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CPYU (D) REVIEW By Walt Mueller



song/
video

“drop dead”

by Olivia Rodrigo

Background/summary:

Debuting at **#1 on the Billboard chart** upon its release on April 17, 2026, this single from 23-year-old singer/songwriter/actress Olivia Rodrigo is off her upcoming studio album, ***You Seem Pretty Sad For A Girl So In Love***. Known for her thematic connection with a younger demographic of primarily teen and pre-teen females, Rodrigo steps away in this synth pop rock tune from her normal subject matter of teen breakups and heartbreak to offer up a bouncy happy song about the desired start of a new relationship. In an interview with *Vogue*, she says **the song “makes me wanna skip around and roll the windows down and make out.”** The video garnered over 25 million views in its first two weeks of release.

(D)iscover

WHAT IS THE MESSAGE/WORLDVIEW?

- The video begins with a dreamy and blurry image of Rodrigo in a dance club standing alone and singing as couples dance behind her. She addresses the object of her day-dreamed desire, telling him that she doesn't want this imagined moment to end: ***I know that the bar closes at 11/I hope that you never finish that beer.*** She mentions how the 1987 song from The Cure, ***Just Like Heaven***, captures the infatuation she feels in the moment: ***You know all the words to “Just Like Heaven”/And I know why he (Robert Smith of the Cure) wrote them/Now that you're standing right here.***
- The song goes up tempo as the scene morphs to the singer lying in bed in the French Palace of Versailles, where the remainder of the video takes place. Her face illuminated by a laptop screen, she sings, ***One night I was bored in bed/And stalked you on the internet.*** As she seductively rises from the bed, viewers see that she's dressed in lingerie (which notably is the actual garment worn by the main character of the 1975 French film, ***Catherine and Co.***, a “sex-comedy” about a young British prostitute). She continues to sing to the object of her stalking: ***It's feminine intuition/Cuz I've always had a vision of us standing like this/All pressed up in the bathroom line (together at the club)/ You're looking like an angel on the walls of Versailles.***
- She falls off the bed as she gets lost and energized in her fantasy: ***The most alive I've ever been/But kiss me and I might drop dead/And I feel like I might throw up/Left hook, right punch to the gut/You're so pretty boy!*** She's trying to convince herself that he's real, and then expresses her lusty desire for what she hopes will happen: ***I'm paranoid I made you up/Yeah I'd love it if you walked me home/If you promised we could go real slow. . . I've been dropping hints all night/That I'd love it if you held my hand, goddamn.*** She expresses her desire for even more: ***Then maybe we could make-makeout/Clothes off and fall to the ground. . . If you let me stay the night/Well I think I might just have to stay forever.***
- The final three minutes of the video feature the singer gleefully singing and dancing hopefully, happily, and seductively playful as she runs through the Palace of Versailles. She questions their astrological compatibility: ***Pisces and a Gemini/But I think we might go really nice together/If you let me stay the night. . .*** The video ends with Rodrigo lying down, out of breath, on the front steps of the palace.



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- The human desire for relationship is one that has existed since Creation, as human beings were created in the image of the trinitarian God. . . Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. At creation, God created human beings male and female (**Genesis 1:27**) in a complementarian relationship. God states at creation that **“it is not good for man to be alone”** (**Genesis 2:18**). At it’s core, Rodrigo’s yearning is evidence of the fact that we have been created to need each other. While her desire is for a romantic relationship that she believes will complete her, we know that ultimately we are made for a relationship with our Creator, along with relationships with others (**Ecclesiastes 4:9-10**). Our relational desires are evidence that we’ve not been created to live our lives isolated and alone from others.
- The singer’s yearning is one of youthful infatuation, which is an emotional and feeling-oriented attraction universal to almost all adolescents as they mature. While it is only a relationship with God that ultimately fills the hole in the human heart (**Psalms 107:9**), many erroneously believe that a romantic relationship is what will satisfy all relational needs.
- Sadly, as is common in today’s culture, she is following her heart and modeling for her vulnerable young fans the same path. The Bible warns against this approach to life, love, and everything else. **“The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick”** (**Jeremiah 17:9**). We are told that we should **“trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths”** (**Proverbs 3:5&6**). We are also warned that **“whoever trusts in his own mind is a fool”** (**Proverbs 28:26**). Infatuation is a passing feeling, while true love is a decision to commit and covenant with another.
- Sexual intimacy and pleasure is not an end in and of itself, but a means to intimacy in its proper place and purpose within the context of a covenantal, one-man-one-woman marriage. We are to flee from sexual immorality (**I Corinthians 6:18**).
- One of the **“identity mantras”** commonly pursued and embraced in today’s world is this: **“You are your significant other.”** Social media and peer pressure convinces us, especially those who are young, that they are incomplete unless they have a romantic partner to whom they can say, **“You complete me.”** Our primary identity is only to be found in the identity we’ve been given as divine-image-bearers who, when we are in Christ, are adopted children and heirs of God (**Ephesians 1:5, Galatians 4:4-7, Romans 8:15, I John 3:1**).
- Astrology is a form of divination that is warned against and prohibited in Scripture (**Deuteronomy 4:19, 18:10-12**). The Scriptures are clear that wisdom for all of life is found in seeking God’s will and way (**Proverbs 1:1-7, James 1:5**).

- Recognize that when you watch and listen to **“drop dead”**, you are entering into what is understood as normal, true, good, and right in the world of today’s youth culture. From start to finish, both lyrically and visually, **“drop dead”** reflects the world our children and teens have been born into and the worldview they have embraced. In his book, **A Secular Age**, philosopher Charles Taylor describes the **social imaginary** as **“The set of socially conditioned intuitions by which a person relates to the world in a non-reflective way.”** This song reflects the current social imaginary of our culture. Do not expect biblical correctives to be readily understood and embraced for the simple reason that the biblical world and life view is not seen as the way things should be. Watch, listen, and understand in order to **“know the times”** and to **“know the kids.”**
- Since the video is in the mainstream and it may be shaping up to be the most popular song of the summer of 2026, it is reasonable to assume that most kids will have seen and heard it. . . perhaps dozens of times over. Our girls, especially those who are young and impressionable, see in Olivia Rodrigo a role model. With parental permission, watch the song with students who have already seen it, offering them the gift of a wise perspective, pointing out where the message strays and is opposed to biblical truth.
- Use the song as a prompt to offer correctives by teaching about love, infatuation, emotions, lust, modesty, feelings, desire, online behavior, divination (astrology, etc.). Bring the light of God’s Word to bear on the realities that are put forth in **“drop dead.”** Contrast the biblical narrative on romance and relationships with the current cultural narrative on romance and relationships.
- As kids are entering into a developmental stage where romantic relationships are moving into prominence, use **“drop dead”** to spark discussions on biblical dating, love, sex, and marriage. Ask students these questions: **On what standards do you think Olivia Rodrigo is basing her attraction, desire, and pursuit? Have you ever experienced these feelings? If so, have you acted on those feelings? How did that work out? Do you see any traps that Rodrigo is setting for herself? What biblically-based practical safeguards can we put into place in our lives to avoid those traps? What role should parents, wise Christian adults, and our Christian peers play in keeping us from relational foolishness?**