

To: <norman@jesusmusic.org>
Subject: CHATROOM FRIENDS: IGNORE EVERYTHING I SAID.

TO WHOEVER POSTS THE COMMENTS:

WILL YOU PLEASE PUT THIS ONE AT THE TOP OF ALL THE COMMENTS. THANK YOU.

I woke up this morning and realized that I didn't want my comments to go through. I had written them several days ago, then sent them to Bill Hammell to "monitor" me and see if I was being too harsh. Then I told him to go ahead and send it last night. So this morning when I woke up I went to the office and tried to contact him. He wasn't at work. I called him at home. He was there. But he told me it was too late because it was already sent.

I was at church tonight for a seminar and the visiting speaker mentioned that when we speak negatively to someone, we set up an oppressive situation for them, and also create a situation for ourselves, as though we were speaking a curse upon them and now are bound in that same curse.

I'm not sure I understood what he was saying because a lot of the verses were from the Old Testament, and to be honest, it was so hot in the room that I felt swoozy and left before the three hour meeting was over. But I went away more determined not to create a hardship or place any kind of a "curse" or "oppressive" situation for David. I love him. I think he's very talented. And even though I get mad when I see what he says to some of you about your opinions, or to me about mine, I think it was wrong of me not to have more patience with him.

So I apologize, David. I think I was totally wrong to say all that I did in my response to your book. Even though I don't "understand where you are coming from" with your ersatz theories, it's not really my place as a Christian brother to tell anyone else what I think about you. I'm supposed to pray for you and nothing else. Except to love you, of course. But I mean I'm supposed to pray for you, not debate with you. Or examine your work.

I keep forgetting that you are young, basically because I keep forgetting that I am old. I usually imagine that we here in this chatroom are the same age and from the same cultural time frame. And it's not true.

So please forgive me for dissecting your passages about my music. These theories may not be your thoughts, anyway. You may have picked these ideas up from other fans. So I shouldn't be saying that they're incorrect if they're part of the mythology because it doesn't really matter what people say about art.

I hope that you WILL find it in your heart to forgive me because I don't want to have enmeshed you in an oppressive situation where you feel that I've lost respect for you,

or that I've caused other people to lower their esteem of you. Or that I've put you in a position where you must defend yourself and your ideas to the others here in the chatroom.

The damage is done, of course. The window is broken and the baseball is mine. And I can't pay to fix it because your personhood is spiritual, not physical. And I don't want to tell you not to defend yourself, because you may feel that you want to, and I don't want to prevent you from doing so.

Certainly you can speak in defense of your ideas. Because I've put you in this situation where your theories have been challenged. I'm just sorry that I did it.

I haven't received my Norman V1 #348 yet. I don't get them until later in the evening and I get them all at once.

So I'm hoping that this will get in on time and that they will put this at the top of the digest format so you will read it first and know to ignore the other posting I sent.

Forgive me for defending myself. I don't think I did it as kindly as I should have and I now realize I shouldn't have done it at all.

I hope we can be friends someday, despite this, David.

God bless you,

Larry

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