

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JANUARY 7, 2017

Contact: Rising Entertainment and Media Management

P.O. Box 2866
Cumming, GA 30028
info@mcstrollo.com
All Social: @mcstrollo

An Open Letter To Mr. Wildmon and The Mainstream Media - A Millennial's Statement On Carrie Underwood's Passion Conference Performance

-Michael Strollo

ATLANTA, GA- Media outlets across the country are slamming Pastor Louie Giglio of Passion City Church in Atlanta for the approval of letting Country Music Artist Carrie Underwood perform at Passion Conference, the Evangelical conference founded by Giglio nearly two decades ago.

"Underwood's performance did not sit well with Wesley Wildmon, outreach director for the American Family Association, a Christian non-profit that describes itself as pro-family," says Holly Meyer, Faith reporter for *The Tennessean*. *USA Today*, as well as *Rolling Stone Magazine* have also picked up the story on Underwood's surprise performance.

In an open letter drafted by Wildmon, he describes being "very frustrated" with Giglio where he is quick to quote 1 Corinthians 6:12-20. 1 Corinthians 6 includes letters from the Apostle Paul and his teachings specifically those based on sexual immorality. But why leave out verse 11 Mr. Wildmon? It is all about fitting the agenda. Verse 11, actually, verses 9-11 of Chapter 6 of 1 Corinthians says:

"Or do you not know that wrongdoers will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor men who have sex with men nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God."

Many people like to leave the last verse out. "But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God." See, an outside force did the washing, not the Corinthians. That force; grace.

So let us now look at the meaning behind Carrie Underwood's song "Something In The Water." The song was written by Underwood along with Chris DeStefano and Brett James. James told *Country Weekly* that the trio chose to make the song themed after a person whose life changes after baptism, the religious rite of sprinkling water onto a person's forehead or of immersion in

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
JANUARY 7, 2017

Contact: Rising Entertainment and Media Management

P.O. Box 2866
Cumming, GA 30028
info@mcstrollo.com
All Social: @mcstrollo

water, symbolizing purification or regeneration and admission to the Christian Church. According to Bible Works, the word "Baptism" is used twenty-two times in the Bible and referenced one-hundred times.

You may also remember when "Something In The Water" won Top Christian Song of 2015 during the Billboard Music Awards. But who is one to question another's relationship with Christ? Right Mr. Wildmon?

Amazingly *Rolling Stone* also featured Mr. Wildmon's "Open Letter" and covered their own version of the story behind Underwood's surprise performance yet failing to recall the time the edgy magazine, that once published their front cover with a photo of Kanye West with a crown of thorns atop his head playing Jesus, praised Underwood's song stating that "Underwood sings in the soaring song showcasing her heavenly high vocal range" and called the song a "spiritual heartstring-tugger", or the time *Billboard* rated the song with four out of five stars, stating: "Carrie Underwood offers a message of faith in times of trouble".

Here is the problem that I have with all of this Mr. Wildmon and the mainstream media. You are disgustingly focused on the relationship between Pastor Giglio, Carrie Underwood, and Passion Conference that I see you lack any substance or thoughts on the conference of itself.

Nearly sixty-thousand eighteen to twenty-five year olds packed the Georgia Dome in downtown Atlanta to not only worship Jesus, but to kick off the start to 2017, and to prove to you and to the world that there is revival in the hearts of young people.

Now for the record, I do not agree with Mrs. Underwood's personal opinions on the issue of marriage, however I do consider myself a fan of her music, her character, and I respect her nonetheless. As for the millennial outreach problem in America, I for one do not see Carrie Underwood as someone who would influence *my* beliefs. She is a talented artist, musician, and activist in the community and across the country, however we will agree to disagree on one issue.

To the millennials and to my own generation that happens to be reading this, or to other Christian believers: If you let the influence of a celebrity or Hollywood star deter you from believing in truth, you are not grounded in your beliefs, in your faith, or in the word of God. It is that simple. Yes, we are called to love everyone, but that does not give us excuse to partake in sin.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
JANUARY 7, 2017

Contact: Rising Entertainment and Media Management

P.O. Box 2866
Cumming, GA 30028
info@mcstrollo.com
All Social: @mcstrollo

Evangelist and speaker Todd White said it best, "Do not let sin around you produce sin within you." Some of us struggle with alcohol, drugs, pornography, stealing, and even sexuality, however Paul is not sitting there with the people of the City of Corinth picking and choosing which sin is worse than the others. He writes his letters to correct the views and conflicts within the church at Corinth knowing that God sees sin horizontally, not vertically.

With all of this said, I ask that you as a influencer step back, ask the attendees and the millennials about their opinions, but to also cover and report on the good of this conference and the incredible hope and revival it brings to tens of thousands of young people across the globe.

With love,

-@mcstrollo

END OF RELEASE

###