PASTOR'S THOUGHTS

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<u>Ireland's Bambie Thug Delivers Gothic Showstopping Performance at</u> Eurovision

Ireland's Bambie Thug captured the attention of Eurovision fans with a gothic performance, an amalgamation of dark aesthetics with an intense vocal. Bambie Thug, 31, a non-binary artist from County Cork, delivered a performance of their song Doomsday Blue in Malmo, Sweden which began trending on X/Twitter during the show being described as artistic yet demonic.

They were joined on stage by a male dancer who wore demonic makeup and fake teeth performing surrounded by candles with a satanic Pentagram.

Ireland last won the Eurovision in 1996 has with Eimear Quinn's song The Voice which was a far cry from this recent contribution. When asked, Bambie, describes their music as 'ouija pop', and with this song, many critics have suggested that it could even win the Eurovision song contest which would be an achievement considering Ireland have not even qualified for the Eurovision final since 2018.

The gothic themes may evoke darkness alongside expressing the complexities of human experience. As Christians, we are called to engage with the world around us, appreciating the beauty and creativity found in various forms of art but likewise resisting the challenges that we are confronted with within this world.

There's a desire to stand out from the crowd by pushing established boundaries and acceptable values and morals to beyond the norm. Paul in his writings to the church in Rome instructs us in Romans 12:2 (AMP)

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And do not be conformed to this world [any longer with its superficial values and customs], but be transformed and progressively changed [as you mature spiritually] by the renewing of your mind [focusing on godly values and ethical attitudes], so that you may prove [for yourselves] what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect [in His plan and purpose for you].

I quote from the late great Nelson Mandela,

As I have said, the first thing is to be honest with yourself. You can never have an impact on society if you have not changed yourself....Great peacemakers are all people of integrity, of honesty, of integrity.

As follows of Christ, in this dark, dark world, we must let our lights shine brightly, boldly and without compromise.

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