

Go into ALL the World

A Discussion Facilitated by John David Kudrick

Part 1: The Spectrum of Readers for a Christian Novelist

- “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.” (Mark 16:15)
- “Go and make disciples of all nations.” (Matthew 28:19)
- Looking at the world’s fiction readers as a broad spectrum of personal faith and belief.

Part 2: So God’s Calling You to Write a Novel about (insert story idea here)?

- Should Christ followers who are novelists potentially be able to reach people across the entire spectrum?
- No novelist should write for a specific audience, but rather simply be true to the story within that wants to be told.
- For the follower of Christ who seeks to walk with the Spirit and be sensitive to his leading, then, a call to write a fictional story means that God has something he wants you to share with the world by way of the written word.

Part 3: Can a Christian Novelist Go Too Far?

- The pivotal point: Can Christian novelists go too far with their content in trying to reach the world with life-changing stories that can touch hearts and point readers toward God?
- Every person on the spectrum of readers needs God in some way, shape, or form at every given point of life—and a novel could be the avenue God uses to provide what’s needed.
- What if a Christian novelist believes God might be calling him or her to write an R-rated story—one that doesn’t even have any in-your-face stuff about God, Jesus, the Bible, etc.?
- Would God call a Christian to do something like that? Is it just the enemy pulling a fast one? Would it be a good idea? Would it damage a Christian’s witness? Does it mean that such a Christian would be in the world AND of it?
- “... the Lord has assigned to each his task. I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow” (1 Corinthians 3:5-6). So could God use an R-rated novel to plant a seed in the heart of someone who has no interest in so-called religion and who would never go to church, but who devours novels?
- And so, if Christians write a wide variety of stories that end up fitting novel readers across the spectrum, then who knows what could happen with all that planting, watering, tending, weeding, etc., as the Spirit does his work?
- Just because a novel doesn’t mention Jesus or contain a reproducible salvation experience, does that mean it can’t plant some “gospel seeds”—little Spirit whispers of God’s love, power, grace, holiness, judgment, etc.—in someone’s heart, ever so gently nudging a non-Christian reader toward God, rather than leave them where they are? God’s truth is still his truth whether it’s in a steamy bodice-ripper or an Amish novel, isn’t it?

Part 4: It's God Call on How Far You Should Go

- What about the prophet Hosea and how God called him to marry a prostitute ... and then to go so far as to seek her out and take her back after she'd left him and likely cheated on him?
- My teen daughter's question: "Isn't the Bible pretty much R-rated?"
- The example of Jesus: He hung around the societal dregs of his day and age, with Matthew 11:19 going so far as to call him "a friend of tax collectors and sinners"—as in, the worst of the worst.
- [XXXchurch](#) also comes to mind: a ministry not only reaching those in bondage to pornography addiction, but also reaching out personally to those involved in the pornography industry itself—as in, setting up a booth at porn trade shows and showing God's love to those in the industry and anyone in attendance through a variety of means.
- It takes a uniquely called person—perhaps *prophet* is a better term here—to walk into a porn trade show and show God's love to people. Maybe it's the same for the Christ follower who just can't get away from the nudge she or he feels about writing a raw, gritty R-rated novel, even after lots of prayer and searching of God's Word: it ain't for everyone, and if you accept the call, be prepared for the protesters, some of whom might sit across the aisle from you on Sunday mornings.
- If that's you, then don't worry ~~too much~~ at all about the naysayers. Remember what Jesus said about such protesters: "For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, 'He has a demon.' The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Here is a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners.' But wisdom is proved right by her deeds" (Matthew 11:18-19).
- You'll likely never please the protesters if you're truly following God's call on your life, but God's plan—his wisdom—will be proven right in the end, even if it's not until the other side of eternity. So if you've felt the call and have a peace about moving forward after wrestling through it in prayer, then fix your eyes on Jesus and let the chips fall where they may as you write Spirit-inspired stories from the depths of your heart.

(NOTE: This handout features key points from a series of blog posts appearing throughout the month of July 2017 at <http://johndavidkudrick.com/blog/>.)

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