



"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

01/16/08

Program 1 – "Love Is The Answer" © 1977 Todd Rundgren

England Dan and John Ford Coley took this cover of Utopia's 1977 inspirational hit to #10 on the U.S. pop charts, and #1 in the Adult Contemporary rankings in 1979.¹ Written by legendary performer, songwriter and producer Todd Rundgren, "Love Is The Answer" develops, with buoyant optimism, several principles consistent with Scripture and the Christian life. Christian artists sometimes alter secular song lyrics for doctrinal purposes, but it appears unnecessary for this number. For example, Christian artist Cindy Morgan's rendition reflects Rundgren's lyrics, word-for-word. "Love Is The Answer", when considered in the context of God's love, is sound advice indeed.

Name your price
A ticket to paradise
I can't stay here any more
And I've looked high and low
I've been from shore to shore to shore
If there's a short cut I'd have found it
But there's no easy way around it

- Jesus told the penitent thief on the cross -- *"Truly I say to you, today you shall be with Me in Paradise"* – Luke 23:43, NIV
- *"...small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it"* – Matthew 7:14, NIV

Light of the world,
Shine on me
Love is the answer
Shine on us all
Set us free
Love is the answer

- Jesus said... *"I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life"* – John 8:12, NASV
- *"This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins"* – 1 John 4:10

Who knows why
Someday we all must die
We're all homeless boys and girls
And we are never heard
It's such a lonely world
People turn their heads
And walk on by
Tell me is it worth just another try

- *"...it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment"* – Hebrews 9:27
- Jesus was also homeless... *"Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head"* – Luke 9:58
- Colossians 1:27 speaks of *"...Christ in you, the hope of glory"*. It's Him we have the privilege of looking to for answers to life's hard questions.

Are we alive
Or just a dying planet
What are the chances
Ask the man in your heart for the answers

- *"There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear"* – 1 John 4:18, NIV
- *"Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God"* – 1 John 4:7, NIV
- *"...if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us"* – 1 John 4:12b, NIV

And when you feel afraid
Love one another

¹http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/England_Dan_&_John_Ford_Coley

When you've lost your way
Love one another
And when you're all alone
Love one another
And when you're far from home
Love one another
And when you're down and out
Love one another
And when your hopes run out
Love one another
And when you need a friend
Love one another
We got to love one another

- Recordings by both Todd Rundgren and England Dan & John Ford Coley render this section of the song in a rousing gospel style, with choral responses
- Message – no matter how dismal our circumstances, we need to respond in and with love toward one another – even when to do so seems counter to our feelings, instincts, or human nature
- For Christians, our strength and ability to do this is sourced from God's love through the Holy Spirit!

“...God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us” – Romans 5:5b, NIV

“God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us” – Romans 6:8, NIV

Final Thoughts:

In what some call His “Sermon on the Plain”, Jesus described a love that goes against the grain -- well beyond what we do instinctively. He said...

“If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even 'sinners' love those who love them. And if you do good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you? Even 'sinners' do that. And if you lend to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit is that to you? Even 'sinners' lend to 'sinners,' expecting to be repaid in full.” – Luke 6:32-34, NIV

He goes on to explain that we should love and help others regardless of whether they reciprocate...

“But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked.” – Luke 6:35

That's a supernatural love – the kind that Jesus, the Light of the world, shines on us!