

Grace Notes: growing our faith through music by Coni Ferland

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Here is where I lay it down, every burden, every crown.

This is my surrender, this is my surrender.

Here is where I lay it down, every lie and every doubt.

This is my surrender.

And I will make room for you to do whatever you want to, whatever you want to.

And I will make room for you to do whatever you want to, whatever you want to.

Shake up the ground of all my tradition.

Break down the walls of my religion.

Your way is better, your way is better.

Here is where I lay it down, you are all I'm chasing now. This is my surrender.

Here is where I lay it down, every burden, every crown.

This is my surrender, this is my surrender.

Here is where I lay it down, every lie and every doubt.

This is my surrender.

Psalm 55:22 *"Give your burdens to the Lord, and he will take care of you. He will not permit the godly to slip and fall."* New Living Testament¹

Matthew 11:28-30 Jesus said: *"Come to me, all of you who are tired from carrying heavy loads, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke and put it on you, and learn from me, because I am gentle and humble in spirit; and you will find rest. For the yoke I will give you is easy, and the load I will put upon you is light."* Good News Translation²

What does it mean to you to lay down "every crown"? Why do you think we need to take this step? Do you have any crowns to lay down?

Surrender requires us to let go of control. Is that something that's easy for you to do?

Why? How can surrendering control change your relationship with Jesus Christ?

If a younger, less experienced animal is yoked with a more experienced partner, the yoke can make it easier for the younger animal to learn the way. The more experienced animal helps the younger animal to bear the burden. How might being "yoked" with Jesus make your burdens easier to bear?

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And I will make room for you to do whatever you want to, whatever you want to.

Colossians 3:15-17 *“Let the peace of Christ keep you in tune with each other. None of this going off and doing your own thing. And cultivate thankfulness. Let the Word of Christ – the Message – have the run of the house. Give it plenty of room in your lives. Instruct and direct one another using good common sense. And sing, sing your hearts out to God! Let every detail in your lives – words, actions, whatever – be done in the name of the Master, Jesus, thanking God the Father every step of the way.”* The Message³

What would it take for you to make room for “the Word of Christ” in your life?
How might this effect what you share with others about Christ’s place in your life?
What song would your heart sing out to God? Why this song?

Shake up the ground of all my tradition.
Break down the walls of my religion.
Your way is better, your way is better.

Galatians 2:19-21 *“What actually took place is this: I tried keeping rules and working my head off to please God, and it didn’t work. So I quit being a ‘law man’ so that I could be God’s man! Christ’s life showed me how, and enabled me to do it. I identified myself completely with him. Indeed, I have been crucified with Christ. My ego is no longer central. It is no longer important that I appear righteous before you or have your good opinion, and I am no longer driven to impress God. Christ lives in me. The life you see me living is not ‘mine’, but it is lived by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. I am not going back on that. Is it not clear to you that to go back to that old rule-keeping, peer-pleasing religion would be an abandonment of everything personal and free in my relationship with God? I refuse to do that, to repudiate God’s grace. If a living relationship with God could come by rule keeping, then Christ died unnecessarily.”* The Message³

Galatians 5:46: *“I suspect that you would never intend this, but this is what happens. When you attempt to live by your own religious plans and projects, you are cut off from Christ, you fall out of grace. Meanwhile we expectantly wait for a satisfying relationship with the Spirit. For in Christ, neither our most conscientious religion nor disregard of religion amounts to anything. What matters is something far more interior: faith expressed in love.”* The Message³

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Do you think traditions can interfere with a growing relationship with Christ? In what way?

What about “keeping rules” can block your connection to God? What “rules” do you have that can have this effect? What about religion’s “rules”?

In what ways did Jesus live beyond “*that old rule-keeping, peer-pleasing religion*”? How does that impact your efforts to allow Christ to live in you?

Paul says “*What matters is something far more interior: faith expressed in love.*” How can moving beyond “rules” help you express your faith in loving ways? Can surrendering your rules, your relationship with religion’s rules, make it easier to let go of a need to “appear righteous”, to have the “good opinion” of those around you? How? How can that make you more free in your relationship with God?

If this surrendering, this letting go, is difficult for you, bring your hesitations to God. Jesus has shown us through His life and teachings that God is ready and willing to listen to anything we have to say, and the Holy Spirit is able to guide our steps if we will only ask...

“So friends, we can now – without hesitation – walk right up to God, into the Holy Place! Jesus has cleared the way by the blood of his sacrifice, acting as our priest before God. The ‘curtain’ into God’s presence is his body. So let’s do it – full of belief, confident that we’re presentable inside and out. Let’s keep a firm grip on the promises that keep us going. He always keeps his word.”
Hebrews 10:19-23 The Message³

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