



What makes good music?

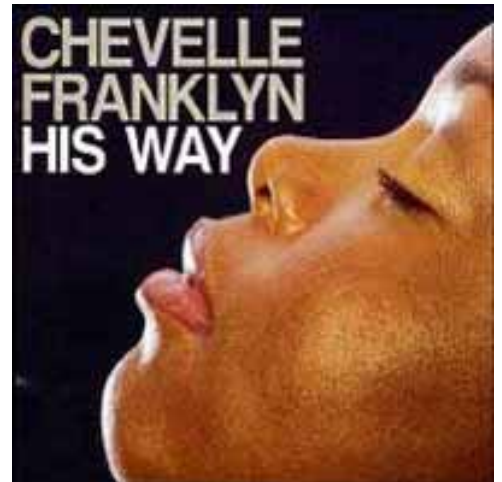
I've never been a big one for listening to Christian music. I mean I do listen to it but only really if I'm praying, or need to be quiet and relaxed or if I'm thinking about something important or am upset and want to feel happy. I only seem to listen to worship music which is for praying really, not really the kind of thing I want to listen to when I'm driving along in my car with a few of the boys from back home.

I always thought I wanted to listen to "appropriate music" and by that I mean music that doesn't have swearing cut out of it or music where someone's either singing or rapping about getting it on. Don't get me wrong I still listen to it and enjoy it to, but there's something inside me that says it's not really appropriate.

I always seem to end up listening to Westwood on Radio One, or Chris Goldfinger - I love the music and everything surrounding the music, it's me that's how and who I grew up with, but at certain parts it makes me cringe and think "I wish he hadn't said that or acted in that way". Funnily enough it was on one of these shows that I started to make a change.

There was a woman on called Chevelle Franklyn, she was a reggae dancehall singer who by her own admittance used to abuse herself and those around her, I remembered her doing a tune with Beenie Man back in the day. This time she was on going on about Jesus and how he had changed her life and everyone was giving her respect for it. She released an album with some wicked tunes on it and they all focused on God. I bought the album and it makes me happy when I listen to it like the Christian worship does but it's still just as good as any tune in the charts, and that made me think.

There are actually a lot of songs out there that are focused on God and they're in the charts. One of the members of Run DMC one of the ultimate founders of rap, Reverend Run released an album recently and it smashed up the place, but again he prayed to God to help him make it and he focuses on God throughout. I think what I'm saying is that all music has a message. More often than not it tends to be negative but we still listen and enjoy it. As Christians some times it's hard to distinguish, because if you're not into that music, what are you gonna listen to? Well anything, keep your ears open cause there



are songs in the charts that talk about God all the time but they never get picked up on and if you've got a favourite band then brilliant but don't just close yourself off to just that, there are tunes out there that have a message and still make people bounce to it.

And it seems that Christian music isn't just making me happy but everyone who listens to it. If only more people would hear what's being said in those songs then maybe they would understand why it's having that affect. I think it's because it's a message of love and truth and that's what everyone no matter their beliefs are looking for.