



"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

11/20/07

Program 10 – "Jesus Is Just Alright" © 1969 Arthur Reid Reynolds

In light of the great success the Doobie Brothers had with this song (#35 on the Billboard Pop Charts in February 1973), some may be surprised to learn that "Jesus Is Just Alright" was first recorded in 1969 by The Byrds. That version barely edged into the US charts, peaking at #97. The song was also recorded by the Christian group DC Talk in 1992. The Doobie Brothers' version remains popular on classic rock radio stations today (source: Wikipedia). The timing was right, as the Jesus Movement emerged during the late '60s and early '70s, and the song's message resonated with a generation searching for spiritual truth.

Jesus is just alright with me,
Jesus is just alright, oh yeah
Jesus is just alright with me,
Jesus is just alright

- Strong personal testimony!
- "...I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes..." – Rom. 1:16
- A clear boldness in taking a stand for Jesus Christ
- "If anyone is ashamed of me and my words..., the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when he comes in his Father's glory..." -- Mark 8:38
- "If we endure hardship, we will reign with him. If we deny him, he will deny us." – 2 Timothy 2:12

I don't care what they may say
I don't care what they may do
I don't care what they may say
Jesus is just alright, oh yeah
Jesus is just alright

- Paul spoke of being a fool for Christ (1 Corinthians 4:10)
- Christians are often belittled and ridiculed by the world for taking a stand for their faith in Jesus Christ
- "Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him." – James 1:12
- "Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." – Matt. 5:10

Jesus is just alright with me,
Jesus is just alright, oh yeah
Jesus is just alright with me,
Jesus is just alright

I don't care what they may know
I don't care where they may go
I don't care what they may know
Jesus is just alright, oh yeah

- Speaks of a personal relationship with Jesus
- An old hymn from the Civil War era testifies -- "He leadeth me, He leadeth me. By His own hand He leadeth me"
- "...He leadeth me beside the still waters...He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake." – Psalm 23:2-3
- Are we willing to be led by the Lord, or are we still tenaciously clinging to the steering wheel?

Jesus, he's my friend;
Jesus, he's my friend
He took me by the hand;
Led me far from this land
Jesus, he's my friend

Legendary country music star, Johnny Cash, knew there is a social price for taking a stand for Jesus. Cash once said,

"Being a Christian isn't for sissies. It takes a real man to live for God—a lot more man than to live for the devil, you know? If you really want to live right these days, you gotta be tough."

Cash was intimately aware of the hard truths about living God's way. He also noted,

"If you're going to be a Christian, you're going to change. You're going to lose some old friends, not because you want to, but because you need to".

(source: online article, "The Man Came Around" by Dave Urbanski,
<http://www.christianitytoday.com/music/interviews/2005/johnnycash-1205.html>)

As a Journalism student at Ohio State University some years ago, I was assigned to interview a classmate and write a news article. In the course of our discussion, the young lady I interviewed described how she had recently become a Christian, and had been drawn by this particular song – "Jesus Is Just Alright". Her testimony was remarkable, as she explained how she had been delivered from witchcraft and occultism to boldly serve the true and living God. She too gave up old friendships as a result of taking a stand for Christ.

Final thoughts...

You will have opportunities to tell others about your faith in Jesus Christ, and what He has done for you. Christian singer / songwriter Ray Boltz, in his song, "Take Up Your Cross", wrote, "...Don't be ashamed to say that you know Him...Count the cost, then take up your cross and follow Him."

Perhaps you have kept your Christian witness hidden from others. Read the story of how Peter denied Christ three times the night before Jesus was crucified. Peter ultimately repented and was restored to fellowship with Jesus, and went on to become a bold witness for Christ. You can do the same.

"But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have..."

– 1 Peter 3:15

Are you willing to tell the world that Jesus is just alright with you?

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