



The Gospel According to Rock

Toby Jones

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Rock-n-roll music has arguably been the dominant cultural force of the last 50 years. Its influence on younger generations throughout its history has been both profound and well-documented. Often overlooked, however, is rock's deep and inherent spirituality. In *The Gospel According to Rock*, Toby Jones argues that Rock's most classic and enduring songs speak of compassion, peace, love of neighbor, forgiveness, tolerance, and concern for the environment - all themes that are central to the Christian tradition. Why, then, has rock been so maligned by the Church? Have Christians been too quick to dismiss this dominant art form because of its rough edges and rebellious messengers?

Rocker and theologian Toby Jones sees rock-n-roll artists as modern-day prophets, outsiders who speak truth to power. In *The Gospel According to Rock*, Jones contends that Bono, Bruce Springsteen, Ben Folds, and countless other rockers challenge the political, religious, and economic authorities of their time. Rock's best messages are, in many ways, the same as those of Jeremiah, Hosea, Isaiah, and Jesus himself.

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