



"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

9/1/09

Program 100 "Shower The People" © James Taylor

The Song ¹

- Opening track on '76 album *In the Pocket* by James Taylor
- Hit #22 on Billboard Hot 100 chart in fall of '76 that year; in the Top 40 for 8 weeks
- Topped the adult contemporary chart for one week, Taylor's 3rd song to do so -- preceded by "You've Got a Friend" and "How Sweet It Is (To Be Loved by You)"
- Also covered by Christian Rock performer Mylon LeFevre, and R&B star Babyface

The Artist – James Vernon Taylor (1948-) ²

- Legendary singer–songwriter / guitarist born in Boston, MA; raised in Carrboro, NC
- Career began in the mid-'60s; but flourished with his '70 album *Sweet Baby James*, considered among the greatest folk rock albums ever produced
- First non-British artist to record on the Beatles' *Apple* label
- Learned to play cello before switching to guitar in '60
- Personal struggles beginning in post-high school years – depression, hospitalization for mental health issues, draft board rejection for psychological reasons, heroin addictions, self-doubt, failed marriages – including one with artist Carly Simon
- Numerous hits: "Fire And Rain", "You've Got A Friend", "Carolina In My Mind", "How Sweet It Is (To Be Loved by You)", "Something In The Way She Moves", "Your Smiling Face", "Her Town Too" (with J.D. Souther), "Up On The Roof", "Handyman", "Don't Let Me Be Lonely Tonight", "Mexico", "Walking Man", "Steamroller Blues", "Country Road", "Mockingbird"
- Numerous Grammys; inducted into R&R Hall of Fame *and* the Songwriters Hall of Fame in '00; ranked 84th in Rolling Stone's 100 Greatest Artists of All Time list
- Has collaborated with the best in the business in concerts and recordings
- Active / visible supporter of environmental and liberal causes, Democratic candidates

You can play the game
and you can act out the part
Though you know it wasn't written for you
But tell me, how can you stand there
with your broken heart
Ashamed of playing the fool
One thing can lead to another;
it doesn't take any sacrifice
Oh, father and mother,
and sister and brother
if it feels nice, don't think twice (yes)

We don't know what inspired these words – perhaps a family conflict. But just as forgiveness should come from the heart (see Matthew 18:35), God commands Christians to love each other sincerely...

"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another" – John 13:34-35

Loving others requires no sacrifice on our part, and it indeed "feels nice"

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

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

Shower the people you love with love
Show them the way that you feel
Things are gonna work out fine
if you only will (do as i say, yeah)
Shower the people you love with love
Show them the way that you feel
Things are gonna be much better
if you only will

We never know if we will see loved ones again in this life,
so we should not withhold or delay our expressions of love!
But the Bible goes one better...

“You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you” – Matthew 5:43-44

You can run but you cannot hide
This is widely known
And what you plan to do
with your foolish pride
When you're all by yourself alone
Once you tell somebody the way
that you feel
You can feel it beginning to ease
I think it's true what they say about
the squeaky wheel
always getting the grease.

James Taylor seems to be saying not to keep the love you feel for others bottled up inside you. Just as Don Henley penned about forgiveness in his “The Heart Of The Matter” (see CC Program 52 notes), expressing love to others carries power and brings healing to troubled relationships...

“The tongue has the power of life and death, and those who love it will eat its fruit” – Proverbs 18:21

“If I could speak in any language in heaven or on earth but didn't love others, I would only be making meaningless noise like a loud gong or a clanging cymbal” – 1 Cor. 13:1

Love is the essence of God... *“God is love”* -- 1 John 4:8

Better to shower the people you love
with love
(Yes and) show them the way
that you feel
(I know) Things are gonna be just fine
if you only will
(what i'd like to do to you)
Shower the people you love with love
Show them the way you feel
Things are gonna be much better
if you only will

Jesus showed us the ultimate expression of love...

“Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends” -- John 15:13

“But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us” – Romans 5:8

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life” – John 3:16

Shower the people you love with love
Show them the way that you feel

What is the difference between “conditional” and “unconditional” love? What are the characteristics of the love the God expects from us?

They say in every life
They say the rain must fall
Just like the pouring rain
Make it rain
Make it rain
Love, love, love is sunshine oh
Oh yes, Make it rain
Love, love, love is sunshine yeah
Oh, right, Everybody, everybody,
everybody, everybody

“Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres” – 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

Final Thought –

The love we shower on others may not be returned in kind, but God commands us to love others just as He loves us! In doing so, we please Him, and live according to His will!

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