

Losing My Religion

(R.E.M.)

[Verse 1]

Oh, life is bigger
It's bigger than you and you are not
me
The lengths that I will go to
The distance in your eyes
Oh no, I've said too much
I set it up

[Pre-Chorus 1]

That's me in the corner
That's me in the spotlight
Losing my religion
Trying to keep up with you
And I don't know if I can do it
Oh no, I've said too much
I haven't said enough

[Chorus]

I thought that I heard you laughing
I thought that I heard you sing
I think I thought I saw you try

[Verse 2]

Every whisper of every waking hour
I'm choosing my confessions
Trying to keep an eye on you
Like a hurt lost and blinded fool, fool
Oh no, I've said too much
I set it up

[Pre-Chorus 2]

Consider this, consider this
The hint of the century
Consider this the slip
That brought me to my knees, failed

What if all these fantasies come
flailing around?
Now I've said too much

[Chorus]

I thought that I heard you laughing
I thought that I heard you sing
I think I thought I saw you try

[Bridge]

But that was just a dream
That was just a dream

[Pre-Chorus]

That's me in the corner
That's me in the spotlight
Losing my religion
Trying to keep up with you
And I don't know if I can do it
Oh no, I've said too much
I haven't said enough

[Chorus]

I thought that I heard you laughing
I thought that I heard you sing
I think I thought I saw you try

[Outro]

But that was just a dream
Try, cry, why try?
That was just a dream, just a dream
Just a dream, dream

Thank you
See ya
Thanks a lot

"Losing My Religion" is a song by the American alternative rock band R.E.M. The song was released as the first single from the group's 1991 album *Out of Time*. Built on a mandolin riff, "Losing My Religion" was an unlikely hit for the group, garnering extensive airplay on radio as well as on MTV and VH1 due to its critically acclaimed music video. The song became R.E.M.'s highest-charting hit in the United States, reaching No. 4 on the *Billboard* Hot 100 and expanding the group's popularity beyond its original fanbase. *Out of Time* garnered R.E.M. seven nominations at the 1992 Grammy Awards, the most nominations of any artist that year. The band won three awards: one for Best Alternative Music Album and two for "Losing My Religion", Best Short Form Music Video and Best Pop Performance by a Duo or Group with Vocal.

R.E.M. guitarist Peter Buck wrote the main riff and chorus to the song on a mandolin while watching television one day. Buck had just bought the instrument and was attempting to learn how to play it, recording the music as he practiced. Buck said that "when I listened back to it the next day, there was a bunch of stuff that was really just me learning how to play mandolin, and then there's what became 'Losing My Religion', and then a whole bunch more of me learning to play the mandolin."

Recording of the song started in September 1990 at Bearsville Studio A in Woodstock, New York. The song was arranged in the studio with mandolin, electric bass, and drums. Bassist Mike Mills came up with a bassline inspired by the work of Fleetwood Mac bassist John McVie; by his own admission he could not come up with one for the song that was not derivative. Buck said the arrangement of the song "had a hollow feel to it. There's absolutely no midrange on it, just low end and high end, because Mike usually stayed pretty low on the bass." The band decided to have touring guitarist Peter Holsapple play acoustic guitar on the recording. Buck reflected, "It was really cool: Peter and I would be in our little booth, sweating away, and Bill and Mike would be out there in the other room going at it. It just had a really magical feel." Singer Michael Stipe's vocal was recorded in a single take. Orchestral strings, arranged by Mark Bingham, were added to the song by members of the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra at Soundscape Studios in Atlanta, Georgia, in October 1990.

In the song, Michael Stipe sings the lines "That's me in the corner/That's me in the spotlight/Losing my religion". The phrase "losing my religion" is an expression from the southern region of the United States that means losing one's temper or civility, or "being at the end of one's rope." Stipe told *The New York Times* the song was about romantic expression. He told *Q* that "Losing My Religion" is about "someone who pines for someone else. It's unrequited love, what have you."

"Losing My Religion" was released on February 19, 1991, in the United States as the lead single from R.E.M.'s forthcoming album *Out of Time*. The song became R.E.M.'s biggest hit in the U.S., peaking at No. 4 on the *Billboard* Hot 100. The single stayed on the chart for 21 weeks. It charted at number 19 on the UK Singles Chart, and peaked at No. 16 and No. 11 in Canada and Australia, respectively. Mills said years later, "Without 'Losing My Religion', *Out of Time* would have sold two or three million [copies], instead of the ten [million copies] or so it did. But the phenomenon that is a worldwide hit is an odd thing to behold. Basically that record was a hit in almost every civilized country in the world.