

God in the Jukebox

“Take Me to Church” by Hozier

My lover's got humor
She's the giggle at a funeral
Knows everybody's disapproval
I should've worshiped her sooner
If the Heavens ever did speak
She's the last true mouthpiece
Every Sunday's getting more bleak
A fresh poison each week
"We were born sick", you heard them say it
My church offers no absolutes
She tells me, "Worship in the bedroom"
The only Heaven I'll be sent to
Is when I'm alone with you
I was born sick, but I love it
Command me to be well
A-, Amen, Amen, Amen

Take me to church
I'll worship like a dog at the shrine of your lies
I'll tell you my sins and you can sharpen your knife
Offer me that deathless death
Good God, let me give you my life
Take me to church
I'll worship like a dog at the shrine of your lies
I'll tell you my sins and you can sharpen your knife
Offer me that deathless death
Good God, let me give you my life

If I'm a pagan of the good times
My lover's the sunlight
To keep the Goddess on my side
She demands a sacrifice
Drain the whole sea
Get something shiny
Something meaty for the main course
That's a fine looking high horse
What you got in the stable?
We've a lot of starving faithful
That looks tasty
That looks plenty
This is hungry work

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No masters or kings when the ritual begins
There is no sweeter innocence than our gentle sin
In the madness and soil of that sad earthly scene
Only then I am human
Only then I am clean
Oh, oh, Amen, Amen, Amen

Take me to church
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Source: [LyricFind](#)

Songwriters: Andrew Hozier Byrne

Take Me to Church Lyrics © Sony/ATV Music Publishing LLC

Charts: “Take Me to Church” peaked at number 2 on the US Billboard Hot 100 in December of 2014. The song became a radio hit in the United States, where it spent 23 consecutive weeks at the top of the Billboard Hot Rock Songs chart (tied with Imagine Dragons’ Radioactive) as the longest-running number-one in its chart history. The song achieved

widespread global popularity as it topped the charts in 12 countries. "Take Me to Church" was nominated for the Song of the Year in 2015 at the 57th Annual Grammy Awards. He also won the VH1 Artist of the Year in 2015. As of August 24, 2023, the music video has 763+ million views on YouTube.

Background: "Take Me to Church" was written and performed by Irishman Andrew John Hozier-Byrne, known professionally as Hozier. He grew up Roman Catholic, but later joined the Quaker faith. Today, he considers himself an agnostic. However, he still admires the Quakers for their pacificism and anti-war sentiment. Hozier is now an outspoken critic of the Roman Catholic Church. He is an advocate for abortion rights, the LGBTQ+ community, preferred pronouns, and the Black Lives Matter movement. He is firmly against any institution that claims "infallibility."

The song phrase "Take Me to Church" is lyrically used as a metaphor in the song. In the song, he claims that all Christians are hypocrites. In an interview with Rolling Stone magazine, Hozier said, "The history speaks for itself and I grew incredibly frustrated and angry. I essentially just put that into my words." He says the song is about asserting yourself and reclaiming your humanity through an act of love.

Hozier was inspired by atheist Christopher Hitchens in the writing of the song.

The song's title has often been misinterpreted by Christian pop listeners, with the message of critiquing the Roman Catholic Church – and orthodox Christians in general – lost in translation. In June 2019, Hozier said that the intention behind "Take Me to Church" was to "write something that, that was a kind of celebration of sexuality." Hozier admitted that people took the title at "face value" and "were upset when they found out that" it was not a song "actually about being taken to church."

The Third Commandment

Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.

What does this mean?

We should fear and love God so that we do not despise preaching and His Word, but hold it sacred and gladly hear and learn it.

Theology:

God invites us to rest, reflect on His Word, and receive His forgiveness in order to strengthen our faith in Him.

How do we fear and love God in keeping the Third Commandment? We fear and love God by *not despising or neglecting His Word*. We despise and neglect God's Word by:

- a.) Failing to gather together in worship to receive God's Word and Sacraments (Hebrews 10:25);
- b.) Rejecting or disregarding God's Word (Luke 10:16; 1 Samuel 15:10-23; 1 Timothy 4:11-16).

We fear and love God by taking time to reflect on His Word. We do this by:

- a.) Treasuring God's Word as sacred (Psalm 119:105; Colossians 3:16; Psalm 1);
- b.) Devoting ourselves to His Word in private devotion and public worship (Acts 2:42; Acts 17:10-11).

Why is it vital for us to gather together with fellow Christians in public worship?

- a.) God is present as His Word is proclaimed and His Sacraments are administered (Matthew 28:18-20; John 10:16; 1 Corinthians 10:16; 2 Thessalonians 2:14). Through these Means of Grace, He freely gives His gifts and blessings, chiefly the forgiveness of sins (Acts 10:43; 1 John 2:2). In public worship, our Shepherd Jesus, speaks through the mouth of the shepherd (pastor) whom He has called to care for our souls (Acts 20:28). The Word of God is not simply information, but the Word actually delivers what it says (Isaiah 55:10-11).
- b.) We hear God's Word at a set place and time (Isaiah 66:23; Luke 4:16). Though it is delivered through fallible men and simple means, the Word that is read, preached, and spoken over water, bread, and wine is not to be scorned (Jeremiah 6:10; John 8:47; Luke 10:16). Sunday worship is a public testimony to our faith in Christ and His resurrection from the dead "on the first day of the week" (Luke 24:1; Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 16:1-2).
- c.) Believers are still sinners who need one another and the encouragement we receive from one another, "and all the more as you see the Day drawing near" (Hebrews 10:25). We share our blessings, burdens, and joys in petitions and hymns of praise with those present (Colossians 3:16), remembering the Church throughout the world and the saints and angels of heaven (Hebrews 12:22-24).

What Hozier says:

Every Sunday's getting more bleak
A fresh poison each week
"We were born sick", you heard them say it

My church offers no absolutes
She tells me, "Worship in the bedroom"

I was born sick, but I love it

Take me to church
I'll worship like a dog at the shrine of your lies
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Offer me that deathless death

If I'm a pagan of the good times
My lover's the sunlight
To keep the Goddess on my side
She demands a sacrifice

There is no sweeter innocence than our gentle sin
In the madness and soil of that sad earthly scene
Only then I am human
Only then I am clean
Oh, oh, Amen, Amen, Amen

My lover's got humor
She's a giggle at a funeral

What Hozier means:

God's unchanging Truth is all hate.
He can't bear to hear God's Truth.
Doesn't believe in original, or inherited, sin of Adam.

No objective truth. No right and wrong.
Worshipping sin.

Making light of sin. Praising sin. YOLO.

Church is the place of hate and hypocrites.
God's Word is false and only hate filled.
My open sins don't bother me, Christians bother me.
Eternal death in hell doesn't exist.

"Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die" (1 Cor. 15:32)

Satan
Sin

Keep on sinning

True humans embrace sin and never repent.
Sin is what makes a person "clean."
This is most certainly true.

Sin
Making light of death.

Besides the Third Commandment, "Take Me to Church" preaches against the following doctrines:

Concupiscence: the desire to sin or inclination to sin. Concupiscence is part of original sin.

Original Sin: the guilt and depravity that all humans possess as part of the fallen nature which was passed to all people after the Fall of Adam.

Depravity: the corrupted, sinful state of human nature that has existed since the Fall.

The Fall: Adam and Eve's willful disobedience of God's command in the Garden of Eden. This act brought sin, guilt, and depravity to all of humanity.

Heresy: teachings that are contrary to the teachings of the Bible and has, therefore, been rejected by orthodox Christianity. Heresy is not simply an error; it is persistent in error. Luther: pure doctrine saves, false doctrine kills.

Heaven and Hell: *Heaven* – At death, the child of God enters God's presence; the place of the angels and of men who have been saved by God's grace. There, they experience the presence and blessing of God. *Hell* – eternal death apart from God's presence, a place created by God for Satan and demons, but has become the place for those who reject Christ.

Question: Why can't I just play in the middle of a highway?

The World's Definition of Tolerance:

The World's Definition of Intolerance:

"Let me do whatever I want (even if it kills me)." "Those who say whatever I want to do is wrong (even if it saves me)."

