

Orlando Rodriguez - Artist Endorsement Letter

Dear Friends,

With over thirty-five years of pastoral experience, I have learned to examine the heart of the artist with a series of internal questions. Does the artist have a heart after God like David did? Is there evidence in the artist's life off-stage, which bears witness to the passionate, personal, intimate relationship they enjoy with Jesus Christ? Is the artist a people pleaser or a God pleaser? What drives the artist to perform? What character traits are revealed before, during and after the concert? How often does the artist wear a mask, pretending to be better than they really are? Does the artist have a personal awareness and understanding of brokenness? Is the artist comfortable enough in their own skin to be authentic, transparent, and vulnerable? Is the artist willing and able to go beneath the surface to deal with real life issues with real people? Does the artist connect with people of all ages, all races, all ethnicities, and all economic levels?

I chose to work with Orlando Rodriguez because I love the answers to every one of these questions. His heart is right with God and right with people. When you hear Orlando perform you will agree that God has blessed him with amazing talent and abilities. And what carries even greater value is the fact that God has refined his character according to the image of Jesus Christ. When you encounter Orlando Rodriguez before, during, or after a concert you will experience the presence of Jesus through the power of His Holy Spirit. Whether you spend a few seconds, a few minutes, a few hours, or a few days with Orlando, you will be blessed and you will understand why God cherishes Orlando as His precious son.

Life is short and I must make the most of my time on earth. There is no time to waste on being superficial and safe. I must be bold and I must take risks in the name of Jesus. I was deeply honored when Orlando invited me to partner with him, to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ through music and testimony. I want my family, my friends, and people I have not yet met to experience the blessings that I have received through the person and music of Orlando Rodriguez. I am convinced that by God's grace, many of His lost children from across the nation and around the world will come to saving faith in Jesus Christ through Orlando's music and ministry.

When I think of where Orlando is now and where he will be in the future, my heart is drawn to the words of the Apostle Paul, "Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him *be* glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen." (Eph. 3:20-21 NKJV)

Grace & Peace,



Pastor John W. Smith, M.Div., D.Min.