

Music is one of the Most Powerful Influence Known to Man!

Did music make Brian Bassett kill his mother, father, and five-year-old brother? No! The correct question should be, “How much influence did music have in Brian Bassett’s life?” Influence is defined in Webster’s Dictionary as 1. the power to produce effects on others by intangible or indirect means. 5. to move or impel a person to some action. According to Webster’s dictionary, influence can move us to action and murder is definitely an action. How powerful of an influence, does music have? After all, the kids say that “It’s all in fun; nobody is supposed to take the message seriously!” Well that logic completely ignores both the nature of man and the power of music. As Ken Wooden, investigative journalist and reporter with ABC’s 20/20 has said, “Why do we spend billions on advertising? Because people answer the ads, this type of music is a form of advertising, and I’ve seen kids who have responded to the ads. I’ve seen them dead on marble slabs (1).” Eric Holmberg has done extensive research for many years about the influence of music, and has produced many videos about this subject. Holmberg has interviewed many teenagers and most of them are oblivious to, and deny the influence music has on their live (2).

The Medical field is starting to understand the power and the influence of music through music therapy. According to an article written in the Journal of the American Medical Association by Charles Marwick, music is being used as a basis for communication for patients with learning disabilities, autism, psychiatric illnesses, and brain injuries, among other conditions (3). Rick Weiss wrote an article for The Washing Post in the health section. He stated that music is being used to treat Parkinson’s disease, Alzheimer’s and dementia because, “brain areas dealing with cognition and language degenerate, the parts that respond to music are left intact, providing an alternate pathway into the mind,” could this “alternate pathway into the mind” be reaching directly into the subconscious, and therefore bypass any defense mechanisms according to the mind model by Stephen Parkhill (4)?

Richard Pellegrino is a medial doctor and consultant for Billboard magazine; He stated, “Take it from a brain guy. In 25 years of working with the brain I still cannot affect the sate of mind the way that one simple song can (5).” As Dr. David Elkind noted in his book The Hurried Child, one of the most underestimated influences on young people today is the music industry (6). The American Academy of Pediatrics wrote their concern about musical lyrics, and titled the article “Impact of Music Lyrics and Music Videos on Children and Youth (RE9648)”. “During the past four decades rock music lyrics have become increasingly explicit particularly with reference to sex, drugs and violence... Pregnancy, drug use, Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome(AIDS) other sexually transmitted diseases, injuries, homicide, and suicide have all become part of the landscape of everyday life for many American teens... Numerous studies indicate that a preference for heavy metal music may be a significant marker for alienation, substance abuse, psychiatric disorders, suicide risk, sex-role stereotyping, or risk-taking behaviors during adolescence (7).”

What about the people in music, what do they have to day? Eddie Mansion is an Oscar winning composer and one-time president of the American Society of Music Arrangers. He has stated “music is used everywhere to condition the human mind. It can be just as powerful as a drug and much more dangerous, because nobody takes musical manipulation very seriously (8)”. Perhaps rocks greatest genius Jimi Hendrix, told Life magazine in 1969, “I can explain everything better through music, you hypnotize people to where they go right back to their natural state, and when

you get people at their weakest point, you can preach into their subconscious what we want to say (9). “Tori Amos is a famous composer and signer, she has stated; “Music is the most powerful medium in the world because of the frequencies (10).” Stuart Goldman, a former rock musician and critic, wrote in his essay for National Review, “You needn’t go to a slasher film to see a woman being disemboweled in a Satanic-ritual, just turn on your local music video station. In short, rock has trivialized evil... Rocks sheer persuasiveness makes it the most profound value shaper in existence today. Unless you are deaf, it is virtually guaranteed that rock music has affected your view of the world. (11)”. The network MTV understands the power of influence as reflected in their statement, “We don’t shot for the 14-years-olds; we own them (12).” Dr. Joseph Arezzo, is the vice chair of the Department of Neuroscience at Albert Einstein College of Medicine. Dr. Arezzo stated, “Music can drive electrical networks within the brain and can help in the organization and reorganization of brain networks (13).” One of the ads for MTV has a scientific diagram of a brain and says “MTV aggressively reorganizing your brain, nothing could be more natural (14).”

Many artist when criticized of immoral lyrics and videos, claim their personal right to free speech, I ask you, how much is their “free speech” costing our society? There currently is an emergence of youth detention centers in large cities that house youth with an addiction to drugs and alcohol. The irony is that these centers are filled with more middle school aged children then high school students. A recent poll found that a majority of 6-9th grade students felt that date rape was justifiable. Persons under the age of 17 commit 70% of all violent crimes in the U.S. Police records are now staring to link many of these murders with rock music in some way (15). Suicide is the second leading cause of death for teenagers. Lucas Salmon is serving life in prison for rape and murder, and he believes, “The music gets into your heart and soul and becomes who you are.” Ted Bundy a mass serial killer accused of killing 25 women spoke to Dr. James Dobson in a recorded interview the day before his execution and warned us of the dangers of movies, music and pornography.

In his famous work Laws, Plato wrote “Through foolishness they, the people, deceived themselves into thinking that there was no right or wrong in the music that it was to be judged good or bad by the pleasure it gave... As it was, the criterion was not music but a reputation for promiscuous cleverness and a spirit of law-breaking.” Plato also wrote, “When modes of music change the fundamental laws of the state change with them.” Aristotle noted that music has the power to form character. “Vladimir Lenin, the co-founder of communism and one of history’s greatest expert on subversion and revolution said, “One quick way to destroy a society is through its music (16).”

The Medical Field has done studies, and has posted warnings. The TV journalists are reporting about the dead and devastated teenagers. Youth detention centers are packed with middle school aged alcoholic and drug abusive children. Some of the most respected philosophers and authors in history have warned us of the dangers. Music artist themselves claim to be able to hypnotize people through their music in order to further their own agenda, and know they can get away with it because nobody takes musical manipulation very seriously. Apparently, this hypnotic state is working because most teenagers believe that music doesn’t influence them and that the choices they make are their own. MTV claims to won our teenagers because they understand how music reorganizes brain networks. Could Henry David Thoreau be correct when he wrote, “Even music may be intoxicating such apparently slight causes destroyed Greece and Rome and will destroy England and America (17).”

Music is a seed of influence and we have planted rebellion, chaos, drugs, the occult, Satanism, sex, alcohol, and hatred for Christian, violence, and suicide. As Ted Bundy has warned, watch out for your women and children! What do you to say?

Author Pastor Mike Smith

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