



## "Cross Connection"

Radio Ministry of Hope Wesleyan Church and Wells of Salvation Ministries  
Ultimate Oldies Radio – FM 97.7 and 101.1, Huber Heights, Ohio



Series: Christian Messages In Secular Music

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Program 83 "One Love" © 1977 Bob Marley

Some years ago, I worked for a rather large company that emphasized "quality". It became a buzz word that management demanded become ingrained across the work force – so much so that representatives were sent around like Gestapo agents to make sure the word was being used routinely in our conversations and written products. Naturally, to keep our jobs, we all used "quality" in every other sentence when the agents of change visited. The trouble was... no two of us seemed to know or agree upon what it really meant. But you better believe we used the term, and often! "Love" is another popular term which sounds good, but do we really know what it means? For all of our talk of and head-nodding about the need for love the world over, there rages considerable strife and conflict around us. "One Love" remains a noble goal. We can experience it only through the Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ!

### The Song <sup>1</sup>

- Reggae/Rhythm & blues song by Bob Marley & The Wailers from '77 album *Exodus*.
  - Contains an interpolation of The Impressions' song "People Get Ready"
  - Marley's hybrid version is titled, "One Love / People Get Ready," and gives co-authorship credits to both Marley and Curtis Mayfield
- used in television commercials promoting Jamaican tourism
- Named song of the millennium by The British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC)
- Performed simultaneously around the world; featured on internet-based video

### The Artist – Robert "Bob" Nesta Marley (1945-1981) <sup>2</sup>

- Jamaican lead singer, songwriter and guitarist for reggae band The Wailers
- Son of teenage Afro-Jamaican mother and 50-yr-old white captain in Royal Marines
  - Suffered racial prejudice as a youth as result of mixed racial heritage

*"I don't have prejudice against meself. My father was a white and my mother was black. Them call me half-caste or whatever. Me don't dip on nobody's side. Me don't dip on the black man's side nor the white man's side. Me dip on God's side, the one who create me and cause me to come from black and white"* – Bob Marley

- Remembered for spreading popularity of reggae music and the Rastafari movement
- Best known hits include "I Shot the Sheriff", "No Woman, No Cry", "Exodus", "Could You Be Loved", "Stir It Up", "Jamming", "Redemption Song", "One Love"
  - Compilation album, *Legend*, released in 1984, three years after his death, is best-selling reggae album ever (10 X platinum in US), 20+ million copies
- Inducted into Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1994
- Posthumously awarded Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award, 2001
- *Time* chose Bob Marley & The Wailers' *Exodus* as greatest album of 20th century
- Died from cancer at age 36, leaving wife Rita and 12 children
  - A few months prior, he was baptized into the Ethiopian Orthodox Church

<sup>1</sup> [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/One\\_Love\\_\(Bob\\_Marley\\_song\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/One_Love_(Bob_Marley_song))

<sup>2</sup> [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bob\\_Marley](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bob_Marley)

Refrain:

One Love! One Heart!  
Let's get together and feel all right.  
Hear the children cryin' (One Love!);  
Hear the children cryin' (One Heart!),  
Sayin': give thanks and praise to the Lord  
and I will feel all right;  
Sayin': let's get together and feel all right.



Jesus prayed for our unity – *“...I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you...”* – John 17:20b-21a, NIV

- Compare:
  - “Koinonia” – *“Christian fellowship or communion with God or with fellow Christians; said in particular of the early Christian community”*<sup>3</sup>
  - “The Reasoning” – *“...an informal gathering at which a small group of Rastas smoke ganja (marijuana) and engage in discussion.”*<sup>4</sup>

Let them all pass all their dirty remarks (One Love!);  
There is one question I'd really love to ask (One Heart!):  
Is there a place for the hopeless sinner,  
Who has hurt all mankind just to save his own beliefs?

- No sinner is truly without hope if they will acknowledge their sin, repent, and believe on the Lord Jesus Christ (John 3:16, 17)

(Refrain repeats)

One more thing!

Let's get together to fight this Holy Armagiddyon (One Love!),  
So when the Man comes there will be no, no doom (One Song!).  
Have pity on those whose chances grows t'inner;  
There ain't no hiding place from the Father of Creation.

- Armageddon is a term found in the Bible. (See Revelation 16:16)
  - What is it? Where is it?
  - What is its significance?

Sayin': One Love! What about the One Heart? (One Heart!)  
What about the - ? Let's get together and feel all right.  
I'm pleadin' to mankind! (One Love!);  
Oh, Lord! (One Heart) Wo-ooh!

*“...I will bless the LORD at all times: his praise shall continually be in my mouth”*  
-- Psalm 34:1

The Bible says that God inhabits in the praises of His people (Psalm 22:3)

*“...I will declare your name to my brothers; in the presence of the congregation I will sing your praises.”*  
– Hebrews 2:12; Psalm 22:22

Give thanks and praise to the Lord and I will feel all right;  
Let's get together and feel all right.  
Give thanks and praise to the Lord and I will feel all right;  
Let's get together and feel all right.

### Final Thoughts:

Look around. Where is this elusive “one love”? Bob Marley sings of “One Love” in terms of the need for unity of mankind. Jesus prayed for unity among a mere subset of the world’s population – i.e., those who would believe in Him. I think we can agree that the Christian community has failed Him miserably in that objective.

To some, love = kindness received; to others, love = kindness given; to still others, love = sex; or quid pro quo; or equality; or respect. God’s love for us was demonstrated without conditions – a supernatural, divine kind of love that leaves us awestruck – unable to relate to from a human perspective. I suppose that’s why we often call it “amazing”!

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<sup>3</sup> <http://www.wordreference.com/definition/koinonia>

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.lcms.org/graphics/assets/media/CTCR/Rastafarian%200407.pdf>