



## Christina Aguilera: Beautiful

I was very impressed with myself that last month I managed to avoid this squeaky-clean ballad from pop's worst dresser. However, once again, I find myself scarily finding a bit more depth to a song that used to make me wish decidedly un-beautiful curses to rain down on the diva herself!

So... what's changed? Well, I was at my friend's house the other weekend, and we were just chilling to a bit of MTV, and I saw the video for the first time. Let's just say that (despite its obvious stereotypes) it made me squirm slightly, as in front of me I saw Christina singing her message to some of society's most disliked or feared 'misfits'.

*'You are beautiful, no matter what they say / Words can't bring you down.'*

...she chimed as an uber-scary goth-punk was isolated on a bus, and a gay couple kissed to the disgust of those around them.

Now my whole reaction to the words of the song changed. No longer is 'Beautiful' simply some whiny self-loving 'build-you-up'

song that belongs on the set of Oprah or Ricki, but in reality, it's a deep expression of what Jesus says to me in the Easter mystery.

To think about:

At the moment, we're entering into the most joyful period of time in our church celebrations - the Easter season. What we're celebrating is too mad to try to comprehend - God himself dying for us on the cross, and then completely messing up the whole system of things, by rising to life again! When he died on the cross, Jesus was saying to each one of us 'you're so special, you're worth dying for!' - 'you are beautiful, no matter what you do'...

When he rose from the dead, he left all the stuff that we do to mess up that beauty down in the tomb, and all we need to do is ask him for forgiveness for those 'messing up' times

I really like the lyric in the middle of the bridge that talk about our lives being full of 'beautiful mistakes' - it helps me to understand the fact that, yeah, I really do make mistakes

sometimes, and I muck up all over the shop, but by God's forgiveness, those mistakes can be turned into something beautiful.

It's the power of what we're celebrating in the coming weeks - the Resurrection of Jesus from the dead - that can transform our lives by asking forgiveness for the things that we do wrong, and accepting the love of his Holy Spirit to make that inner beauty bit by bit a little more visible to others.

