

U2: ONE STEP CLOSER ("Pre-concert" – 21 OCT 05)

"Elevation"

"Where The Streets Have No Name"

High, higher than the sun
 You shoot me from a gun
 I need you to elevate me here,
At the corner of your lips
As the orbit of your hips
 Eclipse, you elevate my soul

Have you ever been in a relationship that is so amazingly wonderful that it moves you to the core of your being?

- My wife.
- Joy, Happiness—
- She demonstrates love, forgiveness, grace.
- Makes me a better person.
- She makes me want to become better
- She makes me want to become all that God has intended me to be.

The Bible speaks of the love and care that God has poured into us.

Psalm 139:13-16

*For you created my inmost being;
 you knit me together in my mother's womb.
 [14] I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made;
 your works are wonderful,
 I know that full well.
 [15] My frame was not hidden from you
 when I was made in the secret place.
 When I was woven together in the depths of the earth,
 [16] your eyes saw my unformed body.
 All the days ordained for me
 were written in your book
 before one of them came to be.*

(Eph. 2:10)

You are God's poetry

- Something beautiful in God's eyes.

You may ask, "Why you should believe that this song might be about God?"

"I and I in the sky
 You make me feel like I can fly
 So high, elevation"

God loves us so much that God has revealed himself to us:

- God's name – "I am who I am."
- His name speaks of God's self-existence.
- It speaks of His relationship to His people.

Zephaniah 3:17

*_17_ The Lord your God is with you,
he is mighty to save.
He will take great delight in you,
he will quiet you with his love,
he will rejoice over you with singing."*

**A mole, living in a hole
Digging up my soul
Going down, excavation
Love, lift me out of these blues
Won't you tell me something true
I believe in you**

God believes in you.

- God is so heavily invested in you.
- He loves you right where you are
- He also loves you enough to dig deep into your life to help you become all that He as planned for you.
- God will guide you like a shepherd guides sheep, so that we may live with God for eternity Where The Streets Have No Name.

**"Until The End of The World"
"I Still Haven't Found What I'm Looking For"**

Have you ever met someone consumed by:

Toxic relationships	Pornography	Someone they can't forgive	Lying
Seared conscience	...Chains...		

You broke the bonds
And you loosed the chains
I Still Haven't Found What I'm Looking For -- Gospel Song.

Gospel = Good News

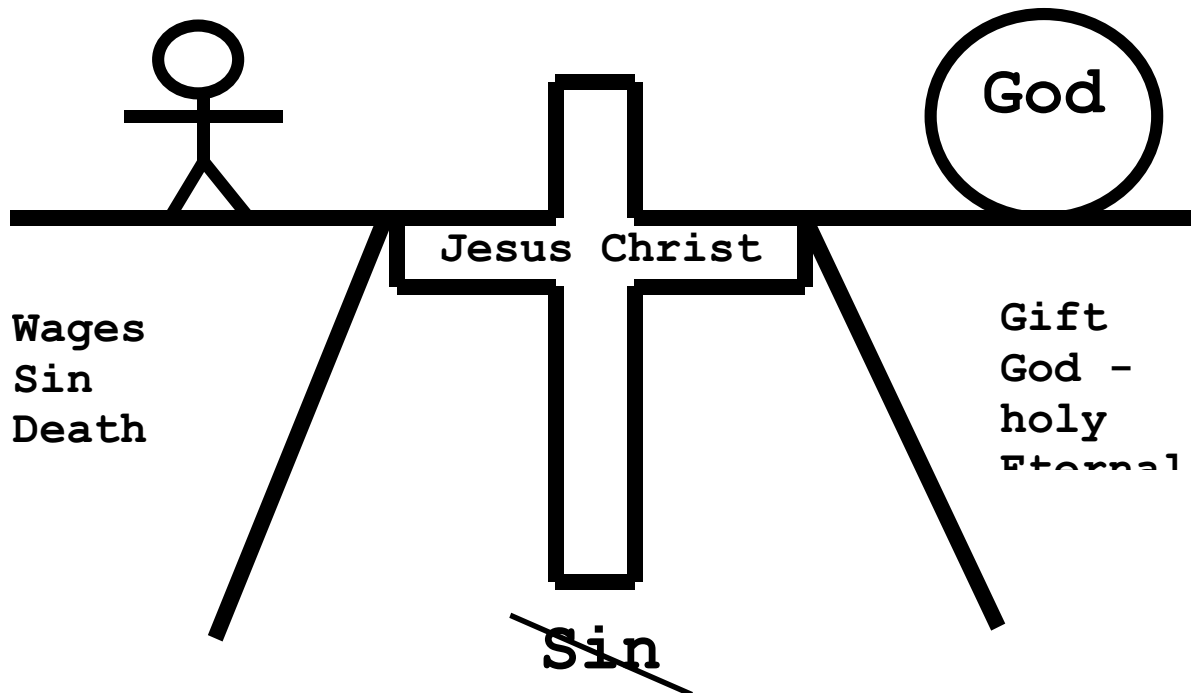
Where's the Good News in this song?

Carried the cross of my shame
Oh my shame, you know I believe it.

The Bible has a verse that gives a vivid picture of the Good News that Bono speaks of:

Romans 6:23

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.



HOW DO YOU BEGIN THAT RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD?**Pray --**

1. Admitting that we have sinned.
2. Repenting of our sins—180* turn. (turning from our own desires toward what Jesus desires.
3. Realizing that the death and resurrection of Jesus is sufficient to pay the penalty for our sins.
4. Asking Jesus to become the Lord over your life.

1 John 4:9-10

This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. [10] This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.

The Good News is Good News—and freedom!

With Jesus as the Lord of your life:

- God will begin a process to rebuild you to be the person that God always wanted you to be.
- You will spend the rest of your life being rebuilt by God.
- Completion won't come until we are in Heaven with God.
- Thus, in the mean time, you will have the tension of being both rebuilt but not yet finished—that's the tension of *Still Haven't Found What I'm Looking For*.

"Pride"

One man come in the name of love
 One man come and go.
 One man come he to justify
 One man to overthrow.

"Coming in the name of Love"

- Jesus came to this world in the name of LOVE.
- Jesus accomplished his mission in the name of LOVE.
- Jesus died on the cross for you and I because of LOVE.

Why? Love Wins.

You can be a conquering army of one if you use love as your weapon.

Love Wins.

Jesus, life was not about a SPEED race—but a LOVE race.

1 Cor. 13:1-2

If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. **NIV**

Our ability to love is because God loved us first.

1 John 4:19

We love because he first loved us. **NIV**

- What if LOVE really did WIN?
- What if the life of Jesus really did demonstrate that LOVE WINS?
- What would happen to your life—in your world—if you began to live out the concept that LOVE WINS?

LOVE WINS . . .

1. When Rae Lynn Smith woke up in the middle of the night to find her mother standing over her with, "with scissors in one hand and jagged hunks of long hair in the other. She was 10 years old.
2. When Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. had to courage to speak of equality for African Americans.
3. King recorded his struggle to forgive in "Letter from Birmingham City Jail. Outside the jail Southern pastors were denouncing him as a Communist, mobs were yelling, "Hang him, and policemen were swinging nightsticks as his unarmed supporters. King writes that he had to fast for several days in order to achieve the spiritual discipline necessary for him to love and forgive his enemies. Love wins again.
4. LOVE WINS when my wife forgives me for not being kind.
5. When I help shovel my neighbor's drive way.
6. When I donate money to people who are starving in a place I will never even visit.
7. When you merely smile at someone passing by and cause them to smile as well.

"40" "Walk On"

A section of scripture in the Bible called Psalms.

These verses contain:

- Raw human emotions.
 - Some verses so jaw dropping that you can't believe that they're in the Bible.
- Expresses the wide range of human emotions.
- Tenderness, love, patience.
- Fierce anger, revenge, calamity.

The Psalms thus propose to speak about human experience in an honest, freeing way. This is in contrast to much of human speech and conduct, which is in fact a cover-up."

The Psalms is a collection of ancient hymns that is our 'mother tongue' – our first language of authentic discourse with and about God.

A number of the Psalms deal with **ORIENTATION**.

- being securely **oriented**.
- Being painfully **disoriented**,
- Being surprisingly **reoriented**.

The Scriptures Teach: John 14:1 *Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me*

There will come a day when:

He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain . . . "I am making everything new!"

There's a book at the end of the Bible called The Revelation of John.

- These are the things that the writer, John, sees.

Rev. 21

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, . . . I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, . . . "Now the dwelling of God is with men . .

But what do you see?

- Do you see newness in the midst of the crumbling empire of military arrogance?
- Do you see a holy city in the urban collapse all around us?
- Do you see God at home in the midst of our upper class pursuits and our impoverished homelessness?
- **What do you see?**

Being a follower of Jesus requires a clear vision of both:

1. The brokenness of our own personal and cultural lives.
2. Where God is at work to bring healing in the midst of that brokenness.

And as God brings healing to you and the world around you, you'll also be able to sing, "Hallelujah, Hallelujah."
THE END.