

Punk gone to college
and are quite
intellectual.



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Punk Profile As a kid around the age of 15, I was lost and confused. I knew that I didn't have it all together, and everywhere I looked people acted as if they did. My thoughts and ideas would change day to day as I talked to one person and then the next.

I needed a concrete feeling. I tried going to church and finding a release through God, but I was unable to believe. I tried looking at all my friends, but they were all naive, so I turned to music. Music has become my religion, it clearly defines the questions I have no answers to. I found that everything that irritated me also irritated the people in the bands I started listening to. People label this type of music as "punk." "Punk" is defined in Webster's New World Dictionary as "a loud, fast, and deliberately offensive style of rock music," and it defines "a punk" as "a) a young hoodlum b) a young person regarded as inexperienced, insignificant, etc. 1 slang poor; inferior.

"That is the worst misinterpretation I have ever come across. The members of many punk bands have gone to college and are quite intellectual. Intellect is the basis of a punk attitude.

Punk is about change, and as defined by the band, Propagandhi, "The basis of change: educate! / Derived from discussion, not hate, not myth, not muscle, not etiquette. / Intellect, not 're-elect!' Status symbols yield to respect between sex, species, environment...

yup!" (Propagandhi, "Hate, Myth, Muscle, Etiquette"). Punk songs aren't about going out and doing drugs, breaking things, and harassing people, they are about life, life as a kid. And since I'm "not really understanding what it

takes to be a man, I think I'll stay a kid while I can" (Assorted Jelly Beans, "Plain Life").

It gives people permission to act 18 when they are 50. Punk lifestyles are full of a positive energy that many people lose when they "grow up." Existing as a punk takes the concepts of being an adult and combines them with being a kid. The result is a much simpler and entertaining life. The first issue that punk music covered for me was religion.

I felt like everyone had some higher power to look to when things didn't work out, everyone but me. I couldn't conform myself to the ideas of a higher power because the interpretations of reality that brings seem so disillusional to me. There appears to be so many unheard truths in lyrics like, "They say I shouldn't commit no crime/cos Jesus Christ is watching all the time,/ so what, so what.

/ So what if he's always over my shoulder./ I realize the truth as I get older./ I get to see what a con it is, because it's my life,/ mine, not his" (Crass, "So What"). I always felt that if there was an almighty and pure God that He/She would not make rules like "obey no God other than me." Where does that leave everyone raised under any other religion? A child in India will most likely be raised as a Buddhist or some religion other than Christianity. It is not their fault that they don't follow the Christian God, especially if they haven't heard of the Christian God.

I don't see the sense in an all powerful God who shows less sensitivity to people who don't ultimately have the choice of who they follow. Furthermore, any God that is supposedly for the good of mankind should be more

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concerned with the moral actions of mankind than their preferences of faith . And how could a Savior expect to be worshipped by everyone under the circumstances of today's world. Life isn't fair, so how does that play into an equal religion for all? Hearing the song " No" by the Subhumans brings this thought to an all new reality. The lead singer claims, " No, I don't believe in Jesus Christ./ My mother died of cancer when I was five./ No, I don't believe in religion.

/ I was forced to go to church and I wasn't told why." At one time I felt alone with these ideas, all my family and friends followed the God in which I was detached. I felt like I was doing something terribly wrong, like I had to conform. But when I started hearing these same thoughts in punk music for the first time I felt secure in my own disbeliefs.

" Beliefs