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Name: Mr. Aitchison
Class: **Date:**
Saint of the Day:

***Worth 20 points**

INSTRUCTIONS: Each month (October – April) you are required to undertake a Christian examination of something from popular culture. You may choose a song, music video, TV show, movie, video game, book, magazine, something from the Internet (Facebook, Youtube, a news article, etc.), advertisements, or anything else you can think of. Your goal is to highlight the deeper messages (good or bad) within the element from pop culture you chose.

***Important Note:** This does **NOT** give you free license to do anything your parents would not normally want you doing (Examples: watching bad TV shows, buying bad magazines/songs/music videos, etc.). For this assignment you should not have to go looking in deep and dark places. Rather, just keep your eyes and ears open as you go about your daily life. If you need help, feel free to ask your parents or an older brother or sister for any examples they can think of.

Type of Example: Song

Description of Media: “California Gurls” by Katy Perry (featuring Snoop Dogg)

What are some of the deeper/mixed messages from your example and how does it compare to Christian teaching? Please thoroughly explain.

Leaving a few of Katy Perry’s other controversial “hits” (“Ur So Gay” and “I Kissed a Girl”) for another day’s discussion, I chose “California Gurls” because it’s currently the #1 song on iTunes (as of June 1st, 12:03 am). This time around Ms. Perry is found tag-teaming with the always high-class role model, Snoop Doggy Dogg (who, of course, adds nothing but purity and intelligence to this track).

The song begins with girls sipping alcohol under palm trees while “boys” (correctly termed since they do not behave like real men) are trying to “creep a little sneak peek”. We find out that the boys are interested in these girls because they are so-called “California Gurls” (yes, with a “u”) that are tan and wear booty-showing daisy dukes with “bikinis on top”. Eventually Snoop Dogg shows up to tell us about the kind of girls he “loves the most”. After he references lady rear-ends for a second time Katy comes back to tell us that the girls are still “unforgettable” because they are still flaunting their bodies.

This song suggests to its listeners that guys only dig girls who show off as much of their body as possible and that the best way for women to get a guys attention is by showing off as much of their bodies as possible. The supposed “beauty” of these Californian women has nothing to do with their personalities, hopes/dreams, feelings, etc., but consists only in some of their body parts. Snoop supposedly “loves” (yes, he says loves) one of these girls so much that he just wants to “kiss her, touch her, and squeeze her buns”. Now THAT sounds like true love!

Throughout the song the girls are supposedly happy because of all of the attention they get. But in reality what kind of guys lust after girls? (Answer: Crummy, selfish ones) And who wants to be loved for only their looks? (Answer: No one).