

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

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4401 Wild Oak Lane, Greensboro, NC 27406-8306
Ph.: 336-674-7564; e-mail: RDymmel@AOL.com
Editor: Dr. Rich Dymmel

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 50% of the mailing list is students, middle and high school and college, and 25% are age 22 to 30, and we'll just leave ages unsaid for the last 25% 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.

Our goal is mail in your mail box about 15 times a year. 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. We also distribute a daily email devotional.

Another part of the ministry is prayer. We pray for those 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!

May 19, 2008

Hallmark

As God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. —Colossians 3:12

Have no fear, I'm not going to scold you for forgetting to send me a birthday card this year. No, we're headed deeper than silly, poetic birthday messages printed on high-priced pieces of cardboard. We're going way, way back to learn how hallmark came to be a real live word.

Centuries ago, King Edward I of England decreed something like this: "Hear ye! Hear ye! All gold and silver must be tested and approved by our master craftsmen before being offered for sale." He mandated that all artisans had to bring their finished metal goods to Goldsmith's Hall in London to be checked.

If the goods got a thumbs up, the wares were ready for the marketplace. They received a special seal of approval from the master craftsmen in the hall. The seal was called the hallmark.

Today hallmark is used to describe great talent, creativity, or quality. It's a word that speaks of excellence and exquisite workmanship.

In your relationship with others, you present an impression of your relationship with God. If you are growing in your knowledge of and love for Him, the way you treat people will be your hallmark.

Paul's list of Christian hallmarks included "compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience" (Colossians 3:12). These qualities will pour like molten gold from our lives when our relationship with the Lord is healthy and strong.

Just as the hallmark adorned quality metal goods long ago, our God-made hallmark should be clear to others since we "have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator" (v.10). Our lives should bear the unmistakable mark of a person who has been transformed by Jesus Christ Himself.


Is the hallmark image clear in your life? Do others see the clear sign of God's carefully crafted work in you?

Campus Journal, Friday, May 4, 2001

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. – With God, even if you have gone the opposite direction, you have never gone too far to turn around.

Did you know the C&W send out a daily email? Want to try it as part of a daily God related thought? It takes from 1 to 5 minutes to read. I use a variety of resources, it's not the same style every day. Send an email with your name and email address and just say "Try the daily for 2 weeks."

 **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*

My mail box has been empty lately. We'd love to hear from you.

Keep sharing the C&WC with your friends. Encourage them to send in the subscription information,

we'd love to add them to the list and put the C&WC in their mailbox. There is not much of a commitment... the C&WC is free. - Although we'd really like to have people feel enough of a connection to let us know when they move or to tell us to stop when they aren't interested rather than we print and pay postage to send it and it is just tossed by them or the P.O..

God bless you.

Rich

Slice of Infinity

The Comfort Zone

Ravi Zacharias

In the life of the prophet Jonah, we can see that he was out of touch with the people's need, and he was out of touch with the message that he had to give. The only thing that Jonah was in touch with was his own comfort.

The story is told of how he fell asleep under the shade of a vine, but then when the vine withered, he got angry with God. He suddenly erupted with displeasure and said to God, "How is it that you planted this vine and in a few short hours let it die?" God was waiting for Jonah to raise the question and said, "Jonah, you have become concerned about this vine but did not understand my concern for the whole city of Ninevah?" Is it not amazing how our priorities get warped or how our emotions betray our priorities? Jonah was angry with God over a little plant, but could not see that God cared for a dying city. He wanted God to ignore that city.

Here is the painful truth. We often move in the direction of our comfort and resist anything that threatens our personal luxuries. The truth is that some of the greatest needs in the world have been met because someone was willing to sacrifice their own comfort to take the love of Christ to someone else. I think, for example, of David Livingstone of Blantyre, Scotland and his mission to Africa. He paid with his life and indeed the lives of his family members. The same was true of William Carey in his mission to India. You can read biography after biography and find such stories told. We live in a day where it is easy to see all that is wrong with some in ministry. When ministers go wrong, with glee the critic goes after them. We forget that there are large numbers who have forfeited the fame and accolades of humanity.

I remember during the days of the Vietnam war, speaking through the length and breadth of the country. I stayed in many missionaries' homes. At night they would put bars across the doors, not knowing what lurked in the darkness. Why? For the cause of the Gospel. God has many such heroes. One of my classmates in seminary was martyred for the Gospel. But of all the sacrifice, none is greater than the one Jesus offers to you. He came and laid down His life that You and I might live. He forewent His own comfort so that you and I might find our comfort in Him. Have you thanked Him lately for what He has done for you? Or are you lost in your comfort forgetting His sacrifice for you, indeed, for the whole world? He calls to you today to find your greatest comfort in Him.

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ADDRESSES!!!!!! We will be mailing to your **Home** address through August – **UNLESS** you give us a "camp" or other address where you'll be. If not at "home," tell us the dates and where we should send the mail ... **PLEASE.**

Only do the things that you would feel proud telling you daughter or son some day that you did. Would you be ashamed to tell your grandmother about it, or would she be ashamed of you if people knew?

God's Graffiti by Tim Bertram



Dead flies putrefy the perfumer's ointment, and cause it to give off a foul odor; so does a little folly to one respected for wisdom and honor. Ecclesiastes 10:1

In A Place You Don't Belong

By Bill Denton

For the Lord gives wisdom; From His mouth come knowledge and understanding. He stores up sound wisdom for the upright; He is a shield to those who walk in integrity, Guarding the paths of justice, And He preserves the way of His godly ones. Then you will discern righteousness and justice And equity and every good course. For

wisdom will enter your heart And knowledge will be pleasant to your soul; Discretion will guard you, Understanding will watch over you, To deliver you from the way of evil, From the man who speaks perverse things; From those who leave the paths of uprightness To walk in the ways of darkness; Who delight in doing evil And rejoice in the perversity of evil; Whose paths are crooked, And who are devious in their ways (Proverbs 2:6-15, NASB95)

No one can be caught in a place he does not visit.

— Danish proverb, Christian Reader, Vol. 33, no. 1

Ever got caught somewhere you should not have been? The little Danish proverb is so obvious; still it is a truth that is too often considered too late.

I can remember a time I got caught where I should not have been. Today, I tell this story to friends and everyone gets a good laugh out of it, perhaps because I've learned to tell it as a funny event of my teenage years. At the time, however, I can tell you it wasn't so funny.

I was a junior in high school, had bought my own car and enjoyed the freedom of small town life enough to be able to come and go pretty much as I pleased. On this particular occasion, there was a carnival in town and my friend, Phillip, and I wanted to go. I honestly don't know why we didn't just tell our parents we were going to the carnival. I had gone every year when the little show arrived just outside of town, but for some reason, we each told our parents that we were going to do our homework at the other's house and set out to enjoy a little excitement.

We browsed the tents, and down at the very end of the midway, there was a sideshow advertising the "Louisiana Swamp Woman." We could hear shouts and taunts and all sorts of activity from within, so we paid our 25 cents and started to enter the show. Phillip was about a half-step ahead of me, lifted the flap of the tent and held it until I could lift it for myself. Just as I entered, something suddenly hit me squarely on my glasses, bounced up and glanced off my left eyebrow. I couldn't see what it was, but lightly brushed my forehead and straightened my glasses. No harm done, we continued inside. I don't think Phillip ever knew anything had hit me. Inside there was a roped-off ring, with a sawdust covered floor, and a dirty looking woman in a ragged outfit, jumping around and tossing handfuls of sawdust at the onlookers, mostly college students who were giving her a bad time. She, was playing it for all it was worth. Suddenly, one of the students came over to me and asked, "Are you alright?" I said, "Sure, why?" "Because you're bleeding all over the place," he said. Sure enough, whatever had bounced off my eyebrow had created a good size cut that probably started bleeding only a moment after I had brushed my forehead. The warm night and the excitement had hidden the bleeding from me, but my shirt was covered with blood. The student said it looked like I was going to need some stitches and he was willing to drive me to the hospital. I was busy trying to figure out a good cover story.

We left the Louisiana Swamp Woman's tent and headed for the car. It's amazing how much attention a blood soaked shirt and head can generate. That, however, was not the worst. About half way back down the midway, I came face to face with my Dad. I still don't know

what he was doing there. Usually, the only reason he went to the carnival was to take us kids, but there he was. I won't bore you with the rest of the story, including the Swamp Woman who spoke with a strangely Boston-sounding accent, but let's just say there was a short piece of garden hose in that sawdust she was throwing and I managed to get in the way. Believe me when I tell you I know about getting caught in a place I shouldn't have been. I was positive Dad was going to beat up someone that night, probably starting with me!

I could have avoided it all by staying home and doing my homework that night. It's a lesson a lot of others could benefit from as well. You won't ever get caught where you don't go.

CrossTies Devotional Article 5/21/2002 From: BillDenton@crosssties.org (CrossTies) © Copyright 2002, Dr. Bill Denton All Rights Reserved. <http://www.crosssties.org> Reprinted with permission.

No one can be caught in a place he does not visit.

— Danish proverb

Daily Encounter ~ Thursday, May 1, 2008

Today's Daily Encounter Topped Up

"I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing." John 15:5 (NIV).

The Message: ⁵⁴"I am the Vine, you are the branches. When you're joined with me and I with you, the relation intimate and organic, the harvest is sure to be abundant. Separated, you can't produce a thing.

For any readers who have visited Southern California during the New Year, you would probably be aware of and may have seen the incredible New Year's Day Rose Parade in Pasadena. Millions around the world have also seen the parade via TV.

An amusing thing happened in one year's parade when one beautifully decorated float suddenly came to a stand-still. It ran out of fuel!

The irony was that this float was entered by and represented the Standard Oil Company—one of the largest fuel companies of North America. With all their vast oil and gasoline resources they failed to make sure their own vehicle was running on full.

I wonder how often do we—with all the vast resources of God and heaven at our disposal—try to run on an empty love, joy and peace tank when, if we truly trusted God and followed his instructions for getting these needs met, would be certain to keep topped up? And how often do we try to run on an empty spiritual tank by neglecting to spend time with the Lord in worship, praise and daily devotions?

Let us make sure each day that we live in harmony with God's will and his ways so we keep "topped up" and have our love, joy and peace tank filled and running over!

Suggested prayer: "Dear God, please help me to be faithful all year in spending time with you every day in worship, praise, your Word, and prayer; and walk in obedience to make certain I am filled with your Spirit and have my life "topped up" and overflowing with your love, joy and peace, and spread your Son-shine wherever I go. Thank you for hearing and answering my prayer. Gratefully, in Jesus' name, amen."

<:)))))><

(I decided to start rerunning parts of a series of articles we ran several years ago. This is another one of those.)

Relationships, Love, and ... Thirsty Camels and Prince Charming The Right Kind of Romance

Part 7 of a series.

© 2002 Dr. Richard R. Dymmel, B.S., M.A., M.A., Ed.D.

This piece first appeared in the September 5, 1998 Crimson & White Connection, which was called the College & Career Connection at that time.

(Rich to his friends, Dad to a few, Dr. Dymmel to the rest. Want to be friends?)

Continuing on about dating ... “But the Bible doesn’t give any advise on dating, does it? I mean dating was not the practice then. There were arranged marriages.” Let me tell you about my “arranged marriage.” Really.

Let me try to tie this idea of Character (look back the article on “HAS Character or IS a Character) and the Bible and dating and arranged marriages together and bring it from 2000 BC into the 1960’s and 1990’s. You see Marie and I strongly feel that our marriage was arranged — by God. Yup. God arranged it.

Now, I do have to admit that I wasn’t involving God in my dating as I should have been at the beginning. Marie and her mom and my mom had all been praying for some time for God’s choice of spouses to be prepared for us. I should have been praying, too, but I was looking for a virtuous woman in mostly the right places - my church, recommended by good friends, and introduced by good adults – and I was ‘saving myself’ for my ‘life mate.’ The introductions got me away from dating within ‘my faith,’ but God even used that in His plan to get me to the right place at the right time.

I was away at college and very seriously dating a girl – actually I can’t even remember her name right now – and even thinking and struggling with the question, “What would it take to make a Baptist/Catholic marriage work?” And Marie was dating four guys at the time, a guy and a backup guy for both Friday and Saturday dates. But she was praying for the guy to come along. My mother was praying for the girl. And it kind of parallels the story of Isaac and Rebekah in Genesis 24 and 26. (The girls might like this romance story more than the guys, but guys, you need to be looking for the right girl, too.)

Are you a “romantic”? Are you interested in having a great “romantic life”? Have I found the book for you. It fits right in with this part of my story. It’s written by a GUY and his wife. It is really good. – *When God Writes Your Love Story* (Eric & Leslie Ludy, Loyal Publishing, 1999, ISBN 1-929125-00-3, \$13.99).

A paraphrase of Genesis chapter 24 – Rebekah was chosen by God for Isaac. His father was determined not to let his only son marry a non-believer and sent a servant to find Isaac a wife. The servant went to a far country and prayed that the right girl would come to the well and that she’d offer water for the servant’s camels as a sign. Rebekah did just that and that was how he chose her. Met the family, asked for her, her family approved and she was off to be Isaac’s wife.

Maybe that doesn’t sound very romantic, but she was the one God chose for Isaac. The Bible defines Love as an act of the will, a choice. Love based on emotions changes if the person does something we don’t like. Love based on God’s will and then on our willingness to love that person – no matter what – is the kind that lasts. And that relationship is even more romantic in the long run.

And after being married for 40 years, we read in Genesis 26:8 (NIV) that ... – “When Isaac had been there a long time, Abimelech king of the Philistines looked down from a window and saw Isaac caressing his wife Rebekah.” — Different Bible translations use different words -

Isaac was “sporting” (KJV, I don’t know what sporting meant in 1611 when that translation was written and the KJV was a translation into “modern” English), “caressing” (NIV, that I understand), or more ‘current’ translations (Living and New Living, 1998) say he was “petting” and “fondling” Rebekah. (I think we all know what that means!) — Now there’s the romantic part. After 40 years, they still loved and had the “hots” for each other and he couldn’t keep his hands off of her. How’s that for a hot romantic love story of a marriage arranged by God! That was the result of having God pick the right woman for Isaac.

Well, you say, how does a story from Genesis, possibly 2000 BC, have anything to do with 2002? The Bible principles still work today - I don’t mean wait for somebody to water your camel at a well, most of you don’t even own a camel and Avis won’t rent you one for wife hunting. But, you see, that story is us, Marie and me. This same story happened to me, with minor adjustments for time and culture. – An “Old Testament” kind of love story and romance.

My mother [not father, but close enough for this story] prayed constantly that I would stop dating non-Baptist girls [they were good, church going, Catholic girls, but not Baptist – they were of a different faith and belief]. My landlord for the room I rented at school was the house-mother at the dorm for the nursing school at St. Joseph Hospital School of Nursing and introduced me to a couple nursing students. Mom was praying that the Lord would bring His choice for me, the only son, (my brother had two brothers and a sister, but I’m an only child/son; he’s adopted), into my life. Through a series of events and girlfriends, the Lord had me driving through a small town ten miles in a direction I would not have traveled if I hadn’t been dating a nursing student that lived even 50 miles further, while I was away from home at college [in a far country].

It was about one thirty on Sunday morning after a Saturday night date where my latest girl friend had just dumped me for religious incompatibility. She knew what she wanted and that included religious compatibility. (I’ve talked about that previously.) She wasn’t just dating, she was shopping. She wanted a Catholic guy for marriage material. The Michigan State Police stopped me in this little town, far from home. Why he stopped me isn’t important to the story, so we’ll just skip that part. – When I stopped, right in front of my car was a sign [Get it? A sign] telling me where to go for Sunday School and church just a few hours from then.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH 1 BLOCK

A couple of months earlier, oddly enough, at my home church, I had met the pastor’s daughter. She came to hear an evangelist preacher who had

Regardless of your past, you can make a pledge “from today forward...”, Have you considered making a pledge of purity? For yourself, to yourself, to your future mate, for your family reputation, and to God? Have you considered making a True Love or Real Love Waits pledge of chastity? Regardless of your past, you can make a pledge, **“Before God and witnesses, I have promised and made a commitment to myself, my family, those I date, and my future mate that from this day forward, I will keep myself sexually pure until I have sex with and only with my life partner and within marriage.”**

C&WC has pledge cards available, free for the asking, and can direct you to sources to purchase a ring if you’d like one.

**Save
Safe Sex for my mate**

When someone wants me to compromise my values and my purity and have sex, I tell them, **“That’s not good enough for me. I’m more valuable than that. I’m worth waiting for!”**

been at this, her church earlier. I said, "I've got no girlfriend right now. She was cute. I'll go to Sunday School there and meet her again." (Often a guy can recover quickly from being dumped, we're often emotionally shallow. That's just the way most guys are built. Don't blame me. God builds us that way.)

When I arrived and was directed to the 'College & High School' Sunday School class. They were combined just for the Summer and set up by God for us that morning otherwise I'd have been in a different room. There was only one empty seat [it was set up, chosen] in the room, and I sat down next to a really cute girl [the right girl]. She was a rising Senior, 17 years old, good looking, and friendly. The girl I came to meet wasn't even there that day. I soon forgot all about her. This 'vision' asked me to come to the 'youth social' that evening. I went, met her brothers [met the family], beat them at horseshoes, they liked me [the brothers approved], and I asked her out for a date for the next Friday night. To go out I had to go home and meet her parents. [Met her mom, too.] Actually didn't win her mom over till later in the week. At first she had said 'yes' and when I had left she said "You can go out with him this once, but never again!" The school I attended had a reputation around town. [Parents approved, eventually.] (A 'reputation' because the college I attended had a reputation. Do *you* have a reputation? Is it accurate? Is it because of who you hang with or where you go? Find my article "HAS Character or IS a Character." We've run it a couple times. You can find in in the [Back Issues] at the www.CrimsonWhite.org website. Analyse your reputation and character and the other person's reputation and character. Need a change? Or are you doin' okay?)

Two months later, after my mom met Marie I said to my mother, "Do you like her?" "She seems nice." "Good. Because she's the one. I'm going to marry her." Twenty six months later Marie finally said "Yes" when I proposed for the fifth time. – She had the sense to wait. – We had a big family announcement dinner party. Her mom thought we had run off and were announcing we had eloped and was happy she was wrong and happy it was an engagement party. Her dad said, "Well, it's about time!" – Everybody approved. – Sixteen months later we were married and finally made love on our wedding night. (I knew you were waiting to see if I'd mention sex. Research shows that virgins who marry have a 50% lower divorce rate. Research data also says married people have more sex and more satisfying sex lives. And "inexperienced" people have actually more marital satisfaction after one year and after four years than those who "got to know each other and 'shared a bed' before they married." It's true. It gets *better* and *better*.)

[I first wrote this in 2002, that's 6 years ago now, so add 6 to the following numbers, but it's *still* true.) Now, 37 years after first meeting (not 40, but a long time) and being married 33 years we're still deeply, intensely and passionately in love like Isaac and Rebekah. [See Gen. 26:8, except we're more discreet than Isaac and Rebekah in public so nobody sees us ... – never mind. X's and O's, a smile :-) and a rose ———@ for Marie.] But I do restrain myself to appropriate PDA. That's Public Displays of Affection just in case you didn't understand "PDA." She often reminds me to behave myself before we go out in public.

The lesson – The first step toward getting in on the kind of romance *God* has in store for you is to include *God* in deciding whom you should or shouldn't date. That means looking for persons with the right kind of character, being a person of good character, behaving in appropriate ways, and maintaining your relationship with Him. Dr. Laura says (in *Ten Stupid Things Women Do To Mess Up Their Lives* but applies to guys, too) that you should be very **selective** in determining who you spend your valuable time with and not settle for being selected by someone else. And, you should pray for God to prepare you for the one that He is preparing for you and that He will bring them to you at just the right time (and soon you hope, I suppose). – Rebecca St. James has a song about 'Waiting for me 'cause I'm waiting for you.' And remember that if you are God's, he wants you to have the best, a person of Character (see Isaiah 48:17 & Jeremiah 29:11).

Lots of good books out there: *Lady In Waiting*, *I Kissed Dating Goodbye*, *What To Do Until Love Finds You*, *If Men Are Like Busses Then How Do I Catch One*, *The Secrets of an Irresistible Woman*, *Love Sex & God*, *How to Know If Someone Is Worth Pursuing in Two Dates or Less*, and Joshua Harris's newest book on dating with a purpose and courtship: *Boy Meets Girl*. And a great one I just found is *When God Writes Your Love Story*.

More next time. In His love,

Rich [To be continued.]

Also see Has Character or IS a Character. If you've missed or lost or for whatever reason want the previous articles in this series ... just ask.

I'm not trapped by rules, I'm free of consequences!

(See "Consequences" in March 15, 02
C&WC issue)

When God Writes Your Love Story

(1999. Loyal Publishing, Sisters, OR. ISBN 1-929125-00-3, \$13.99)

A Book Reviewed by Rich ©

.... "THOU SHALT NOT" the pastor would boom from the pulpit as I sat in the rear-numbing pew daydreaming about sexy Suzie McFrugal from Hank's Burger Barn. For most of my life I thought it was God who posed the greatest hurdle to experiencing all the thrills of love and romance. And I would have taken great offense to someone trying to convince me that God should have a greater role in my love story. All the stern "thou shalt not's" He had so thoughtfully bestowed on me were quite enough, thank you." (p.28)

.... "So, Eric? Tell us about your love life"

"Uhhhh," I mumbled ... "Uhh, I uhh, actually, uh, I am waiting on God." "I know this may sound strange, you guys, but I've decided that I won't give my heart to another girl until God shows me it's my wife." (p. 19)

Some of the chapter titles tell you the thrust, scope, and direction of this book: The babes and big egos; In search of a sweeter song; Who's captain of your love boat?; Rubbing shoulders with the Author of Romance; Get a love life!; A forever kind of love – Romance that's more than a feeling; Developing inward excellence; The art of faithfulness – A skill to learn *before* the wedding vows [!]; Holding out for a higher standard – Do noble knights and fair maidens really exist? [!]; Too late? – A glimmer of hope in a world of lost virginity [!]

"Christianity, ... defined in very simplistic terms ... the way God made it clear to me... *Eric, are you ready to trust me at the helm now? If I am going to be Captain, we are going to have to make some changes. And, Eric, the changes are going to have to be made to more than just the Captain's quarters.*" (p. 43)

Eric and Leslie alternate writing their story. As an "old romantic," it's a beautiful love story, made me 'smile and warm inside.' When Eric writes of when he was in college, I can remember then, you'd identify with him. As someone who's looking for a true love, it's a guide book, a workbook. As a "married" I always see ways to improve my/our love life. This has that, too. But - - this isn't easy, this letting the "Author of Romance" author your romance and love life. The book ... is a fun, serious, romantic, spiritual book. – Highly recommended.

Compatibility – Love is necessary, but love isn't

enough. It takes much more - common goals, values, morals, philosophies, spirituality, ... – I'm reading a terrific book for those about to get married, or are married. – *A Marriage After God's Own Heart* (David Clarke, 2001, Multnomah Publishers, ISBN 1-57673-755-1, \$10.99) It gets into the spiritual bonding of a great marriage.

Marie and I went to a wedding in Chicago a couple years ago. At the hotel after breakfast we were talking with some people about God's mating process and having prayed for our kids future mates. One person said that she had prayed for her son's mate all of his life. Then he married a girl with different spiritual and religious values. She then prayed for her salvation. After seven years they got divorced. It wasn't right and didn't work. After five years of no contact, she had called recently and said she had read a book that for the first time had made sense to her explaining all this "God stuff."

Back to character traits, one ingredient for a lasting marriage is that you both have compatible spiritual values and beliefs. Marriages where there are mixed spiritual values and beliefs is not an "inter-faith marriage" but usually an "inter-faithless" marriage. One or both of the partners has to give up and surrender their beliefs to eliminate conflict or maybe they have no real beliefs really. Dr. Laura Schlessinger often has callers with problems with their Jewish-nothing, or Baptist-Catholic, or Lutheran-Catholic, etc. relationships or marriages that now have religious based conflicts or have deteriorated to no religion and now have spiritual problems. Some of the biggest problems come with "Which way do we train the children?" Dr. Laura suggested that a caller get a marriage counselor that also has religious credentials because a "strong marriage and the spiritual life go hand in hand." You need a strong Faith and Love and understanding and willingness to make a strong, lasting marriage. It's difficult enough without adding religious conflicts.

Rich

5/2002

"I'm sorry" (but still doing it) is not true remorse.

Sometimes we do "wrong" because doing "right" is uncomfortable, challenging, or threatening.



Kartoon Knuggets

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www.christiancartoons.com/kartoons

Wow! I'm gonna start living my life like that...
...tomorrow!



Satan doesn't care how spiritual your intentions are... as long as they are focused on tomorrow!
You do not know what your life will be like tomorrow James 4:14

knechtoon@sidestream.com

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Online/On The Air

Garbage in – garbage out. Are you putting Good stuff, good music, etc., in your head or "garbage"? Listen to good Christian music on the radio. Do you have a decent collection of Christian music CDs?

K-LOVE radio broadcasts from California, relayed to 75 stations in 34 states. Around Greensboro, Elon, Raleigh, & Chapel Hill, NC and Danville, VA it is 106.7 –WKVE. You can find if they have a station near you at www.KLOVE.com. They also do live streaming from there no matter where you are.

Contemporary Christian Music on the radio:

Boone/Black Mtn./Asheville, NC - WMIT - 106.9

Charlotte, NC - WRCM - 91.9 FM "New Life"

In NC: WBFJ – Greensboro - 103.5 FM; High Point - 102.7 FM;

Salisbury - 101.3 FM; Winston-Salem - 89.3 FM; Mt. Airy- 103.1

Pilot Mountain - 104.9 FM

Greensboro to Raleigh, NC – KLOVE network – WKVE – 106.7

Danville, VA – KLOVE network – WKVE – 106.7

Lynchburg, VA – WRVL – 88.3 FM

Cumming, GA-Victory 91.5FM (featuring a teen flair of

powerhouse rock Saturdays from 9pm-1am) and Atlanta, Ga- Jesus 93.3 FM ("The station that helps you live the life.")

and 90.0 North of Atlanta, and 104.7 The Fish

Southern Gospel; in NC – find JOY-FM at 91.3; 88.1; and 89.5

BBN (more "traditional" music and programming, is interna-

tional, and carries great stuff like "Adventures in Odyssey"

from FOTF and Ravi Zacharias who speaks on many college

campuses. High Point/Greensboro, NC - WHPE, 95.5 FM,

93.5 in Charlotte, 92.5 in Raleigh, 105.3 in Goldsboro. Check

www.bbnradio.org for a station anywhere in the world

Find Christian radio on the web – many stations stream on

the web. Try these sites: www.klove.com; www.wbfj.org,

www.ChristianRadio.com lists 2500 stations by state. Or

search for "Christian radio" in your search engine.

"Boundless" At Focus On The Family, www.family.org, is a college targeted web magazine. Check it out.

How I feel about myself determines what kind of people I attract

(From *If Men Are Like Busses, Then How Do I Catch One?* by Hammond. Actually written "to gals" but the principles are good for guys and for guys. It's a good, fun read.)

Crimson & White Connection

Dr. Rich Dymmel, Editor
4401 Wild Oak Lane
Greensboro, NC 27406-8306

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May 19, 2008

* Hallmark *

This is a real "romance" issue ...
Relationships, Love, and ...

Thirsty Camels and Prince Charming A love story from 2000 BC repeated in 1965

Book review: *When God Writes Your Love Story*
Real Love Waits resources

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.

You can't be good enough to deserve heaven. And you can't be bad enough to be beyond God's forgiveness.

If I am giving a message and not living that message, then the message appears less credible.