

G: Voxdeism (Theological) – minus 24 points (G1) or 48 points (G2)

Soft (G1)

At this level, it is a type of misvisualisation—we visualise ourselves as deity.¹ One example is Kendrick's *I Will Build My Church*, for which we in vision become Jesus, then switch back to being mere mortals, howbeit empowered to command spirits to obey our words. I guess the latter is a bit like Ezekiel, though he acted under explicit orders, so that he truly echoed Yahweh's creative words (Ezk.37). Kendrick's song doesn't add to Scripture,² but it does expose singers to the danger of doing so. Prophecies are sometimes unwisely phrased in the same format, *I the LORD you god, say....* This can make judging the prophecy feel like judging God, although I understand that when prophesying some feel so close to God that it seems a natural way to speak—seeing from his perspective. As with god-talk, some justification can be claimed from the Sinaitic prophets who made us familiar with that format. But I deem it unwise to tread where the canonical prophets trod.

Hard (G2)

Such songs actually add words to Scripture, making ourselves out to be God scripting new canon. One example is Bell & Maule's *Will You Come And Follow Me?* This merrily creates new canon in every line. I am fussy about what we denote as Scripture, and chary about false ideas going forth as deity's *ipsissima verba*. I sadly acknowledge that one of my favourite authors, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, believed in a *New Revelation*: psychical revelation is but a doctrine of demons. Christian lyricists can stray the same way.

¹ Divinisation (not *divination*!) is itself a useful term in the context of our transformation into God's true likeness, though Mormonism misjudges God's 'start' and our 'end'. The created can never become uncreated, and the uncreated is intrinsically noncreated. But let's not pretend to be deity (we get it wrong), and especially able to speak new revelations.

² Though Kendrick 'gives' *hell*—a term some argue to be misleading translation—dominical affirmation. Voxdeism can canonise our misunderstandings.