



"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

11/5/07

Program 6 – **"People Got To Be Free"** © 1968 Words by Felix Cavaliere and
Music by Edward Brigati, Jr.

This Rascals hit charted at #1 for five weeks in 1968. What was going on back then?

TOP HEADLINES:

- North Korea captures the U.S. Ship Pueblo
- Tet Offensive changes the Vietnam War
- Martin Luther King is assassinated in Memphis
- Sen. Robert Kennedy is shot In Los Angeles
- "60 Minutes" airs on CBS for the first time

COST OF LIVING 1968:

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------|
| • Average home | \$26,600 |
| • Average cost of a car | \$3,326 |
| • First class postage | \$0.08 |
| • Gasoline | \$0.37 a gallon |
| • Average income | \$2,731 |

"People Got to Be Free", an impassioned plea for tolerance and freedom, sold over 4 million copies. Some thought the song was related to the assassinations of Martin Luther King, Jr. and Robert F. Kennedy earlier that year; but it was recorded before the latter death. In fact it was partly a reaction to an ugly encounter in which the long-haired group was threatened by a group of rednecks after their tour vehicle broke down in Fort Pierce, Florida. (source: Wikipedia)

Key Scriptures:

"So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed" -- John 8:36

"Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom" –
2 Corinthians 3:17

"It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery." – Galatians 5:1

"They promise them freedom, while they themselves are slaves of depravity—for a man is a slave to whatever has mastered him." – 2 Peter 2:19

"'Everything is permissible'—but not everything is beneficial. 'Everything is permissible'—but not everything is constructive." – 1 Corinthians 10:23

All the world over, so easy to see
People everywhere just wanna be free
Listen, please listen, that's the way it should be
Peace in the valley, people got to be free

Free from what? Free to do what? What keeps one from being free? What has mastered you?

- Social: slavery, wars, repression, forced child labor, castes, bigotry, nuclear threat, terrorism
- Personal: alcohol, drugs, cigarettes, porn, debt, greed, food, anger / hatred, fear, bitterness, crushing schedules, religious legalism, etc.
- *"For...many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is on earthly things."* – Phil: 3:18-19

You should see what a lovely, lovely world this'd be
If everyone learned to live together
Seems to me such an easy, easy thing this should be
Why can't you and me learn to love one another?

In his song, "Imagine", John Lennon wrote –
"Imagine all the people living life in peace..."

- Why is this objective so elusive?
- *"...sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned..."* – Romans 5:12

All the world over, so easy to see
People everywhere just wanna be free (wanna be free)
I can't understand it, so simple to me (it is)
People everywhere just got to be free

If there's a man who is down and needs a helping hand
All it takes is you to understand and to see him through
Seems to me we got to solve it individually
And I'll do unto you what you do to me

The "Golden Rule", or ethic of reciprocity, is found in nearly every religion in the world. Here, the Rascals appeal with a nearly-universally held tenet. In the Bible, this is found in Matthew 7:12 – *"Whatever you wish that men would do to you, do so to them."*

There'll be shoutin' from the mountains on out to sea (out to sea)
No two ways about it, people have to be free (they got to be free)
Ask me my opinion, my opinion will be (ah-ha)
It's a natural situation for a man to be free

Yes, it's natural that man wants to be free, but what else happens "naturally"? e.g. --

- Power outage in a major city results in looting, burning, crime and chaos
- Flood in New Orleans results in breakdown of law and order, and people shooting at rescuers
- Unpopular court verdict results in riots, murders, mass destruction

Oh, what a feelin's just come over me
It's enough to move a mountain, make a blind man see
Everybody's dancin' now come on, let's go see
Peace in the valley, now they want to be free

See that train over there
Now that's the train of freedom
It's about to arrive any minute, now
You know, it's been long, long overdue
Look out 'cause it's comin' right on through

We can become excited when we recognize that the Prince of Peace – Jesus Christ – weilds the power to release us from bondage of any kind. He said...

- *"The Spirit of the Lord... has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners... to release the oppressed..."* – Luke 4:18

If you can see "the train of freedom" coming, you can also see that Jesus is the engineer. He can set you free today if you will only trust in Him as Savior and Lord of your life, and surrender anything that enslaves you – just put it at the foot of the cross!

Final thoughts...

When this program aired, pastor Rick Smith of Hope Wesleyan Church, in Huber Heights, Ohio, shared how the Lord delivered Him from bondages of alcohol, drugs, sex and a consuming sense of hopelessness. No matter what has you bound or enslaved, Jesus Christ is the answer. Trust Jesus completely for your salvation from sin and its bondage, and continue to look to Him throughout your life!