

Community by Moby
Robin Bailey
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Open Service with Bodyrock video stop at 2:44 SERIOUSLY

Song
Welcome
4 Songs

At the end of Trouble So Hard
Chapter 5 Natural Blues Stop at 15:09

Richard Melville Hall a.k.a. Moby got his nickname from his great-great grand uncle Herman Melville's classic novel: "**Moby Dick**" [1]

If ever there was a musical artist that brings the entire music industry together it is Moby. He is the **Kevin Bacon of music** [2]; you can get to Moby in less than 6 degrees with almost any musician in the last 100 years.

Here's what was written about him on VH1's website:

He has written classical music for movies and had platinum albums in almost every country in the western world. He has DJ'd in clubs for 100 people and headlined Glastonbury for

125,000 people. He has played punk rock in tiny bars in Germany and he has performed at the closing ceremonies of the Olympics for an audience of 2 billion people. He has had albums that have sold less than 100,000 copies worldwide (1996's *Animal Rights*), and albums that have sold in the millions (1999's *Play* and 2002's '18'). He has remixed and produced everyone from **David Bowie** [3] to **Metallica** [4] to the **Beastie Boys** [5] to **Aerosmith** [6] to **New Order** [7], etc. He has toured with David Bowie. He has sung duets with **Elton John** [8], **Bono** [9], **Michael Stipe** [10], **Lou Reed** [11], and many others and yet he still makes all of his records at home in his bedroom.

Moby is known for his [12] sampling of old songs and mixing them in with current instrumentation as we heard earlier in "Trouble So Hard" and his use of Vera Hall and her early 1900's recordings. He has a way of putting old and new together and entwining the two together. He sees value in both old and new and even more value when the two become one.

Moby regularly speaks about his faith in Jesus Christ and also his displeasure with the people that call themselves Christian and neglect to act Christ like. He especially hates the judgmentalism found in the church, not just to those outside the church but also to those inside the church. In a recent article in *Relevant* magazine after responding to the idea that someone would be refused communion for an opposing view to the leadership of a church, he is quoted as saying:

“I mean we all fall [13-14] short, and we’ve all sinned. Therefore at the very least, there should be solidarity among Christians, among all people saying ‘You know what? None of us are good. We’ve all fallen short. Therefore it’s not our place to judge’ Judgment rests with God alone. And I see so much hate and judgmental behavior on the part of Christians it just boggles my mind.”

Moby’s observation that we’re all in this together is quite true, all of us as humanity are going through this life together none of us ranking any higher than any other. We are in the words of many a politician a global community. Beyond being part of the larger global community, we all interact in many communities throughout our lives spanning a wide array of levels of intimacy. We have school communities, work communities, neighbourhood communities, family communities, faith communities and a myriad of others that we are involved in, in a lifetime.

Too many people have tried to go it alone, rather than recognizing the value in working together. Too many people that are alive today are feeling left out, alone and looking for value in something, anything! Where do you go to find fulfillment in life when all else has failed?

Here are some thoughts on that need for community: [15-20]

I turned my attention to all the outrageous violence that takes place on this planet--the tears of the victims, no one to comfort them; the iron grip of oppressors, no one to rescue the victims

from them. So I congratulated the dead who are already dead instead of the living who are still alive. But luckier than the dead or the living is the person who has never even been, who has never seen the bad business that takes place on this earth. Then I observed all the work and ambition motivated by envy. What a waste! Smoke. And spitting into the wind. I turned my head and saw yet another wisp of smoke on its way to nothingness: a solitary person, completely alone--no children, no family, no friends--yet working obsessively late into the night, compulsively greedy for more and more, never bothering to ask, "Why am I working like a dog, never having any fun? And who cares?" More smoke. A bad business. It's better to have a partner than go it alone. Share the work, share the wealth. And if one falls down, the other helps, But if there's no one to help, tough! Two in a bed warm each other. Alone, you shiver all night. By yourself you're unprotected. With a friend you can face the worst. Can you round up a third? A three-stranded rope isn't easily snapped.

Those words are from The Message a modern version of the Bible and the book of Ecclesiastes chapter 4 which is just after the Psalms and Proverbs in the first part of the Bible.

In reflecting on these words and the recent hurricane in New Orleans and several other southern U.S. cities and towns, one can see the need for community. We can see the value in coming together as humanity to bear one another’s burdens and

struggles together. Many people in this time of tragedy are relying on strangers to help them and thankfully these strangers have shown up in droves in this tragedy.

It makes me wonder what happens when tragedy strikes on a not so media sopped event. A young family losing a child, a workaholic diagnosed with a non-curable disease, a boy or girl in a school of a thousand and no one to call a friend and so many other scenarios. Not just bad moments but what about those times of success and no one to share the joy with?

Is there a place that's like Moby? A place where as long as you are a part of humanity you are welcome and not only welcome but needed? All of Moby's music other than his latest album would never be without other artists. His music completely depends on what other musicians have produced and allowed him to use. He regularly performs with other artists because he recognizes and values their abilities.

His latest album **Hotel [21]** though featuring only himself and his good friend Laura Dawn itself is a community being built. A hotel according to Moby is one of those places in the world that has everything you need; you don't ever have to leave a good hotel, it's a community unto its self. If you venture to his website you'll be given the opportunity to read his journal and join the hotel community, including being given your own room and you'll be part of the over 37000 hotel guests. But an online community still seems to lack something.

Community is a two way relationship; it's a give and take, a benefit giver and a resource user. And so for a community to

really work it needs all of its members no matter how they see their value to join in and become an involved member. So no matter how many times you've come to New Hope or the Annex, you're not only needed but wanted, **we'd love to be part of community with you [22]**, walking alongside and becoming at least a three stranded rope together and if it doesn't work for you here find that place that helps you best discover what Christ has made you to be!

Oh and one more word from Moby:

“If I belonged to a church [23], I would never want to steer someone towards my church. I would want someone to look at the Gospels and just read the Gospels and try and evaluate them with an open mind. I can't do anything more than that. I don't want to browbeat you.”

Prayer
Offering
Blessing
Song

End service with second Bodyrock video