

Faith Life Weekly 4/29/08

SONG:

Here's a song to start your reflection this week:

"If We Are The Body", by Casting Crowns, from the album "Casting Crowns", 2003

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DYbGMQ5Y3Uo>

<http://apps.facebook.com/like/artist/casting+crowns/track/If+We+Are+The+Body?apv=1>

(Listen on <http://www.musicchristian.com/>)

It's crowded in worship today
As she slips in Trying to fade into the faces
The girls' teasing laughter is
carrying farther than they know
Farther than they know

But if we are the Body
Why aren't His arms reaching
Why aren't His hands healing
Why aren't His words teaching
And if we are the Body
Why aren't His feet going
Why is His love not showing them there is a way
There is a way

A traveler is far away from home
He sheds his coat
And quietly sinks into the back row
The weight of their judgmental glances
tells him that his chances are better out on the road

But if we are the Body
Why aren't His arms reaching
Why aren't His hands healing
Why aren't His words teaching
And if we are the Body
Why aren't His feet going
Why is His love not showing them there is a way

Jesus paid much too high a price
For us to pick and choose who should come
And we are the Body of Christ

If we are the body
Why aren't His arms reaching
Why aren't His hands healing
Why aren't His words teaching
And if we are the body
Why aren't His feet going
Why is His love not showing them there is a way
Jesus is the way

Written by Mark Hall © 2003 Club Zoo Music/SWECS Music Admin by Club Zoo Music/BMI

Casting Crowns is a Grammy award and Dove Award winning Christian band that employs a soft rock music style. The band was created in 1999 by youth pastor Mark Hall at First Baptist Church in Downtown Daytona Beach, Florida as part of a Youth Group. He also serves as a lead vocalist. Later they moved to McDonough, Georgia and more members joined creating the band now known as Casting Crowns.

Casting Crowns' front man Mark Hall calls the band's work a ministry akin to what the world would call "preaching to the choir." In keeping with The Great Commission, Hall describes their music as a "ministry of discipleship."

The members of Casting Crowns are currently ministers at Eagle's Landing First Baptist Church in McDonough, GA where the band plays during youth service.

Reflection:

Let me ask you some questions, call it an exercise in understanding if you will. Have you ever considered why an eagle has wings and feathers? The lesson is: so that she can fly. Have you ever considered why a flower has color and delicate petals? The lesson is: to give off a beautiful aroma and to color our world. Have you ever considered the purpose of a sea horse? The lesson is: to swim and to give its own contribution to the sea. Have you ever considered the brilliance of a star? Its object is to shine.

Lets' try this same exercise with the church. The Apostle Paul calls it the "Body of Christ". Each part has a unique role to play. No one part is inferior or superior to any other part.

So why is the church here? Why do we exist? For what purpose are we brought together?

Can we sing with the group Casting Crowns?

With arms made for reaching,

With hands made for healing

With words made for teaching

With feet made for going

With His love made for showing.

Now what part of this purpose do you play? Maybe you don't sing so well. Maybe it's more like a beller than it is a song. (Come on. I know you've all at least tried to sing in the shower.) Well, sister, you have feet, don't you? Well, brother, you have arms, don't you? We all have the words with which to teach. We just need to start using them, saying them, studying them, and applying them.

Jesus words. Gods' words. Words of Christ's body.

"If we are the body"... is how it goes. You complete the song. What will your words be, your epitaph, say, when this life is done, your story with God? What will your part of Jesus' "body" be?

Prose:

Instead of prayer this time I leave you with some words of prose entitled: "Revival" I shared this in a sermon awhile back. Many people asked for a copy. A pastor wrote these words when he thought about the amazing work that God does. This was inspired by the Prophecy of Ezekiel 37.

"Revival"

"If all the sleeping folk will wake up,

and all the lukewarm folk will fire up,
and all the dishonest folk will confess up,
and all the disgruntled folk will sweeten up,
all the discouraged folk will cheer up,
and all the depressed folk will look up,
and all the estranged folk will make up,
all the gossipers' folk will shut up,
and all the dry bones will shake up,
and all the true soldiers will stand up,
and all the church members will pray up,
then, then we can have
A Revival."

R.F.