



"Cross Connection"

Radio Ministry of Hope Wesleyan Church and Wells of Salvation Ministries
Ultimate Oldies Radio – FM 97.7 and 101.5, Huber Heights, Ohio



Series: Christian Messages In Secular Music

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Program 13 – "Get Together" © 1963 Chet Powers

The author of "Get Together," Chet Powers, was also known as Dino Valenti of Quicksilver Messenger Service. The song pleads for peace and unity, addressing love (compassion) versus fear (hatred), and the choice we have between them. The Kingston Trio recorded this song on an album in 1964, but it was not released as a single. We Five had a hit with it (#31) as follow-up to "You Were on My Mind" in 1965. Released by The Youngbloods in 1967, it reached only #62. But it gained renewed interest when it was used in a TV public service announcement as a call for brotherhood by the National Conference of Christians and Jews. Re-released as a single in 1969, it became a top 10 hit. The Youngblood's version remains the most-remembered today. The song was also recorded by the Dave Clark Five (#8 in UK), Jefferson Airplane, The Carpenters, The Association, Judy Collins, Linda Ronstadt, Anne Murray, Ann Wilson (of Heart), Nancy Wilson, Deana Carter, and Wynonna Judd. (source: Wikipedia)

Related themes –

Ebony and ivory live together in perfect harmony
Side by side on my piano keyboard, oh Lord, why don't we?

We all know that people are the same where ever we go
There is good and bad in ev'ryone,
We learn to live, we learn to give
Each other what we need to survive together alive.

-- from "Ebony and Ivory" by Paul McCartney and Stevie Wonder

I am no better and neither are you
We are the same whatever we do
You love me, you hate me, you loathe me, and then
You can't figure out what bag I'm in
I am everyday people, yeah yeah

There is a long hair that doesn't like the short hair
For bein' such a rich one that will not help the poor one
Different strokes for different folks
And so on and so on and scooby-dooby-dooby
Ooh sha sha, we got to live together

-- from "Everyday People" by Sylvester 'Sly Stone' Stewart

I'd like to see the world for once
All standing hand in hand
And hear them echo through the hills "Ah, peace throughout the land"
(That's the song I hear)

I'd like to teach the world to sing (that the world sings today)
In perfect harmony

-- from "I'd Like To Teach The World To Sing" by the New Seekers

The color of your skin don't matter to me
As long as we can live in harmony

Why can't we be friends?

-- from "Why Can't We Be Friends" by War

"Get Together" lyrics:

Love is but a song we sing
And fear's the way we die.
You can make the mountains ring
Or make the angels cry.
Though the bird is on the wing
And you may not know why.

- Suggests we only give lip service to love, but we die in fear
- "NO FEAR" stickers on cars over recent years
- Jesus conquered death! *"When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: 'Death has been swallowed up in victory.' 'Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?'"* -- I Cor. 15:54-55

C'mon people now
Smile on your brother
Everybody get together
Try to love one another right now

- A plea – a directive – urging action, beyond mere words
- Rodney King on 3rd day of LA riots in May '92: "People, I just want to say, you know, can we all get along?"
- Love should flow from God's love for us (agape)
- *"If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching"* John 14:23
- Why does it take a common threat to unite people/nations?

Some will come and some will go
And we shall surely pass.
When the one that left us here
Returns for us at last.
We are but a moment's sunlight
Fading in the grass.

- Rich in Biblical truth! *"...man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment"* – Hebrews 9:27
- Jesus will return! *"...the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, ...voice of archangel... trumpet call of God, ... dead in Christ will rise... After that, we who are still alive...will be caught up...with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And...we will be with the Lord forever."* – 1 Thes. 4:16-17

If you hear the song I sing
You will understand (listen)
You hold the key to love and fear
All in your trembling hand.
Just one key unlocks them both
It's there at your command

- Life is brief...
- Job 14:1-2 - Few days, like a flower, fleeting shadow
 - Psalm 103:15-16 - Like grass, leaving no memory
 - I Chronicles 29:15 - Like a shadow, without hope
 - James 4:14 - Like a mist or vapor that vanishes
 - Job 7:6-7 – Days swifter than a weaver's shuttle, life is a breath
 - Psalm 78:39 - Like a passing breeze

This is within the Christian's control! Agape love transcends other types of love because it is based upon the commitment of a decision. It is not limited by its environment, or someone's perception. It involves a conscious decision to proactively seek someone's well-being. (ref: www.sjchurchofchrist.org/agape.shtml)

"...perfect love casts out fear..." – 1 John 4:18

Final thoughts...

God's word tells us that this world will only know true peace when the Prince of Peace – Jesus Christ – establishes His kingdom on earth, and banishes evil forever. As Jackie DeShannon sang several years ago...

What the world needs now,
Is love, sweet love,
It's the only thing that there's just too little of.
What the world needs now,
Is love, sweet love,
No, not just for some but for everyone.

What the world needs now is the love of Christ in the hearts and lives of people everywhere.

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