



Marvin Gaye Lyric Comparison

“How Sweet It Is (To Be Loved By You)”

Artist: Marvin Gaye
Released: 1964, Motown Records
Written by: Lamont Dozier, Brian Holland, and Eddie Holland

How sweet it is to be loved by you

*I needed the shelter of someone's arms
There you were
I needed someone to understand my
ups and downs
There you were
With sweet love and devotion
Deeply touching my emotion
I want to stop, and thank you baby
I just want to stop, and thank you baby
Yes I do*

How sweet it is to be loved by you

Key Themes or Phrases

“What’s Going On”

Artist: Marvin Gaye
Released: 1971, Motown Records
Written by: Renaldo Benson, Al Cleveland, and Marvin Gaye

*Mother, mother
There's too many of you crying
Brother, brother, brother
There's far too many of you dying
You know we've got to find a way
To bring some lovin' here today*

*Father, father
We don't need to escalate
War is not the answer
For only love can conquer hate
You know we've got to find a way
To bring some lovin' here today*

*Picket lines and picket signs
Don't punish me with brutality
Talk to me
So you can see
What's going on*

Key Themes or Phrases

Excerpt from an Interview with Marvin Gaye



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“I remember I was listening to a tune of mine playing on the radio, “Pretty Little Baby,” when the announcer interrupted with news about the Watts riot. My stomach got real tight and my heart started beating like crazy. I wanted to throw the radio down and burn all the ... songs I’d been singing and get out there ... with the rest of the brothers. I knew they were going about it wrong, I knew they weren’t thinking, but I understood anger that builds up over years ... over centuries ... and I felt myself exploding.

Why didn’t our music have anything to do with this? Wasn’t music supposed to express feelings?

I wondered to myself, “With the world exploding around me, how am I supposed to keep singing love songs?”

Source: Ritz, David (1991). *Divided Soul: The Life of Marvin Gaye*. Cambridge, Mass: Da Capo Press, p. 12.