



"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

10/29/08

Program 57 **"Personal Jesus"** © 1989 Martin Gore

Remember "Pet Rocks" and "Pet Ghosts"? There's only one Jesus. So, how can each of us have our "own personal Jesus" as these lyrics suggest? Yet, this secular song links to many scriptural truths about the relationship each of us can have with Jesus Christ.

The Song ¹ -- Personal Jesus

- Released in 1989 by Depeche Mode; reached #13 on UK Singles Chart.
- Inspired by book *Elvis and Me* by Priscilla Presley
 - Per the songwriter, "It's a song about being a Jesus for somebody else, someone to give you hope and care. It's about how Elvis was her man and her mentor and how often that happens in love relationships..."
- Ranked #368 in *Rolling Stone's 500 Greatest Songs of All Time* in 2004
- Voted one of the "100 Greatest Songs Ever" in *Q* magazine in 2006
- Became the biggest-selling 12-inch single in Warner Bros. Records' history
- Covered by Johnny Cash in 2002 on the last album he released during his lifetime
- Marilyn Manson covered it in 2004 on the band's best-of compilation, *Lest We Forget: The Best of*, as that album's lead single

The Group ² – Depeche Mode

- English electronic music band formed in 1980
- Named for a French fashion magazine, *Dépêche mode*, meaning "hurried fashion"
- One of the longest-lived, most successful and influential bands that came out of the New Romantic and New Wave eras of the mid-late 1970s
 - Music from these movements was largely synthesizer-based electronic music, rhythmically driven, layered with moody synth-produced melodies
 - Other similar groups include Culture Club, Duran Duran, Elvis Costello, Spandau Ballet, The Human League, Eurythmics, The Police, Tears For Fears
- Charted 45 songs on the UK Singles Chart; one US and two UK number one albums
- Total worldwide record sales in excess of 100 million
- Members wrestled with heroin addiction, seizures and mental instability
- Numerous personnel changes, but has continued to record and perform

Your own personal Jesus
 Someone to hear your prayers
 Someone who cares
 Your own personal Jesus
 Someone to hear your prayers
 Someone who's there

- Many people view Christianity as attending church, performing rituals, not committing certain sins. That is not Christianity
- True Christianity is a personal relationship with Jesus Christ
- Accepting Jesus as your personal Savior means placing your own personal faith and trust in Him, accepting Jesus as your Savior, trusting His death as the payment for your sins, and His resurrection as your guarantee of eternal life (John 3:16). ³

¹ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Personal_Jesus

² http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Depeche_Mode

³ <http://www.gotquestions.org/personal-Savior.html>

Feeling unknown
And you're all alone
Flesh and bone
By the telephone
Lift up the receiver
I'll make you a believer

- How do you feel around a crowd of strangers?
 - Can you feel alone around others?
 - Jesus has sustained prisoners in solitary confinement!
 - E.g., Richard Wurmbrand, founder, Voice of the Martyrs
- "I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand" – John 10:28, NIV*
- Our "telephone" is a prayer line to God – and none other!

Take second best
Put me to the test
Things on your chest
You need to confess
I will deliver
You know I'm a forgiver

- The Bible tells us – *"For there is **one** God and **one mediator** between God and men, the man Christ Jesus"* -- 1 Timothy 2:5, NIV
 - We have to be willing to forgive those who do us wrong
- "For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins" – Luke 6:15, NIV*

Reach out and touch faith
Reach out and touch faith
Your own personal Jesus...

I will deliver
You know I'm a forgiver
Reach out and touch faith
Your own personal Jesus...
Reach out and touch faith

Years ago, the Imperials sang...

*You're the only Jesus that some will ever see
And you're the only words of life, some will ever read
So let them see in you the One in whom is all they'll ever need
'Cause you're the only Jesus, some will ever see*

- Let others see Jesus living in you, then point them to the One who can be their own personal Jesus!

Final Thoughts –

The only One in whom we can safely and reliably place our faith and trust is Jesus Christ – not in another person. Experience tells each of us that other people will let us down. Jesus never will! I have witnessed others grow bitter and lose faith when priests are convicted of molesting children, when a televangelist is apprehended with a prostitute, when some Christian leader is caught in adultery or some business malpractice.

People will let you down! If the strength and health of your faith rests in your pastor, a friend or some nationally-known figure, you have aimed too low! Place your faith and trust in Jesus Christ! Heaven and earth will pass away, but His Word will never pass away, and His love will endure forever!


