



"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 71 "Jesus Is Love" © Lionel Richie

Some great songs by famous music groups may not have received as much airplay as others. This one is like buried treasure... it's buried in a 1980 album by The Commodores, yet it's a virtual treasure chest of spiritual truth. No problem finding a Cross Connection in this one! The lyrics focus on Jesus – His essence, and what He does for those who give their hearts and lives to Him. To be sure, our Lord is a God of justice, and one's future without Him is as just as intensely frightening as God's love is wonderfully compelling to those in whom Christ lives. There's nothing in between.

Read the epistle of 1 John sometime, and note its emphasis on love. Meditate upon it, and enjoy the love that is ours through Christ Jesus.

The Song ^{1,2}

- Christian song written by The Commodores lead singer Lionel Richie
- Released on the Commodores 1980 album entitled *Heroes*

"After an admirable career-long aversion to consciousness-raising, the band suddenly shifted focus, delivering three sermons ("Wake Up Children," "Mighty Spirit," "Jesus Is Love")..."³

- Album went platinum (sales threshold of 1 million)

The Group – The Commodores ⁴

- American funk/soul band of '70s and '80s
- Members met as freshmen at Tuskegee Institute '68; signed with Motown in '72
 - Started as opening act for the Jackson 5 on a European tour
- Chose group name by opening dictionary and randomly picking a word
 - "We lucked out," noted William King, "We almost became The Commodes!"
- Hits include "Easy", "Three Times a Lady", "Brick House", "Night Shift", "Still", "Sail On", "Lady (You Bring Me Up)" and "Oh, No"
- After Lionel Richie left in '82 for a solo career, the band never achieved the same level of success as before, with one exception: "Nightshift", a tribute to deceased recording stars Jackie Wilson and Marvin Gaye, won their only Grammy Award
- Continues to perform with a couple of the original group members and a former member of Heatwave, a band with roots in Dayton, Ohio
- Founding member Thomas McClary left in '82 to found a gospel music company
- The Commodores were inducted into The Vocal Group Hall of Fame in 2003

¹ [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Heroes_\(Commodores_album\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Heroes_(Commodores_album))

² http://wiki.answers.com/Q/Who_wrote_the_song_Jesus_is_Love_by_the_Commodores

³ <http://www.warr.org/commodores.html>

⁴ <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Commodores>

Father help your children and don't let them fall
by the side of the road, mm...mmm....
And teach them to love one another
that heaven might find a place in their hearts

'Cause Jesus is love He won't let you down
And I know He's mine forever, oh, in my heart
We've got to walk on walk on through temptation
'Cause His love and His wisdom
will be our helpin' hand

And I know the Truth and His words
will be our salvation
lift up our hearts to be thankful and glad

That Jesus is love He won't let you down
and i know He's mine deep down in my soul

Jesus is love oh, yes, He is He won't let you down
and I know He's mine, He's mine, He's mine, all mine
Forever, oh, in my heart
help me, heart, heart, ooh...ooh...

(Deep in my heart) I know, I know, I know, I know
Ah, 'cause His love's the power (power)
His love's the glory (glory) forever (ever and ever)

ooh, yeah (yeah, yeah) ooh, yeah (yeah, yeah)
ooh, yeah, yeah (yeah, yeah)

I wanna follow your star
Wherever it leads me and I don't mind, LORD
I hope you don't mind

I wanna walk with you and talk with you
and do all the things you want me to do
'Cause I know that Jesus
(Jesus is love, I know) 'cause I know, Lord
(and if you ask, I'll show)
(Love is the word forever) and ever and ever

Who can bring you love (JESUS)
Who can bring you joy (JESUS)
Who can turn your life around (JESUS), oh

ooh, yeah (yeah, yeah) Yeah (yeah, yeah) Hey

Who will pick you up (JESUS)
When you fall (JESUS)
Who'll stand beside you (JESUS)
Who will love us all

Hey, hey, Jesus (yeah, yeah)
Jesus (yeah, yeah) oh, yeah (yeah, yeah)

"To him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy—" – Jude 24

"By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another" – John 13:35

"This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us..." – 1 John 3:16a

"No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it" – 1 Corinthians 10:13

Note the elements of personal testimony
Can you testify to these?

- He is the source of our salvation
- He is faithful, without exception
- He lives in our soul
- His love is the eternal power and glory



Here the lyrics become a prayer,
addressing Jesus as Lord

Compare these lyrics, their message, even their style, to the chorus of Todd Rundgren's "Love Is The Answer" (see notes for our Program 1)

Jesus does all this for us as His children!

"And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus" – Philippians 4:19

One thing I wanna say who can heal your body (JESUS)
who can make you strong (JESUS)
who can help you hold out (JESUS) a little while longer

*“The LORD is my strength and my shield;
my heart trusts in him, and I am helped”*
– Psalm 28:7a, NIV

Ooh, yeah (yeah, yeah) yeah (yeah, yeah)
Jesus loves you (yeah, yeah) Jesus wants you
If you call HIM, He will answer

*“...call upon me in the day of trouble; I will
deliver you”* – Psalm 50:15

(Jesus) call him in the mornin'
(Jesus) call him in the evenin'
(Jesus) call him in the midnight hour

- Jesus is available to us 24/7 through prayer – we don't need the internet, cell phones, or text messaging.

Hey, hey (yeah, yeah) Yeah (yeah, yeah)
Yeah, yeah (yeah, yeah) yeah, y'all say it for me.

- There are no busy signals, technical problems, answering machines, or “Out-of-Area” / “Out-of-Range” notices!

Final Thoughts:

I have never heard a more worshipful song in church.

Can you testify with the writer of these lyrics of interceding for others, of what Jesus has done for you, of what He can do for others who will believe in Him, of His love, faithfulness and His power, of the joy only He can bring?

“Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.” – Ephesians 3:20-21, NIV

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