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Share & Rewrite & Share

Question - do you create mostly in private or public?

As a songwriter, do you rush to get your ideas heard, look for feedback, post lyric ideas on your blog asking what people think? Or do you keep your creative treasure hidden from the world until that perfect moment when it's finally ready for public consumption?

If you are anything but a brand new songwriter my guess is that you tend to keep your creations safe in your head, your office, your music room, wherever partly from a desire to create something good and partly out of fear of what people will say when they actually hear what you've written.

I mentioned it earlier but if fear is something which is paralyzing you as an artist, you *must* read **War of Art** by Stephen Pressfield and a new book I read this year called **Pursuing Christ, Creating Art** by Gary Molander. Do not give fear more power in your life than it deserves.

Perfect love casts out fear. Open your Bible and spend time in 1 John 4 if fear has gripped you. You are loved - loved perfectly - by God who made you, who knows you, who adores you. His perfect love casts out fear because His love for us is not conditional on our creating. He does not love you more if you write great songs or love you less if you write junk. You are loved.

I mentioned collaboration in a couple of earlier chapters but I want to revisit this idea and tell you that the potential impact of your song and your songwriting ability will increase ten, fifty, one hundred times if you are able to master this concept: **share and rewrite and share.**

Share
Find some fellow songwriters who get what you are trying to do, who will respect the work you are sharing with them and who are willing to

help make your songs better. Either begin writing together from scratch and encourage a sharing of ideas right from the beginning *or* bring them an idea that you've been working on, explain what you are hoping to do with the song and give them a chance to respond.

For some of you, you have already quit reading and turned the page. The fear of what someone may do to your precious *song-baby* is too much and you are not willing to give anyone permission to change anything about what you have created. Fear has won.

For others, you have so little confidence in your own ability that you would never share what you've written with anyone else because you *know* they would laugh, ridicule, tear your song apart and leave the room, never speaking to you again. Fear has won.

For some, the idea of collaboration is thrilling and the possibilities seem endless. You understand that healthy, vibrant, mature, creative collaboration can quickly increase not only the end result of the song you are working on now but also your songwriting ability in the future.

Rewrite
Great songs are not written. Great songs are rewritten.

If you spend one hour on a song from start to finish and think it's worthy of putting in front of an audience, not only is the song not ready, you are not ready either.

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Great songs are not birthed this way. Yes, there are exceptions but they are exceptions for a reason. The exceptions need a rule and the rule is that songs need work and time.

Once you've begun the sharing process, don't stop there. Take the idea which came from the collaboration - again, it may be a starting point, it may be taking the song a few steps further along - and begin the rewriting process.

Rewriting doesn't mean your song is bad, it means the song has potential to be great and is worth working on. Some of you will drop the song and let it die without getting to rewriting. Fear has won.

Rewriting may mean changing a lyric, moving a melody line up or down, even seeing that a verse or a chorus may function better as a different section. I've had rewrites where I realized that a chorus from one song would actually work much better as the verse for another song. Both songs were better and that only would have come through sharing and rewriting.

Share
Once you've worked the process of rewriting, share it again. Sharing may happen with the same person you started with or it may be someone new. It may be your pastor, your spouse, your worship team - at this point you may want to start opening the circle up a little to bit to see if the song really does have potential or do you love it simply because it's *yours*.

Take the feedback and responses of these people seriously and develop a sense of trust in whether or not the song is worthy of another rewrite and share or if the idea needs to be reworked from the beginning.

As I mentioned in the very beginning of this ebook, my prayer for you as you read is Colossians 3:16-17. "And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him."

If you have never shared one of your songs with anyone, that's the first place to start. Allow the perfect love of God to conquer the fear that has gripped you. Send that email, make that phone call - reveal your *song-baby* to that one person you trust who will give you helpful, honest, encouraging, challenging feedback because they love you and want to see you succeed at this.

Next up: Copyright your song