

There are quite a few blogs out on the internet that have slammed John Mayer's hit song, "Waiting on the World to Change." I don't normally respond to pop culture, and especially pop music, but I think that this song is particularly offensive and insipid. Let's take a look at the first verse of the song:

**With the world and those who lead it  
We just feel like we don't have the means  
To rise above and beat it  
(So we keep waiting, waiting for the world to change)**

When I first read this verse, I couldn't understand why Mr. Mayer feels as though we don't have the means to change the world. Who is he kidding? This lyric is the antithesis to our song, "In Control," where we sing, "We are the weapons, we are the guns, we are all the revolution." It is the antithesis to punk rock. It is my opinion that we are the ones who can revolutionize the world.

Let me explain what I mean by that. One way to "change" the world is to educate ourselves. Through punk rock lyrics, I've continued to learn about a variety of different subjects, from nuclear proliferation (Final Conflict) to veganism (A State of Mind, MDC), anarchism (Crass, Chumbawamba) to personal politics like straightedge (Minor Threat, 7 Seconds). Of course, my education didn't stop there, in fact, the aforementioned bands were a starting off point to further educating myself. That's one reason lyric sheets are so important in punk rock. However, through these lyrics, my world was changed. I was different that I was before I read and listened to these songs. So, in effect, my world was changed.



Are you waiting for the world to change? I know I'm not. I'm not going to sit around and wait for the world to change. I'm not going to sit around and be a reactionary. Instead, I'm going to "rise above" and resist despair and try to change the world around me. We can be proactive and change the world. We do have that kind of power, despite what John Mayer's crappy song says.

He continues his lament by saying that we don't have the power to bring our neighbors home from war. Did he forget the efforts of anti-war activists throughout history? We *do* have the power to bring them home. Instead, we're watching John Mayer's stupid video on TV.

In fact, check this out:

**And when you trust your television  
What you get is what you got  
Cause when they own the information  
They can bend it all they want**

This song not only "bends" information, it forms the information. It is telling us to "wait," to not do anything because all is lost. What a milquetoast piece of crap lyric. I'm totally disgusted with this sentiment.

He continues:

**It's not that we don't care,  
We just know that the fight ain't fair  
So we keep on waiting**

Is the fight fair? No. Does that mean we shouldn't try? I'm not going to wait until the fight is fair, are you?

He concludes his song by singing:

**One day our generation  
Is gonna rule the population  
So we keep on waiting**

Doesn't he know that our generation already has control? We don't have to "rule."

Our leaders should fear us. Instead, we sit passively, waiting for the world to change. And John Mayer's song tells us to wait.

I'm reminded of Martin Luther King's "Letter from Birmingham Jail." He reminded the people he was addressing that it is too late to wait. The time is *now*.

I'm not waiting for the world to change. I'm gonna go change it.

Are you with me?