

# Nate Houge – Reform Follows Function

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## 1. ALL WE CAN DO

When God got a hold of Moses, there was no turning back  
God covered all the excuses, all the talent that he lacked  
He gathered up the chosen folks, I'm going to lead you out  
They headed for the wilderness, through the water and the doubt  
40 years rolled on, 40 years on the go,  
They heard the voice of God, and all they could do is follow

Like lambs among the wolves, Jesus sent the 70 out  
Laborers in a harvest year that was anything but drought  
They were sent with nothing but a promise, and perhaps a little fear  
Still down that lonely road, the kingdom would come near  
Jesus sent them out to the places he would go  
They heard the voice of God, and all they could do is follow

Sometimes stories of the faith make you stand up tall  
Like Mary at the empty tomb, and the audacity of Paul  
We all live like that skeptic, sitting underneath the tree  
Then Jesus walks right up to us and says, "Follow me."

Everyone that's gathered here, is called to do God's work  
Some draw life from the pulpit, some draw it from the dirt  
We may not feel like Moses, or the saints who have gone before us  
We are simply who we are, and this world cannot ignore us  
We may head for the wilderness, or down a lonely road  
But we have heard the voice God  
And all, You can do...  
And all, I can do...  
Yes all, We can do is follow

Nate Houge – vocals, acoustic guitar  
Justin Rimbo – Bass  
Graham Peterson – Drums  
Jonathan Rundman – Hammond  
Pat Tomek - Percussion

## 2. HERETICS

My ears perk up – the deal goes down  
You could lasso the moon – homeward bound  
Who's the judge – to justify that  
Who's to say – faith, fiction, or fact

I'll take no bull, my voice is hoarse  
You were nailing your points into the doors  
My stance is shaky but my source is strong  
Where have all the heretics gone?

Reason to believe – reasonable doubt  
To busy with work – to figure life out  
Can't understand – riddled with flaws  
Am I sanctified man – backin' up a lost cause?

Get behind the wheel – take me to a place  
Where god is God – grace is Grace  
Strip me of my fear – defend me in my dream  
Show me how to trust – show me how to be

Nate Houge – vocals, acoustic guitar, electric guitars  
Justin Rimbo – Bass, vocals  
Graham Peterson – Drums  
Pat Tomek - Percussion

## 3. METANOIA

Moses was a murderer, would've given him the chair  
If he lived in the here and now  
Our ways are so limited, our cutting edge so primitive  
Twenty first century golden cow

We're all guilty, don't remind me of the past,  
You say that I'm forgiven, I am free at last  
Metanoia, turn me around,  
Redirect me homeward bound

Jesus spoke a word of piece, brought the mighty to their knees  
I wish that I was better quoting him  
(but) I got daggers in my lungs, sometimes spoken, sometimes sung  
Either way I'm guilty as sin

I saw God as Black and white, bright of day in dark of night  
Now you're selling me a different stor-y  
You say God is of the gray, God of night is God of day  
Welcome to the Holy Myster-y

Nate Houge – vocals, acoustic guitar, electric guitar  
Justin Rimbo – Bass  
Graham Peterson – Drums  
Micah Taylor – vocals

## 4. OUT ON THE PLAINS

The road is straight, forever you see  
It may be narrow, it is not steep  
Out on the plains

The rows of corn, and sugar beets  
The waves of grain, rock you to sleep  
Out on the plains

God bless the soil, God bless the hands  
That wake each morning to work the land  
Wake with the sun, wait for the rain  
We walk by faith, out on the plains

Borrow the cash, to buy the seed  
May it find purchase, and meet our needs  
Out on the plains

The soil is rich, the prices high  
We hold our breath, with harvest nigh  
Out on the plains

Some go to church, out in the fields  
They worship God, when they kneel  
Handful of dirt, from whence we came  
Did Adam's hand, do the same?  
Out on the plains

Nate Houge – vocals, acoustic guitar  
Justin Rimbo - Bass  
Graham Peterson – Drums  
Micah Taylor – Mandolin  
Jonathan Rundman – Accordion  
Erin DeBoer-Moran - vocals

## 5. HEARTACHE AND ALL

Say you need this heavy hand lifted  
It's been resting like a fog over your eyes  
And sometimes your response is quiet  
Other times you want to fight it  
Either way you end up paralyzed

When you need me I'll be there to hold you, heartache and all

I saw you as a charging visionary  
With guts to take the world to the mat  
Now come the doctors with their testing  
I'm left with doubts and second-guessing  
Sound minds rarely get past that

I wish they'd just let you go  
Declare you sane before they drive you crazy  
It's a lot like jail to be locked in here  
With nothing but prescriptions to calm your fear  
Our notions of what's just just amaze me

Bridge:

And now they're tearing you away from the family  
Say you are not fit to live with them  
And I don't mean to make this any harder on you  
But you've seen me break, you've seen me break  
And now you're breaking too, you're breaking too.

Nate Houge – vocals, acoustic guitar

Justin Rimbo – Bass

Graham Peterson – Drums

Mari Carlson – Violin

Erin DeBoer-Moran - vocals

## 6. EPHEMERA

You've got a letter  
from when we were  
writing each other  
a year and a summer

We are the last generation of the pen pal,  
now it's all digital, nothing left is tangible  
shoe boxes full of evidence of our love  
my heart in care of, all of our ephemera

paper palpitation  
laid the foundation  
our communication  
sprung from iteration

we were elated  
so long we waited  
finally we made it  
this is how we dated

a physical address that was hand writ  
32 cent stamp adhered with spit

Nate Houge – Vocals, acoustic guitar, banjo

Justin Rimbo – Bass

Graham Peterson – Drums

Jonathan Rundman - Wurlitzer

Ephemeral Choir – Jodi Houge, Lydia Houge, Elsa Houge,

Kjellgren Alkire, Jesse Myre, Heather Olson, Justin Rimbo, Angie

Rimbo

## 7. Our Way Out

Can't imagine what it's like / To ride a tank all day  
How opinions change / when you leave the USA  
Would I do it for my country  
Would I do it for the cause  
Would I chalk it up for freedom  
Or file it under higher laws  
There are days the answers gray, you're not sure what it's about  
You need to speak the truth, and all you want is a way out

The strangers in my country / say they come for peace  
I'm not sure whose side they're on / and who I should believe  
Some people say they're infidels,  
Some people call them saints  
Some people say avoid them  
And others say embrace  
There are days the answers gray, I'm not sure what it's about  
I need to speak the truth, and all I want is a way out

Not sure when it was / my gov't slipped away  
I used to call this home / I'm a homeless man today  
Not sure where I'm standing / green grass or desert sand  
I used to call us different / now we're both shaking hands  
Where have all the borders gone  
Where are the army men  
Where do I sign to join the ranks  
As a world citizen  
There are days the answers gray, I'm not sure what it's about  
I need to speak the truth, and all I want is a way out

Each side of the battle / is a battle unto itself  
Maintaining all the arguments/ taking hits below the belt  
You can hold your head above it  
You can hold your breath and swim  
You can hold your tongue and listen  
It's where the love begins  
There are days the answer's gray, we're not sure what it's about  
We need to speak the truth, The truth is our way out

Nate Houge – vocals, acoustic guitar, acoustic lap steel

## 8. TAKE YOUR TIME

When did you lose your laughter When did you lose control?  
All the things that you chased after What did they do to your soul?

Faith in these possessions, That's no faith at all  
When I make confession I'm gonna need a wrecking ball

Where has it all been put away? What can I say?  
I've stored it in my heart and it's all falling out today

chorus:

I will not be captive, behind my barricades  
Everything is open now, I'm giving it away

Everything I owned, it was never mine  
You can have the treasure, you can have the talent  
And you can take your time

There's laughter in the freedom of things losing control  
you call 'em like you see 'em all I see is wonderful

Let's cut out the distractions throw out all the plans  
faith makes way for action here comes that ball again

And all those things I stored away, What can I say?  
You've opened up my heart and they're falling out today

Nate Houge – vocals, acoustic guitar, lap steel

Justin Rimbo – Bass, Xylophone

Pat Tomek – Drums

Micah Taylor – Mandocaster

Matthew Holm – Typewriters, Mug

## 9. REDEMPTION

Can I give beyond what I want to give  
Live freely so that we can freely live?  
I want to change my life  
Without the sacrifice

Put your money out where your faith is  
Start to understand what this grace is  
And with everything you buy  
Always question why

Oh this world's on her way to redemption  
This world has been redeemed  
This world's on it's way to redemption  
Working through you and me

There are monumental changes to make  
If we're gonna clean the air, the land, the lakes  
It's time to move  
No time to lose

All the little steps, all the chances to trip  
Still we make our changes though we may trip  
These mistakes happen  
Start over again (and again and again and again)

Nate Houge – vocals, acoustic guitar, electric  
guitar, mandocaster  
Justin Rimbo – Bass  
Graham Peterson – Drums  
Micah Taylor – Knobs  
Mari Carlson - Violin

## 10. YOUR WORK IN ME

It's a slow rain that washes me clean  
It's the street lights, at twilight, flickering  
Can't quite see but I'm always in reach  
Of the healing that comes to us each

Not by the hand of oppression, by the hand that sets free  
Not by my work for you, by your work in me

It's this heartache, that I can't quite place  
Without warning, it's showing it's face  
If just once it would loosen it's hold  
Then I know, yes I know, that love would come home

Not by the acts of violence, by actions of peace  
Not by the rich and the mighty, by the least of these

It's this fighting, I see as unjust  
But it's killing me, learning to trust  
If I lay down my life for a friend  
Who will care for my wife, who will raise our kid?

Not by the ways of the proud, by means of the meek  
Not by striking in anger, by turning the cheek

Nate Houge- Vocals, Guitars, Mandocaster  
Justin Rimbo – Bass  
Graham Peterson – Drums  
Jonathan Rundman - Hammond

## 11. MY MY

Check it all off, of a little list  
Sign it all away, what is it you miss?  
Following a dream, beyond the 9 to 5  
Do you hate your job, does it make you come alive?

'Cause every day's the same, no two are alike  
you can welcome change you can take a hike  
you can burn your bridges, never look back  
live to celebrate on the brink of the attack

my work, my call, my joy, my all it is all so good, my, my.

All the patterns shift all the people sway  
everything you love is never far away  
never beyond reach of a loving memory  
When I close my eyes, your the first thing that I see

So I'm shootin' from my hip, goin' with my gut  
no more how and why, no more when where and what  
I'm gonna dive in, gonna drink deep  
Gonna laugh when you laugh, gonna weep when you weep

my kids, my wife, my God, my life, it is all so good my, my

With every good day I believe, the bad days are gone  
Though they come back now I know, they will not last long  
All the thoughts that held me down, are falling into place  
Falling into place, falling into place

I've been asking God to cover us in peace  
and I hear a voice, 'it belongs to such as these'  
make me like a child, make me one of yours  
help my unbelief, and let my spirit soar

Cause there's no more time to fight, no more time to hate  
only time to love, and open wide the gate  
hands are holding nothing, locked up in a fist  
my hands held the world, the first night that we kissed

My wife, my girls, my God, your world  
it is all so good...  
my kids, my wife, my God, my life,  
it is all so good...  
my work, my call, my joy, my all  
it is all so good, my, my.

Nate Houge – vocals, acoustic guitar, mandolin, cuatro, keys, claps  
Justin Rimbo – Bass  
Graham Peterson – Drums  
Mari Carlson - Violin