

## **Church — demonstrates for city kids the love of God**

This tool demonstrates for city kids the love of God. Lem Tucker was quoted as saying, "He who has the greatest truth must show the greatest love, which is the greatest proof." City kids want to see the proof that what we say is real. What is it based upon? Does your life give evidence that what you say is the real thing... and what is that, even?

One of the ways this tension is expressed is in music, specifically hip-hop music. Understand though, hip-hop is not solely about the music, but about a way of life, even the struggle in that way of life or its culture. Hip-hop is a culture of experience and expression. The Hip-Hop message is real, it's a culture, and it's not just talk or music.

It is an urban culture seeking to express a lifestyle; attitude of urban individuality that rejects the dominate-culture; and seeks to increase a social consciousness and racial pride. Hip-Hop uses rap music as the vehicle to send and fund its message, clothes to bring the image, and sports that give additional authority to influence. You don't know me until you know what I'm suffering.

I understand that secular hip-hop music and videos (thus a sub-culture) displays negative, brutal, and sexually perverted expressions of life. These negative sub-cultures and the styles of musical artist suggest that all music, in that style, is evil. The believer's enemy, Satan, has always taken what is a good and perfect gift from God and perverted it to confuse and destroy mankind. Music is such a gift.

Music is given to glorify God and used for many reasons. Today it is so difficult for many to even determine what music, life-style, or culture is ok or bad. Part of that reality is actually a misunderstanding about methods of communication. This subject has a huge volume of opinions and publications, but here are few ideas to consider while working with city kids and youth.

### **Communication Differences...**

Adults – have linear sequential thinking – everything in order...

Youth – web thinking (mosaic) and circled thinking (spiral/serial)

An example of their thinking is: Putting all the correct ingredients into a cup in any order – repeatedly mix the ingredients for consumption when ready

### **The Values of Hip-Hop communication:**

- Keeping it real brings authenticity
- Authenticity keeps it relevant (stay on point – stay focused)
- Relevance makes it respectable (not judgmental)

city kids by john e. blake www.gospeltokids.org

In the Hip-Hop scene... 'Being present as a Christ-like person is enough – you're different, a breath of fresh air for others... be real and be yourself. Remix everything with a hook (live the life of Christ before others).

**What a Friend** Christian Hip Hop CD available thru USA Ministries of CEF



**New!** A CD entitled "WHAT A FRIEND" is now available, with contemporary music that proclaims the gospel, to reach kids for Christ in modern urban settings. Produced in 2007 by Child Evangelism Fellowship in cooperation with [Hp 4 Digital Works and Solutions](#). Available from CEF Press, and also from Durham Area Chapter. Some of the artists involved in this project include Chris Martin, K.J., Tico Hudson, Platinum Souls, and Hansoul. Here are the tracks on the CD, with links to four snippets of the songs (in mp3 format) so that you can sample the music:

For a complete Ministry Tool Kit #2 and associated resources, please contact John E. Blake at [www.gospeltokids.org](http://www.gospeltokids.org) or 919.682.7317 CEF of North Carolina, Discipleship & Education PO Box 1288 Durham, NC 27702