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Essay: Finding a Place in This World
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Finding a Place in This World

Being in the flashing lights of the Grammy can be an indication for most that you are someone that you may have it all together but as Lecrae explained in his book *Unashamed*, for him it made him realize that he had no place in the eyes of the world. He was stuck between the life of a traditional rapper and a Christian father, these two lives stayed separate for the most part but you can not be two different people.

Lecrae was raised in the traditional family situation for the “ghettos”. He had a loving mother that always worked, no father, plenty of bad influences, and music to relate to his situation. Hip-Hop became Lecrae’s father because it could relate to him but with that came the influences of the music. At a fairly young age, he was also rapped by his babysitter, which sent him into a spiral of always having sex with anyone even at a young age. When he got older all of his combined trauma lead him to constant sex, drinking, drugs, and almost even getting into the Skyline Pyru gang his uncle was in. Later in Lecrae’s life, he spilled out part of his life’s struggle in the song “Just Like You” which talks about the influences that the people around him had. He sang “I loved the way you used to come through, Teach me to do the things that men do, true, You showed me stuff I probably shouldn't have seen, but you had barely made it out your teens, Took me under your wings”. It may not have been that the gang life was for Lecrae, which it was not so he got out, but someone was there for his someone, unlike his father. Even though he barely made it out of his teens, he looks up to him because he took him under his wing. What Lecrae did not know is that there was already someone how was there but Lecrae was just ignoring him.

Throughout Lecrae’s life, Christ has always been there for him and in his life. Lecrae also had some good influences in his life his mother wanted him to go to church but his Grandmother, with who he spent a lot of summers, loved Christ. She loved God and loved to help people and took her Grandsons on her mission trips and one of them Lecrae even got baptized but at the time did not really know what it meant. Not truly understood until in college at a church where he broke down. Lecrae had started to go to youth group one night when he was walking the streets trying to find his place. Lecrae had got out of his hometown so he would not join a gang and he really loved music but he also was not a music nerd so he was stuck between two worlds. He then started to find his identity in christ but later again he was stuck between two worlds.

Lecrae had some misguided idea that when you become a Christian that the rest of the world is just wrong. They are wrong about what they believe, how they live their lives, and even what music they listen to. Lecrae felt pressure to stop listening to his love which was Hip-Hop because it was secular. Creating a gap that these worlds had to be entirely different that they can not mix. That however is the great thing about Christ, he does not want to change our passions in the world but he wants to use them for his glory and his goal. As Lecrae says “I had been focused on behavior modification, not worldview transformation” (164). Instead of focusing on what I need to change about myself to fit the cookie-cutter Christian how can i help and view the world in a way that honors and glorifies God.

Everyone in their life has a story and we should not try to hide it or be ashamed when we find a new direction or are pursuing a passion. Life is not black and white but instead messy so when you live your life find your passion and be unashamed to follow it while knowing your past.