Decide: What do I do with it?

- This song is a goldmine for youth workers and parents who long to find something in the world of pop culture that serves as a springboard for talks and teaching about relationships and love. You can show this video to kids of all ages without hesitation. Follow up with questions about the song’s message, and where they might have seen themselves in the song. Then, bring the light of God’s word to bear on the realities and topics broached lyrically and visually in the tune.
- “Letdown” offers parents a peek into the world of kids—a world they most likely experienced themselves, but have long since forgotten—perhaps on purpose! Parents need to develop a sensitivity to this reality that exists with kids, a reality that most likely is not their own.
- Use “Letdown” as a catalyst for prayer. Our kids need us to be praying for them as they travel through this difficult time and period of life.
- Talk with kids about God’s order and design for the gift of their sexuality.



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