



Rick Reed

Over the past four years or so, I, along with some friends, have taken sort of an "outside look" at the "inside" of today's Christian music. We've had countless talks on what we've considered to be "pros and cons" of the "business," if you will, and have taken our stand on the issues that we feel are either important or unnecessary, whichever the case may be. My personal view that has developed over this period of time is one that places top priority on the importance that a Christian musician realize and follow the calling given to him by God—whether it be to share the Gospel with non-believers, build up the Body of Christ, lead in worship (or aiding in any of these areas), use his talent to build a career in the world, or simply for personal enjoyment. Not every Christian is called to do the same thing, and it is of utmost importance that the Christian musician spend time seeking the Lord with all his heart for the direction he is to follow. I honestly don't believe that every Christian musician/minister on the gospel "circuit" is really where he belongs. But God is merciful to all of us. I really think some of the Christians singing in churches are being called to go into the world with their music. But the church is so comfortable and convenient. Maybe some shouldn't be singing anywhere because God has some things He wants to teach them first, or some things to clean out of their lives. Or maybe He has something else He wants to do with them altogether. Brokenness is a much lacking attribute among Christians in general. I can recall the story of Abraham and Isaac, found in Genesis 22. Are we *really* broken enough to give up our "ministry" if God asked? Are we even listening to Him in case He were trying to speak to us? Or are we serving a creation rather than the creator?



Nori Kelley



Jim Pollard

Another priority to me is using one's creative ability to its fullest extent. Sure, we all have limits, but we were made to be creative beings, and I am a believer that God's people can be leaders in quality art and creativity. As long as we're walking the narrow path laid out before us, keeping our priorities in place, God can freely develop and multiply our talents according to His will, putting us in the place where He can best use us.

I personally feel that my ultimate calling is to the non-Christian. God is calling people in His Body to go to the ones who don't know or realize the Good News, and He's equipping them with the proper means to do what He wants done. This is a difficult area to work towards musically, but all things can be done through Christ, our strength, and He will carry out His perfect will, whatever it may be.

Second to this calling to non-believers, I feel a deep burden for the commitment and discipleship of believers. And it is for this purpose that this album was recorded. I feel that the only way to reach anyone—Christian or non-Christian—is to reveal truth and reality to them through love. When a person is faced with the truth, he can either walk away or deal with it. But the final decision is up to him. When we submit to the truth, it allows God to do His part in changing us.

These are just a few of the things I've been thinking about. They may not all be accurate, but I'm sure the Lord will weed out the bad in my thinking and leave the good as time passes. God has been dealing with me in many ways, and I can see so much rebellion in my heart at times. Dying daily is hard to do. Sometimes I look in wonder at the fact that He wants to use someone like me, but I know He does.

