

Crimson & White Connection

A ministry of prayer and encouragement to "High School, College, & Singles" (& others, too) on Values + Character + Relationships + the Christian Life
Resources and some back issues available at www.CrimsonWhite.org

The C&WC is produced and funded through **Crimson & White Ministries, Inc.**, a nonprofit corporation, supported only by tax deductible contributions.

For a free subscription, update your address, feedback, comments or to submit an article, contact us at:

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Crisis, emergency, or to "just talk about something",
call: Your Mom; Your Dad; Your Pastor, or
Rich or Marie Dymmel
(336/674-7564 or 336/908-3652)

Crimson & White? What's this?

... This letter is part of a ministry primarily to students and singles. It started with college students. Now about 60% of the mailing list are college students, 20% middle and high school, and 10% are age 22 to 30, and we'll just leave ages unsaid for the last 10% since, well, they're old.. Articles are on character, values, spiritual life, relationships and more ... and some fun.

The theology position is "conservative," i.e. Jesus is God's Son, eternal, part of the single triune God, born of a virgin, sinless, crucified and risen, and is the *only* way to eternal life. We are free to choose Him. He has told us to be holy and that includes behaviors such as: sex outside of marriage is wrong.

This letter and post cards are sent about twice a month. We're trying to say that you are important enough for us to put this in your mailbox. We care about you and want to encourage your character growth and your spiritual walk.

A second part of the ministry is prayer. We pray for each person on our mailing list as the mail is prepared. When you get mail from us, you know someone prayed for you.

A college student reader chose the name **Crimson and White Connection** based on Isaiah 1:18 in the Bible "Come now, let us reason together," says the LORD. "Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool." The cleansing of our nature and our sins is a universal need. If you base your trust for entrance into Heaven in Jesus, God's Son, and His death and resurrection on your behalf, then your crimson stains are made white as wool. Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life. There is no other way. If you admit that you can not reach God's standard, are repentant and sorry for your short fall (sin) and have asked Him to forgive you, then He has forgiven you. If you are truly repentant, then there will be evidence of that in your actions, your life. -- If the "religion police" were to arrest you, would you be turned loose for "lack of evidence"? Or would the evidence of your actions convict you of being a Christian?

If you have chosen to accept Jesus as Lord of your life, either the first time or again, we would like to know so that we can pray for you and encourage you. Write or call us.

You WILL BE and ARE a slave! But you can CHOOSE your master! CHOOSE God today.

**John 3:16 is true.
Accept no substitute!**

Mar 12, 2007 I'm Not Good Enough

RRD - Lots of times I feel like I fall short of what God wants or expects of me. I get confused. I don't understand. I don't do what I know I should do. I do things I know I shouldn't do. Then I think of the disciples. They lived with Jesus for three years, every day, and they didn't "get it." Judas betrayed him to the authorities. Peter denied he knew him. They scattered like sheep.

They hid behind locked doors. I don't understand it all, even after many years. I just have Faith and believe and ask for His filling and strength, and I get back up and continue back on the road. I think He had a sense of humor and sarcasm - when He fed the 5,000 there was a whole basket of leftovers for EACH disciple. 'Look! See how I can provide? Even so much lunch they can't eat it all, all from one little boy's lunch.'

This one was sent to me from Michigan. ...

There are many reasons why you might feel that God would not want you, but don't worry. You're in Good Company!

- | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| —Moses stuttered. | —David's armor didn't fit. |
| —John Mark was rejected by Paul. | —Hosea's wife was a prostitute. |
| —Amos' only training was in the school of fig-tree pruning. | |
| —Jacob was a liar. | —David had an affair. |
| —Solomon was too rich. | —Abraham was too old. |
| —David was too young. | —Timothy had ulcers. |
| —Peter was afraid of death. | —Lazarus was dead. |
| —John was self-righteous. | —Jesus was too poor. |
| —Naomi was a widow. | —Jonah ran from God. |
| —Paul was a murderer. So was Moses. So was David. So was Sampson. | |
| —Miriam was a gossip. | —Martha was a worrywart. |
| —Gideon and Thomas both doubted. | —Elijah was burned out. |
| —Jeremiah was depressed and suicidal. | —John the Baptist was a loudmouth. |
| —Samson had long hair, and a hot temper | —Noah got drunk. |

—Did I mention that Moses had a short fuse? - So did Peter, Paul - well, lots of folks did.

But God doesn't require a job interview. He doesn't hire and fire like most bosses, because He's more our Dad than our boss. He doesn't look at financial gain or loss. He's neither prejudiced nor partial, judging, grudging, sassy, nor brassy, not deaf to our cry, nor blind to our need.

Satan says, "You're not worthy." — Jesus says, "So what? I AM."

Satan looks back and sees our mistakes. — God looks back and sees the CROSS.

If Satan tells you, "You can't have a future, certainly not one with God." You tell him you've read the end of the book, you know what his future holds, and you're not going with him.

Sure, there are lots of reasons why God shouldn't want us. But if we are in love with Him, if we hunger for Him more than our next breath, He'll use us in spite of who we are, where we've been, or what we look like.

In Christ, Rich

Do you have a relationship with God where you know He has accepted you just as you are? If not, and you want that, call me at 336-674-7564. Or call 1-888-NEED-HIM. — With God, even if you have gone the opposite direction, you have never gone too far to turn around.

In this issue are pieces on values ("Evidence"), letters from those headed to a Spring Break mission trip, on a 6-month medical mission trip, and on a long term mission. Jordana has answers to prayer in Sweden. About a pop song with *bad* relationship advice. -- We hope you enjoy reading this C&WC and also are blessed and encouraged and strengthened in your Christian walk. — (Why is it called a "walk"? Paul talks about "running." (See Acts 20:24, 1Cor 9:24, Gal 2:2, 5:7, 2Tim 4:7, Heb 12:1) Running involves a lot more energy input.)

 **From the mailbox** (Letters may be slightly edited. We

also remove some personal content and identifying stuff. We won't blab your name or email address.) Your letters and notes encourage us, too.

Rich
* * * * *

Subject: (no subject)
Date: 2/27/2007
From: MD @c .edu
To: RDyimmel@aol.com
Rich,

Read this! I LOVE these kinds of emails and letters

I just wanted to say thanks for continuing to share the devotionals with me. I'm forwarding them on and they are being used in many ways.

I also wanted to let you know that I'm leaving on March 10th to go to Durban, South Africa to work with an orphanage and AIDS hospice. I'll only be over there about a week, but I wanted to ask you for prayers for wisdom and guidance from the Holy Spirit.

I was just reading in Acts about when Peter and the other Apostles were "filled with the Holy Spirit" and how the people around couldn't help but turn to God. I know our job is to place the seed and the Holy Spirit does the work in the hearts, so I'm praying that we leave those people with a lot more than a human friendship and a week's worth of help and fellowship.

I also wanted to share one more thing with you. I've been stuck for a couple years asking the question of why, how, etc. about past experiences in my life. Well, last week I realized how shallow that line of questioning is. God wouldn't reveal the answers because he wanted me to search for him, not answers. I spent time trying to find the answers and the whole time God is leading me to something much deeper than simple answers, so I'm glad he has withheld such answers and gave me the desire to search for him. The depth of the desire to find God is much better than any answer I could have gotten. Thanks for all you do.

God Bless,
M____ D_____

Blessings, Rick

Subject: Crimson & White Connection

Date: 3/1/2007 **From:** 2 @ .net

Thank you for sending us copies of the Crimson & White. Please send us your publication by email to my address. Then we can all read it and you will have no postage costs. Thank you for all the time you put into your ministry.

Love in Christ,
L____ B_____

Would you prefer to get the C&WC by email? Let me know. We generally send by snail-mail, because "mail" is appreciated by most students. But, we'll send it email if that's what you prefer. Rick

The Evidence

RRD - 3/10/07 -

I just came home from hearing Johnny Shelton, the local rep for FCA, speak. He played for the San Francisco 49ers at one time. Now he works with students. -- He asked a question. Actually he asked a lot of questions.

Here is one interesting question... He had 6 guys and 6 girls standing in a bunch. "Okay, now if you agree with this, you move to your left, disagree, to your right. It is okay for you and your boyfriend or girlfriend to spend a couple hours alone together in the house." Two guys moved to the left, agreed, thought it was okay, the rest moved right, it's not okay. "It's now about 25 years later. It's okay for your 16 year old daughter to spend several hours over at her boyfriend's house, alone with him." And they ALL immediately moved to the right, disagreed. It's not okay.

Yet when these same kids go off to college in 1 to 3 years, they will be told by their campus dorm rules that it's okay to have a "guest" in their dorm room (bedroom) until 1:00 a.m. during the week and overnight on Friday and Saturday. Many of them will now invite someone into their bedroom (dorm room) to spend extended time alone with the door closed, even sleep over, spend the night. - "Oh, we're mature now. We can handle the situation." - Hey! I'm not THAT old nor that dumb nor have lost my memory to old timers or Alzheimers. I remember VERY WELL those hormones. And NOW, I KNOW a lot more and know that a guy's brain and a girl's brain are wired VERY differently. It's a bad idea when you're 15, 18, 20, and 29. One thing a person has is their reputation. It is easily ruined by rumor, even if something never actually occurred. Protect your reputation! You may even have SUCH a solid reputation that other people would even SAY, "Oh, we know nothing would happen with them." Yet you need to protect (a) your reputation and (b) we have been there, it can be very hard to resist. We did resist, and it isn't easy sometimes, and it would be even harder if you allow the situation to present itself, and easier if you stay OUT of the situation. Paul said "FLEE!" Don't see how close you can get to the edge of the cliff without falling.

Another question Johnny asked was "Agree or disagree: You are doing everything you could be doing to represent Christ on your campus?" (If you're out of school, the question could say "at your work-place.")

Here's the ultimate question. "If you were indicted for being a Christian, and they got students on your campus as the jury, would they convict you?" If we started asking people who knew who you were about you, what would they say about you? We're not talking "they go to church some times: or I've seen them reading a Bible." That's okay, even sort of good, could be a lot better, but are you acting like Jesus so that you stand out as ... the Bible says, we should be "a peculiar people." Stand out as noticeably different."

* * * * *

PLEASE! It is so time consuming when we get mail returned and do the follow up to get your new address. PLEASE tell us when you move. Or, if you want to stop the C&WC and save us the postage and printing, just tell us.

* * * * *

You can get the daily e-devotionals on a trial basis by just emailing rdymmel@aol.com and say "Like to try the daily email for a couple weeks."

Commentary from Krista on a 6 month mission from Minnesota to **Cameroon** in West Africa

Subject: **“White man! White man!”**

Date: 2/28/2007 6:01:59 A.M. Eastern Standard Time

From: clakri@bethel.edu

Hello All,

This is our last week in Mbingo, which feels strange because we are just now beginning to find our place here. We'll be in Banyo for 3 1/2 months, so hopefully starting all over to meet new people and find our place again will be good, not exhausting.

Some recent highlights:

-I failed to mention that everyone here calls us “white man” because, well, we are. At home we have to be so careful about how we refer to race, but here they simply refer to the obvious. Wherever we walk, without fail, kids will point at us and yell, “White man! White man!” It's interesting to be the minority for once.

-I also failed to mention that in our room there is a picture on the wall of Split Rock Lighthouse (a popular spot in northern Minnesota for those who aren't from there) that says “I am the Light of the world.” It's a random touch of home.

-Eight of us went to a wedding last weekend. Did we know the couple? No. Did we show up late because the ceremony takes forever? Yes. Did we try to hide in the back so as not to be a disturbance? Yes. Did the usher approach and insist we follow him because he had seats for us? Yes. Were those seats in the very front of the chapel so everyone could see us walking down the aisle? Yes. Did any of the Cameroonians find this odd? No. Were we Americans embarrassed? YES! What an experience! A general invitation had gone out for any and all to attend this wedding (because the bride works at the hospital) and we asked several people if it was really okay that we come, and they all encouraged us to surely go. We went late on the advice of a few people because it would take so long, and lots of people come and go the whole time. But we were not expecting to be ushered to the front. It reminded me of the Parable of the Guests [Luke 14:7-11], in which Jesus tells the disciples that if you show up to a wedding and place yourself in the place of honor, you will be humbled. But if you show up and humbly sit in the last place, you will be given a place of honor. That's exactly what happened. The Africans truly wanted to honor their white guests.

-On Sunday all the visiting Americans went on a three hour hike and had a great time. The view is incredible here. It's interesting to realize how differently we view things like hiking. Once I went on a long walk by myself to sit by a waterfall and be alone with God. One man stopped to say hello on the road, and when I told him what I was doing, he asked, “Why are you going into the bush?” “Because it's beautiful and quiet and I want to pray.” “But why? In the BUSH?” He thought I was crazy.

So, while Eli has kept busy helping Thom with various projects around the hospital (moving items, checking water ketchmans (sp?), and varnishing) I have begun to teach English to Class 5 in the primary school! What an experience that is. I have always had the highest respect for teachers, and now I do even more. I have been

really excited, though, because I LOVE English, and these students need so much help. Their writing is awful. They're in 5th grade, but you'd think they were in 2nd or 3rd. Their spelling is atrocious, they don't know how to form sentences let alone put periods at the end, and they have no idea what a paragraph is. It's crazy! So I've come up with a lot of basic, basic grammar and sentence structure exercises to do in class. Yesterday was awful. I was simply trying to teach the introduction, body, and conclusion to a composition, and they kept looking at me with blank stares, and unresponsive to my questions. But I know Class 6 has learned that, so it's supposed to be preparing them for next year. Anyway, today was much, much better. I was teaching them about sentences- when to end one and put a period at the end and then to capitalize the first letter of the next sentence. They were really catching on which was encouraging. Tomorrow we'll do more of the same, and then punctuation.

That's it for now— please keep us in your prayers! We are still struggling to sleep well at night because of our neighbor's music early in the morning. And continue to pray for our allergies, which is always a struggle. I tried running yesterday because my knee has been feeling better, but it's difficult here because the ground is so uneven, and the paved road is all uphill (which is awful on my breathing since I haven't been able to run for so long) or downhill, which is hard on my knee. So it's frustrating because there really isn't anyplace to try and start running again.

Our first anniversary is on Sunday! We're planning to go on another hike to a particular mountain top and have a picnic. We are so grateful for this incredible year the Lord has given us. It's been nothing but joy!

In His Grace,
Krista and Eli

Luke 14:7-11 (New Century Version)

Don't Make Yourself Important

⁷When Jesus noticed that some of the guests were choosing the best places to sit, he told this story: ⁸“When someone invites you to a wedding feast, don't take the most important seat, because someone more important than you may have been invited. ⁹The host, who invited both of you, will come to you and say, ‘Give this person your seat.’ Then you will be embarrassed and will have to move to the last place. ¹⁰So when you are invited, go sit in a seat that is not important. When the host comes to you, he may say, ‘Friend, move up here to a more important place.’ Then all the other guests will respect you. ¹¹All who make themselves great will be made humble, but those who make themselves humble will be made great.”

King James Version: ⁷And he put forth a parable to those which were bidden, when he marked how they chose out the chief rooms; saying unto them, ⁸When thou art bidden of any *man* to a wedding, sit not down in the highest room; lest a more honourable man than thou be bidden of him; ⁹And he that bade thee and him come and say to thee, Give this man place; and thou begin with shame to take the lowest room. ¹⁰But when thou art bidden, go and sit down in the lowest room; that when he that bade thee cometh, he may say unto thee, Friend, go up higher: then shalt thou have worship in the presence of them that sit at meat with thee. ¹¹For whosoever exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.

Subject: Nothing Else I Need**Date:** 2/24/2007**From:** hyn_angel@yahoo.com

[Angela's emails are printed with her permission]

February 23, 2007

As I was driving home tonight from our parenting class "Essentials in Discipline", my heart was very heavy from all of the things going on at the moment. I was listening to [Jeremy Camp]'s CD "Restored" and this song came on.

Nothing Else I Need

lyrics can be found at...

www.sing365.com/music/lyric.nsf/Nothing-Else-I-Need-lyrics-Jeremy-Camp/5775A651B4F9A3C548256F500007A21F
www.azlyrics.com/lyrics/jeremycamp/nothingelseineed.html
www.christianlyricsonline.com/artists/jeremy-camp/nothing-else-i.html
www.mp3lyrics.org/j/jeremy-camp/nothing-else/

*When I think of all I've seen
 Nothing compares to what you give
 And to drink of what you bring
 You quench the thirst for me to live
 I am satisfied by what tenderness you've shown to me
 And I empty all that I am*

*And you fill my life
 You're everything to me
 There's nothing else I need anymore
 And I know you are everything to me
 And there's nothing else I need anymore*

*I have tasted
 And I know this fire birthed inside will only grow
 And I've sought all that this world tried to offer me
 And it lead me to your feet
 And I empty all that I am*

*And you fill my life
 You're everything to me
 There's nothing else I need anymore
 And I know you are everything to me
 And there's nothing else I need anymore*

*I will lay down all my needs and you will come and make them new
 To make you my only desire, my desire
 And you fill my life
 You're everything to me*

*And you fill my life
 You're everything to me
 There's nothing else I need anymore
 And I know you are everything to me
 And there's nothing else I need anymore*

There's nothing else I need...

The words of the song really touched my heart and got me thinking... Is there anything else in this life that I need more than what God has already given me? If I answered it truthfully, my answer would have to be "No, there is nothing else that I need except for more of God." Of all of the things I have seen and done, nothing compares to the sacrifice Christ made for me.

Once I got my focus back in the right spot, things looked a lot brighter.

It is not about me, and the things I have to do, but what God has done! So many times, I have my own agenda of things I think need to be done, but when I compare it to what God's Word tells me to do, it doesn't match up. Again it is a daily task to lay down all of my needs, knowing that God will make them new so that my desire matches up with His.

I especially like the line that says "I've sought all that this world tried to offer me and it lead me to Your feet and I empty all that I am". I have tried to run my life by the world's standards and you know what "IT'S JUNK!" The world keeps you longing for more- more money, more things to do, more friends, more drugs, more alcohol, more of everything except for the one thing that will truly never leave you nor forsake you. Just like the woman at the well, who wanted more of what the world had to offer but she wasn't satisfied. Jesus gave her the living water so she would never thirst again!!! He is truly the only thing you will ever need! Is Jesus everything to you?

One of my co-workers mentioned to me that she had a book I might be interested in reading. Then she joked "in all my spare time". That statement got me thinking, if something is a priority, you will have time for it. Think about it... if you really want to do something then you are going to find a way to do it, even if it means cutting a prior commitment. This convicted me because how many times do I say the bad "B" word (you know B-U-S-Y) when really I just don't want to do it. So my new challenge is not to use the "B" word when I am asked to do something but to truly pray about it and see where the Lord leads. Most of the time it is pretty clear whether I am to do it or not. If I am to do it then it gets put in my planner and if not I can honestly say I am not able to do it and suggest an alternative idea.

Thanks for letting me share what the Lord has been teaching me. Sorry it has been so long since the last time I wrote. I appreciate your thoughts, prayers, notes, and emails.

Here are a few more things to lift up in prayer!

PRAYER REQUESTS

* HAITI- I am coordinating a group of seven church members to Haiti. We leave on March 20th to work with the Baptist Haiti Mission for 10 days. Please be praying for health and safety for the team and for passports to come in! Also be praying for the finances to be raised... we are still in need of about \$9,000 and we leave in less than a month. If you would like to give, please email me back.

* PRESCHOOL- We had our annual preschool inspection yesterday. Praise that everything went smoothly. Please be praying for the family situations of my class. Between drugs, alcohol, and abuse...some of my kids have seen and heard more in their 3 or 4 years than most of us will ever experience.

* HEALTH- Working with 20 preschoolers, it is inevitable that I get sick at least a couple times a year. Please pray that this cough will go away. It came after the head cold and has lingered for two weeks. My doctor says nothing will make it go away but my God is the great physician.

* Please email me back with any prayer requests you may have!

Much love and God's blessings,

Angela

P.S. Before I close this email and send it out... I thought I would clarify the opening paragraph. Yes, I am attending a parenting class even though I am single and have no children of my own. God has blessed me with 20 children for 7 - 8 hours a day and I thought it would be beneficial to hear what James Dobson has to say about appropriate discipline.

Angela Dawn Calhoun, PO Box 9 Hoolehua, HI 96729
 I'd rather be ridin' a mule on Molokai!!!

"The Lord is my light and my salvation; Whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; Of whom shall I be afraid?" -Psalm 27:1

Date: 2/13/2007 **From:** jordana.hart@gmail.com

hi rich! just wanted you to know that i just posted a blog on myspace called "seeing 20/20" that you might want to use a piece of. :o) God bless you this week.

//jordana [I consider Jordana a self-supporting missionary, in Sweden on a work visa, has a job to support herself, so she can witness to young people in Sweden.]

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seeing 20/20

Current mood: exhausted

Category: Dreams and the Supernatural

if there was a category called "dreams and visions," i'd have picked that one, but there's not, so this was my best option. anyway, here goes:

things have been happening. wait, let me rephrase that. GOD has been happening. the truth is, actually, that he's always "up to" things but that we're often too busy or too wrapped up in ourselves that we don't pay attention. that said, it's an absolute miracle that i even notice what God is up to in my world when things seem to be spinning so out of control sometimes, but nonetheless, i don't know how i *couldn't* have noticed what's been going on the past few days...

this series of miracles started perhaps a few weeks ago when my friends and new life family prayed over helena and me. she was leaving to move to uppsala to study, and i had just taken over her job as church administrator. just after the prayer, three people came up to me with a Word from the Lord. one of them was my new friend desiree. she said that God had told her to help me in whatever way that meant, and help me she has, in more ways than she could realize. we've chatted here and there in church over the past few weeks, and this past sunday, i just felt led to speak to her, *really* speak to her.

i should pause to interject the fact that i've felt that i've been in a bit of a spiritual desert lately, DLS (dry land syndrome in the words of louie giglio), if you will. but i hadn't told anyone that. i'm a seasoned Christian. it happens.

anyway, so i went to talk with desiree during fika on sunday. she asked specifically where i'm from in the states, so told her, NC, just outside of charlotte. she practically burst into tears. *is charlotte that bad*, i thought? once she regained control, desiree, who has been serving with her husband as a missionary in brussels, belgium, but who has returned to sweden with her family to settle, explained a bit of her story to me. she explained that she'd also served in NC and had made some very dear friends at calvary (that's the crystal kingdom just down the road from elevation for those of you from the area), one of whom was like a mother to her and others who had been the best friends she'd ever had. since moving back to sweden, she'd prayed specifically that God would bring charlotte to her...and, well, who says that God doesn't deliver?? and what crackhead ever said that we shouldn't be so bold as to pray so specifically about what we need??? God is SOOOO into details.

i have to say that i was completely humbled to know that God had used *me* as answer to someone's prayer i'd just met!! amazing! but the story just gets better...at the conclusion of the service, i went up to desiree and asked her to pray with me, which she gladly did. i cried...a lot. there's stuff going on my life that i'm not up for sharing at the moment, but

that's not the point.

as desiree finished praying and i went back to my seat, jocke approached me with a drawing of sorts. he said that while she and i had been praying together that God had given him the most beautiful vision...of me ending my walk through the desert and of desiree coming down to me like an angel who knew what i needed, what to say, and how to minister to me! super cool, i tell you.

and, well, the desert phase HAS indeed ended. i woke up yesterday morning having not had the nasty dreams i've been having lately and having a true desire to dig into the Word. over the past two days, i've finally finished the book of Job, the last four chapters or so, anyway, and here's what God's been saying to me through them:

1) (you knew there'd be enumerations, right?) God is in control ALL the time. look at what he's done and what he's doing. he created and rules the world, justly, if i might say so. so what right do we have to question that?

2) we have no way of understanding God's ways, but we don't need to. he's got our BEST in mind...not only did he restore Job's wealth, he did it two-fold, blessing him more abundantly than Job ever thought possible. why should we doubt him?

3) God is sarcastic. amen. that could be a whole sermon in itself. check out the last few chapters if you don't believe me.

4) prayer DOES work. when God's pissed at Job's "friends" for the way they've handled his crisis, he says to them, "And my servant Job shall pray for you, for I will accept his prayer not to deal with you according to your folly....and the LORD accepted Job's prayers." 42.8,9

5) i've been thinking a lot about movies lately, and my friends and i have been watching quite a few of the movies mom recently mailed me...american ones, of course. and i often get questions from swedish friends about whether or not it's going to be one of those cheesy, american, happily-ever-after movies, and why do we always have movies like that (we don't always, but...). well, here's why: we like our movies to end that way because that's the way our hearts were created. we were never meant to leave Eden, and our hearts know that even if we don't. our hearts long for the happily-ever-after we were created to live in with God, and the end of the book of Job (and some of our favorite movies) are just a reminder of the fact that one day, ONE day we who are believers, worshipers and followers of the Lord Jesus Christ, WILL live happily ever after with him. on a day like today (bad case of the Mondays on tuesday...go figure), that promise sure does make my heart lighter.

until next time....

"Behold, God is exalted in his power; who is a teacher like him? Who has prescribed for him his way, or who can say, 'You have done wrong'?...Behold, God is great, and we know him not; the number of his years is unsearchable...God thunders wondrously with his voice; he does great things that we cannot comprehend. For to the snow he says, 'Fall on the earth,' [and boy has it been falling here in stockholm!!] likewise to the downpour, his mighty downpour. He seals up the hand of every man, that all men whom he made may know it...By the breath of God ice is given, and the broad waters are frozen fast. He loads the thick clouds with moisture; the clouds scatter his lightning. They turn around and around by his guidance, to accomplish all that he commands them on the face of the habitable world. Whether for correction or for his land or for love, he causes it to happen." - excerpts from Job 36 and 37

Relationships, Love, and ...

“As Long as You Love Me.”

An ongoing series discussing any/everything.
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 (This article first appeared in the C&WC in April '99)

Are you being a virtuous prize to be sought? Are you practicing and demonstrating that you have convictions and that your future spouse will be able to TRUST you? Building character takes practicing character. It starts now. You don't suddenly "turn it on" later.

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Jesus loves us regardless of our past. And, yes, we are to try to be like Jesus. And, yes, we are to forgive those who wrong us and are sorry and repent. And, yes, the Samaritan woman at the well, an outcast of the outcasts, brought the town out to Jesus. And, yes, the woman taken in adultery and brought to Jesus, her accusers left - and Jesus told her to "go and sin no more." He told her to change her 'actions,' change her 'character.' It's about "love." But it's about character, too!

Lonely? Alone? Taking what's second or third best? Settling for less than you're worth?

The lyrics to a popular song a couple years ago are intriguing ... a haunting little melody ... kind of nice to listen to and have running in your head. Being a "hopeless romantic," I kind of liked the words. I only "kind of listen" to the radio and thought it was a "love song." But then I actually listened to the words more carefully today, the singer is willing to accept someone with MAJOR character flaws, "so long as you love me." Today the song caught my attention right as it started. It says lonely ... alone ... and wants to have someone ... and will take anyone, as long as they love me. As I've listened more carefully to the words - - what a pathetic person.

Are you settling for anyone, just so you won't be "alone"? Or are you selecting, choosing your friends, dates, and possible mate/spouse candidates? Choosing them based on their characteristics, their character.

“I will lose my dignity and integrity in order to have my fantasy”

is **NOT** on anybody's inspirational calendar.

In the song, the singer doesn't want to be alone. Wants to be "loved." We all want to be loved. We need to belong to a group, a fraternity, a school, a family, be in a relationship with a person. The song says "It doesn't matter what you've done, where you come from, who you are, as long as you love me." Let me pose a few questions ...

How about if he came from a culture where women are considered property, and not necessarily *valuable* property. Chattel to be used, owned. Gals, would you want to treated like that? How about if they come from another church background that believes different? They would undermine and even attack the very fundamentals of your belief system. - (Or maybe you don't have a solid belief system and Faith.) Inter-faith marriages can be between two Baptists, Catholic-Baptist, Atheist-Jewish, Baptist-Agnostic. Is what you believe important? It should be. It does matter eternally. It matters now.

And what about possible family divisions and marital strife that

occur over mixed religions, mixed races, mixed ethnic, or ____ differences? They drink heavily, you abstain. What influences do you want to expose your children to? How will that affect future family interactions? Have you thought through how you and your and their families will handle this? His, her, or both families may disassociate themselves from you. It does happen regularly.

Guys, and gals, how about if they had slept with every person they had ever had a second date with? - Hey! Experienced! They ought to know how to 'do it'! - But what have they demonstrated? That sex is not meaningful? It's a casual event, like playing Ping-Pong? That intimacy is not valued? There are so few things in life that can be elevated to special status. Real intimacy, physical and spiritual and emotional sex can be, and they have degraded it to the level of a game of Ping-Pong. What if they are tempted after marriage, they have a low threshold of just "getting it on," no restraint? Can they be trusted to hold to a vow of "you only"? And what memories are permanently recorded in their brain? How can you possibly be the only one on their mind? And the brain IS the primary sex organ. They've had experiences. And a word, a smell, and a memory from years ago suddenly rushes into the mind as fresh as if it had just happened yesterday or today or even now. It's all recorded in there permanently.

What if they have a police record? What if they are a thief? a vandal? a history of violence? of drugs? Yes, even marijuana, too, even if they didn't inhale. Does that demonstrate a history of disregard for rules? What if you know they do it but haven't been caught or charged? What about commitment to values, morals, the value of people and obligations to do what is right? Or do they "make their own rules" of convenience and "me, what I want now"?

What about someone who has demonstrated purity and is inexperienced in "the ways of the world and the flesh"? What about someone who respects and abides by the law of the land, the rules of their parents, the law of God? Believes and 'practices' their Faith regularly in church? What does it say about their character? Is that someone that you can trust with your future and your life and your security?

You should say, "I think it does matter 'what you've done, where you come from, [and] who you are' AND 'as long as you love me,' we might have a chance of being a couple. But your behavior had better be what a person of character and value does. Because that is what I deserve and expect to get."

To get that kind of person, to attract that kind of person you have to BE that kind of person, too.

If you haven't been that kind of person, you can make a new start now. When asked to do something wrong or low, you can say "I don't do that." If questioned because you've done it before, you say, "I don't do that any more. I've met God. I've repented. I've changed. Meet the new, improved me."

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“Character and values determine what you do when no one sees, no one hears, and no one knows.”

Someone else put it this way...

“Character is what you are,
 and what you do,
 in the dark.”

Mostly just for fun...

I ran across an old Joke a Day calendar from Workman Publishing Co.

Medical ...

Bertie: My uncle had a terrible accident! He was run over by a steamroller!

Gertie: Oh, no! Is he in the hospital?

Bertie: City General, rooms 26, 27, and 28!

Patient: I have an appointment with Dr. Jones.

Receptionist: Dr. Jones has been called away on an emergency, but Dr. Fzzbzstrczywx can see you.

Patient: Which doctor?

Receptionist: Not at all. He's highly qualified.

For those who gamble ... (if you're gambling with sex you will eventually lose whether someone cheats or not)

Rocky: You're really stupid to play poker with Jake. Don't you know he has a reputation for cheating?

Cliff: No, he beat me fair and square. He had four aces and I only had three!

Military ...

Teacher: Class, was George Washington a soldier or a sailor?

Jamey: A soldier of course! What kind of sailor would stand up in a boat?

Criminal Justice majors ...

Captain: What do you mean, you can't ID these finger prints! We know the robbery was committed by Lefty LeForge!

Fingerprint expert: Sorry, but these prints and Lefty's are whorls apart.

Stranger: Excuse me, have you seen a policeman anywhere nearby?

Passerby: No I haven't.

Stranger: Then — Stick 'em up!

Lovers ...

Robin Hood: After we're married [notice "after"] would you live with me in the big forest near Nottingham?

Marion: Sherwood!

Animal lovers ...

What's the difference between a cat and a comma?

One has claws at the end of its paws; the other has its pause at the end of its clause.

What grows down as it grows up?

[Answer - A duck]

More lovers ...

Don: Marry me, darling. I know I haven't got buckets of money like my friend Dan, or a hot film career like Dan, or Dan's good looks, youth, terrific sense of humor, or muscles, but I'm loyal and true and I love you.

Daisy: I love you too, honey ... but first tell me more about Dan.

Church ...

Why did Adam get the first fig leaf?

Because he wore the plants in the family.

Teacher: George, why did you write in your essay that you were Jewish? I happen to know that your father's a minister.

George: But I can't spell Presbyterian.

Share with someone

Giving a friend a copy of this letter and asking them if they would like to get it too, is an easy way of witnessing and starting a conversation about God.

If you'd like to be on our mail/prayer list, and have the Crimson & White Connection mailed free to you, fill this out and mail it to:

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*** or email to RDymmel@AOL.com ***

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Becoming a Christian: A-B-C's

A – Admit that you're a sinner. You just can't meet God's standard. The Bible says, "All have sinned and come short of the glory of God." Romans 3:23 (also see 1 John 1:8).

B – Believe that Jesus was the Son of God and died in your place, took the punishment for you. The Bible says, "For God so loved the world (that includes you) that he gave His only begotten son (that's Jesus) that whosoever (that's you again) believes in Him should not perish (that's saved from eternal death, Hell) but have eternal life (given eternal life with God, that's "salvation" or to "be saved")." John 3:16

C – Confess your sin to God. – The Bible says, "If we confess (own up to) our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleans us..." 1John 1:9.

S – Submit yourself to His commands and control.

Want Jesus in your life? Pray this prayer: "Lord Jesus, I confess to You my sin and need to be saved. I turn away from my old sin and place my trust and faith in You as the only way to be saved." Now contact your pastor, or contact us at 1-336-674-7564, or call 1-888-NEED-HIM, and say, "I just asked Jesus to be my Lord."

Crimson & White Connection

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Mar 12, 2007

I'm Not Good Enough
The Evidence
"White man! White man!"
Nothing Else I Need
Seeing 20/20
"As Long As You Love Me"

A publication so dangerous it now comes with it's own warning label.

WARNING

Do not read the Crimson & White Connection unless you want your HEART ENCOURAGED and your MIND CHALLENGED and your SPIRIT PRODDED

Yes! This is a subversive, challenging, counter-culture publication. That's what Christianity is - a counter-culture. This should have a warning label.

¹⁵...let yourselves be pulled into a way of life shaped by God's life, a life energetic and blazing with holiness.
¹⁶God said, "I am holy; you be holy." -- 1Peter 1:15-16 (The Message)
¹⁵... just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; ¹⁶for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy."
-- 1Peter 1:15-16 (NIV)
(See Leviticus 11:44-45, 19:2, 21:8)



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Lord, I have had a good day and my thoughts and actions have been pure...but in a moment I have to go to work...
Only conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel Phil 1:27

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Philippians 1:27

(NIV) Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. (The Message) Meanwhile, live in such a way that you are a credit to the Message of Christ. (NCV) Only one thing concerns me: Be sure that you live in a way that brings honor to the Good News of Christ.