

CPYU 3(D) REVIEW

Song/Video: "Uprising" by Muse

Background/summary: This single-release from the English band Muse is laden with an infectious eerie beat reminiscent of Depeche Mode's "Personal Jesus" and Marilyn Manson's "Beautiful People," making it one of those songs that gets stuck in your head. In existence and popular across the pond since 1994, Muse is now taking the American music scene by storm thanks to the debut of their fifth studio album, *The Resistance*, on September 14, a live appearance on the most recent MTV VMAs where they performed "Uprising," and a slot as the opening act on U2's current 360° stadium tour. This single released on September 7 and the band is climbing charts worldwide. The band's inspiration for the song came from the 2008 G20 summit protests.

Discover: What is the message/worldview?:

- The song's dark video, pulsating beat, and straightforward lyrics combine in a mix that serves as a call to arms for young listeners who are disillusioned with the establishment status quo. Lead singer Matthew Bellamy announces what's happening in Orwellian fashion: "Paranoia is in bloom/ The PR transmissions will resume/They'll try to push drugs that keep us all dumbed down/And hope that we will never see the truth around."
- The video unfolds in a dark and dismal doll house town as a fuse, which winds through the apocalyptic landscape, slowly burns. Coupled with the building crescendo of the song's sound and lyrics, the visual foretells an impending explosive big event. Bellamy informs listeners of how they are being controlled by the establishment: "Another promise, another scene/ Another packaged lie to keep us trapped in greed/And all the green belts wrapped around our minds/And endless red tape to keep the truth confined."
- The establishment is visually represented by a band of tattered and scary-looking giant teddy bears that rise up out of the ground to stomp the landscape. Muse responds through the recitation of the resistance movement's creedal resolve: "They will not force us/They will stop degrading us/They will not control us/We will be victorious."
- Listeners are implored to fight to the bitter end: "Interchanging mind control/Come let the revolution take its toll/If you could flick the switch and open your third eye/You'd see that we should never be afraid to die."
- The movement's focus is summarized by the band as they rally the troops: "Rise up and take the power back/It's time the fat cats had a heart attack/You know that their time's coming to an end/ We have to unify and watch our flag ascend."



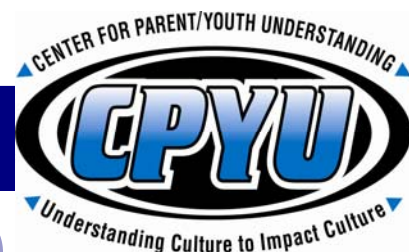
Discern: How does it stand in light of the biblical message/worldview?

- The Scriptures have much to say on matters of respect for authority. Authority ultimately lies in God alone (Daniel 4:34-35; Rom. 9:20-23) and any authority bestowed on humans has been bestowed on them by God (Rom. 13:1). As such, we are to submit to the authorities God has placed over us (Rom. 13:1-7), unless those authorities require/force us to disobey the way and will of the Father (Acts 5:29). The Scripture's teaching on obedience to authority stretches from God, to the Bible, to the church, and to a variety of institutions (parents, government, law enforcement, teachers, etc.).

- In “Uprising,” Muse points clearly to the fact that the world is broken and not right. The “all things” that God made and declared good came undone in the Garden of Eden (Genesis 3:6). Now, all things bear the mark of the fall. “Uprising” points to a world marked by brokenness, conflict, greed, oppression, and control.
- Unified “revolution” is justified when God’s people and those committed to seeking the common good join together to fight injustice. In addition, living a God-centered life of integrity requires our own commitment to fight personal sin and idolatry. We can affirm the commitment of Muse to speak out against injustice.
- For the follower of Christ, an affirmative answer to His invitation to “come and follow” me is—as Dietrich Bonhoeffer has said—an invitation to “come and die.” We must be willing to give our whole selves and lives—in both living and dying—to Christ.

Decide: What do I do with it?

- Teenagers and other young Muse listeners are by nature idealistic. At times, they are simplistic in their understanding of issues and potential solutions. We must affirm the idealism of our youth as they discover and seek to respond to injustice. However, we must also enter into their lives to guide their responses in balanced and God-honoring ways. There are times when an uprising and revolution are justified, and there are times when they are not. Through relationship, we are afforded opportunities to speak truth and balanced guidance into their lives.
- The video serves as a powerful springboard for discussion with Muse fans. After viewing the video, discuss the issues raised in the song including greed, human depravity, the longing for redemption, idolatry, humility, authority, government, etc. Use it as an opportunity to bring the light of God’s Word to bear on each of these issues, thereby helping kids see that God *does* have something to say about each.
- “Uprising” affords us wonderful opportunities to spark discussions on current events, the sovereignty of God as it plays out in history, and the role of Christ’s followers in responding to issues of institutionalized and systemic injustice. Show the video and then ask, “What is happening in our world that causes you to want to rise up in response?”
- “Uprising” is an ideal song to use to teach your kids 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).
- This song and video opens our eyes to a fundamental shift and cultural movement that appears to be taking shape and gaining momentum in American culture. The status quo is being questioned. But young people are starting to move beyond a posture of questioning, to a posture of active response. This must be monitored as it could quite possibly result in the history of the late 1960s repeating and/or exceeding itself. The role of those of us who love Christ and care for kids is to disciple them into a God-glorifying response to these very real issues.



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