

Crimson & White Connection

A ministry of prayer and encouragement to "High School, College, & Singles" (& others, too)

Values & Character + Spiritual Life + Relationships + Fun stuff

more resources at www.CrimsonWhite.org

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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 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!

Aug 26, 2009

Back to class/school/thinking, etc!

(c) Richard R. Dymmel, Ed.D., 8/2009 RDymmel@AOL.com

For many it's late August, for others it's early September, that starts the "school year." Now for the C&WC, that used to be as much as 70% of our readers. Now, with me not having quite the same contact with particularly college students, that has decreased to 30%. Part of that has been students growing up, since we've been writing the C&WC since 1998. This is the 12th year for the C&WC.

So in "recognition of the start of another school year, this issue has a couple articles directed to students going back to school. But as usual, the principles are pretty universal. -- Whether you are 14 or 41, you will run into situations and people that challenge you to take a stand for Jesus and God. -- Whether you are 18 or 81 you still need daily reinforcement and encouragement. -- So that's what two of these articles are about.

*In Christ,
Rich*

Do you have a relationship with God where you know He has accepted you just as you are? A relationship like with a loving father? If not, call me at 336-674-7564. Or call 1-888-NEED-HIM. -- With God, you have never gone too far to return. --

The Professor and the Chalk

This story has circulated on the web since at least May 1999 when it was sent to me the first of several times. At snopes.com, the origins of the story go back to the 1920. -- True or not, probably not, it is a story from which college students should take heed.

It is a rare story, like that of Josh McDowell's, when college results in birthing a Christian. Several other stories including a few readers of the C&WC are where people met Christ on a college campus, or during that 18 to 24 age, or several stories can be told of meeting Jesus in prison. But those are really the reverse exceptions. The statistics from several sources (S.B.C. research and Barna Research to name two) tell us that anywhere from 75 to 95% of "church going teens," from the time they turn 18 (graduate High School) until they are 24, the "college years," will stop attending church and most never return.

"WARNING: College can be Hazardous to Your Spiritual Health."

That's on the back of Dr. J. Budziszewski's book, How To Stay Christian in College. It is recommended reading by Chuck Colson, Josh McDowell, and Norman Geisler; you should recognize at least one of those names. It is published by NavPress (www.navpress.com, the ISBN on my copy is 1-57683-061-6, but there may be newer printings. → →

The Back Pew - Jeff Larson

This whole discussion regarding the cross is improbable and illogical!



I know very well how foolish the message of the cross sounds. **1 COR 1:18 (SPOCK TALK)**

AFTER EDEN

by Dan Lietha



These cartoons are used with permission.

Most college campuses, even many that “say” they are “church affiliated,” are NOT where Christians are “made.” It is more like where they are challenged, attacked, or led away. When challenged or attacked, they fall. One campus minister said, “It’s often because it wasn’t their faith. It was ‘what their family did’ or the ‘culture’ they grew up in, but they never internalized it as their faith.” Or maybe they are “weak” and fall to temptations. And the temptations “feel good!” And some will say, “This is certainly more fun than that was,” and follow the broad path to destruction.

Well, here’s a story from the web. – Let’s be honest, a LOT of what circulates on the internet isn’t true. If 1% of the lottery winning email I receive were true, I would be writing this while in my private Lear Jet on our way to Bermuda or Hawaii. (I’m not.) – There are those that think the book of Jonah in the Bible isn’t real/true and feel the purpose is the lesson in the story of Jonah. I agree the important part of the story is the lesson in the story, whether true (I think so) or not. – Here, whether true or not (personally I doubt it’s true), the important part of the story is the lesson in the story. --- When I get to Heaven, if you’re there, too, and you want to ask God if Jonah is a true story, you can ask Him. I’m confident and don’t need to ask.

Someone has put this together as a PowerPoint-like slide presentation and posted it on YouTube. Here’s 3 links that run around 4 minutes:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rQWI7mE3y3E>
A true story [Okay, we know it’s not true.] that happened at USC a few years back. ... Jesus God professor philosophy USC chalk story ...

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tEKo5Y6JRpU>
It’s not A True Story But It’s A Good Message ... God Jesus Professor Chalk Good Message ...

And this one has slightly different comments at the ending

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YeWiMjQb3Vg>
I don’t think this is true but it is an awesome story! ... this should keep us all thinking professor chalk drop God religion ...

And one video was pretty sarcastic... I thought...but... the YouTube link had this discription... I read a comment saying the REAL message of the story is "God won't bother doing anything if you won't stand up for him" or something ... **[Now THAT is a pretty intriguing statement!]**

You might have seen this before, but I think it's worth reading again:

This is a true story [well now we know it's probably not true, but anyway...] of something that happened just a few years ago at USC. There was a professor of philosophy there who was a deeply committed atheist. His primary goal for one required class was to spend the entire semester attempting to prove that God couldn't exist. His students were always afraid to argue with him because of his impeccable logic. For twenty years, he had taught this class and no one had ever had the courage to go against him. Sure, some had argued in class at times, but no one had ever really gone against him because of his reputation.

At the end of every semester on the last day, he would say to his class of 300 students, "If there is anyone here who still believes in Jesus, stand up!" In twenty years, no one had ever stood up. They knew what he was going to do next. He would say, "Because anyone who believes in God is a fool. If God existed, he could stop this piece of chalk from hitting the ground and breaking. Such a simple task to prove that He is God, and yet He can't do it." And every year, he would drop the chalk onto the tile floor of the classroom and it would shatter into a hundred pieces. All of the students would do nothing but stop and stare. Most of the students thought that God couldn't exist. Certainly, a number of Christians had slipped through, but for 20 years, they had been too afraid to stand up.

Well, a few years ago there was a freshman who happened to enroll. He was a Christian, and had heard the stories about his professor. He was required to take the class for his major, and he was afraid. But for three months that semester, he prayed every morning that he would have the courage to stand up no matter what the professor said, or what the class thought. Nothing they said could ever shatter his faith he hoped.

Finally, the day came. The professor said, "If there is anyone here who still believes in God, stand up!" The professor and the class of 300 people looked at him, shocked, as he stood up at the back of the classroom. The professor shouted, "You FOOL!!! If God existed, he would keep this piece of chalk from breaking when it hit the ground!"

He proceeded to drop the chalk, but as he did, it slipped out of his fingers, off his shirt cuff, onto the pleat of his pants, down his leg, and off his shoe. As it hit the ground, it simply rolled away unbroken.

The professor's jaw dropped as he stared at the chalk. He looked up at the young man, and then ran out of the lecture hall.

The young man who had stood, proceeded to walk to the front of the room and shared his faith in Jesus for the next half hour. 300 students stayed and listened as he told of God's love for them and of His power through Jesus.

You have 2 choices.

You can pretend you never read this or you can send this to your Christian and non-Christian friends – If you pass this on, you are choosing to stand up, and pass on the encouragement we all need every day.

1. Delete this and never look at it again.
2. Pass this along to your Christian and non-Christian friends, giving them encouragement we all need every day.

I pray you will choose option 2. Sometimes all we have to do is STAND UP.

In light of the many jokes we tell to one another for a laugh, this is a little different

This is not intended to be a joke, it's not funny, it's intended to get you thinking....

Isn't it funny how simple it is for people to trash God and then wonder why the world's going to hell

Isn't it funny how we believe what the newspapers say, but question what the Bible says

Isn't it funny how everyone wants to go to heaven provided they don't have to believe, think, say, or do anything the Bible says? Or is it scary?

Isn't it funny how someone can say "I believe in God" but still follow Satan?

(who, by the way, also "believes" in God)

Isn't it funny how someone can be so fired up for Christ on Sunday

Isn't it funny how when you go to tell someone this, you won't

because you're not sure what they believe, or what they will think of you for telling them?

Isn't it funny how I can be more worried about what other people think of me than what God thinks of me?

Will YOU pass this on?

Top 10 Devotionals

RRD 8/2009

Here's an article from the web on ChristianTeens. About.com about popular devotional books. (I don't endorse everything or even anything they may say blanketly, but what I have read seems to be pretty good stuff. Always examine and consider the sources.)

Their #2, *Jesus Freaks*, is a good book of short stories (matches my attention span) of people through the ages from 1st century to 21st century that took a stand for Jesus. – I have used these stories to start my classes when I taught in Christian schools and have stirred interest in kids for the book. At one school we gave away over 60 copies of this book, and I only had 90 kids in all my classes. – There is also *Jesus Freaks Vol. II* (also titled *Jesus Freaks, Revolutionaries*, same book printed under 2 titles). And there is a volume 3, *Jesus Freaks – Martyrs*. And another in a different format, titled *Live Like a Jesus Freak*.

A book that's not on this "top 10" list that I really like, and have given away many copies of also, is *Josh McDowell's Daily Devotions for Teenagers*. It's 365 one-page-per-day of verse + story + question to think about format. Good stuff. "Targeted" to teens, I have found the ideas pretty universal and applicable FOR ADULTS also. There is a volume 2 of this also.

My #3 pick would be *Sister Freaks* by Rebecca St.James. This one is set up with daily stories of girls and women only, but I recommend it as a great read for guys, too. At the end of the week there is a page with questions and space to write your answers. It's a 12 week read/journal.

My #4 pick would be to get on my "daily e-mail list." Almost every day I select something to I've read (use with permission) and often comment along with it, and sometimes write the whole thing myself, and email it out. I try real hard to keep it under 1 typed page. – I miss a few days when we're on the road or circumstances don't let me get to my computer. But that's not often. – And we've got over a dozen people right now without computers that we print and snail-mail my daily piece to in a weekly envelope. (That's part of why I keep to 1 page per day; for printing it to be mailed.)

And there are "classics" like *My Utmost for His Highest* and materials from *Our Daily Bread* (from Radio Bible Class, Grand Rapids, MI). And if you want an apologetic slant ICR (Institute for Creation Research) puts out a free daily devotional, mailed quarterly, along with a free magazine... Very interesting stuff if you'd like a little mental challenge. – And Ravi Zacharias send out "A Slice of Infinity." If you've ever heard him on the radio (Let

My People Think) or on a campus speaking engagement, you know you generally need to be wearing your "thinking cap" with his stuff. (Within permission guidelines, I sometimes send his stuff as my daily e-mail.)

There are LOTS of good materials out there. Are you reading something every day?

If you need or would like *Jesus Freaks* or Josh McDowell's book, or *Sister Freaks*, we'd love to send it to you if you'll just write and ask. And it's super-easy to write and get on my daily list (e-mail or snail-mail), too.

Write and tell me what you like to use.

Rich

<http://christianteens.about.com/od/devotionals/tp/top10devotions.htm>

Top 10 Devotionals for Teens

By Kelli Mahoney, About.com

SEE MORE ABOUT:

- christian teen devotionals
- devotional books
- growing faith
- become a stronger Christian

Doing daily devotions are helpful to growing in your faith. Here are some devotionals that will help you grow closer to God while learning about how to live your life as a better Christian:

Kartoon Knuggets

By Troy Knechtel



<http://www.christiancartoons.com/kartoon> Copyright 2008

**If you're going to get fed,
shouldn't that be
a DAILY thing?**

-- Read about a few resources for daily feeding on these two pages.

1. **The One Year Devotions for Teens & The One Year Devos for Teens 2**

by Susie Shellenberger

Like a good cup of coffee with your best friend, this book strives to bring you a little closer to God every day. Each day you get a devotional thought, a way to apply it, and a short prayer.

2. **Jesus Freaks: DC Talk and the Voice of the Martyrs**

by DC Talk [and Voice of the Martyrs]

While this book was written in 1999 as a companion to DC Talk's 1995 "Jesus Freak" CD, the book is still going strong. The book has dozens of stories about Christians who gave the ultimate sacrifice for their faith – their lives. "Jesus Freaks" is written in a hip manner, so you can understand why Christians are all called to be Jesus freaks for God.

3. **Daily Grace for Teens: Devotional Reflections to Nourish Your Soul**

by John C. Maxwell

Just when you need a little encouragement and inspiration, this book has it in abundance. When you feel like you need a little blessing, this book allows you to see God in your daily life. Through this devotion you find His mercy, His love, His holiness, and more.

4. **Life in the Real World: 5-Minute Devotions for Teens**

By Eileen Ritter

You may be a Christian, but you still have to deal with the world around you. This devotional offers quick devotions while also giving you Godly advice about friends, family, dating, prejudice, and more.

5. **Called to Be: Devotions by Teens for Teens**

By Concordia Publishing

With 60 devotions written by teenagers for teenagers, this book takes on the things you deal with every day and gives you a Christian perspective from those your own age.

6. **If God Loves Me, Why Can't I Get My Locker Open?**

By Lorraine Peterson

[They duplicated a description for another book here, so I tok it out.]

7. **Can I Be a Christian Without Being Weird?**

by Kevin Johnson

Do you think that some of your Christian traits make

you weird? Then this is the devotional is written for you. While it focuses on making you stronger in your faith, you learn how to do so without the people you know thinking you are weird.

8. **Thrive Teen Devotional: Take a Turn for God in Just 5 Minutes a Day**

By Blaine Bartel

Blain Bartel challenges his readers to give God five minutes each day, and he believes that by the end of eight weeks you will feel closer to God than ever. This devotional also focuses on the things that are important to you like friendships and self-esteem.

9. **Can You Handle the Truth? 50 In-Your-Face Devotions for Teens**

By Phil Chalmers

As a teenager you face some tough stuff – suicide, rape, sex, friends, drugs, and more. This book doesn't gloss over the tough stuff. It takes on the things that matter and helps you make the tough decisions.

10. **7 Minutes with God: Daily Devotions for a Deeper Relationship**

by Think

Written by your peers, this book puts a new spin on "quiet time with God." You will see new insights into your daily life. You'll learn about how to take Christian concepts like fasting and prayer and apply them to your daily life.

**Hypocrisy means
you're still doing those things
you said you regret.**

"What does it mean when Jesus said, "Deny yourself, take up your cross and follow me." What is it to "deny yourself"?
- - - - - It is to deny yourself the things that take God's place in your life." -

Dr Lawrence Clapp, Greensboro NC 8/23/09

"God loves us in spite of us __ That's grace." -

Dr Lawrence Clapp, Greensboro NC 8/23/09

Sa, 08/22/09 – **What Will You Do? (3)**

(This was the 3rd in a series of recent daily e-mails. To request the daily e-mail, contact rdymmel@aol.com. No e-mail access? We'll send you printed copy weekly.)

I've been thinking lately, "What do I do?" – I used to be very active in church, very visible... had several "titles" like Adult Sunday School Teacher and Deacon. Now I don't have any "titles" in church. There are no "spectators" (from yesterday's thought). SO what DO I "do"?

Well, talking with Marie, and waking up this morning, I was thinking about just what I do... I think I'm an encourager and a helper. I encourage people on their Christian walk, and other ways. And I enjoy helping people.

In the Hallmark TV movie "The Good Witch's Garden" (again last evening) (she's NOT a witch, it's not that kind of movie; I'd recommend finding and watching it; good movie) she says one line, "... the true magic is in helping people." There's actually some good theology there. Jesus said, quoting Leviticus, "love your neighbor as yourself."

I'm not going to give you a list of what I do... that would be sort of "bragging," I suppose. So I'll leave it at that. – The point being that "what I do" is pretty invisible to a lot of people maybe. To those I help, it means a lot. The second point is that I am "doing" my part, the part that God has given me to do.

What has He given you to do? Each little part is a piece of the whole. Ever see a puzzle with a couple missing pieces? Man, you might as well throw away the whole thing, right? Don't know what your piece is? Find out, and do it. Maybe it's a visible piece, maybe it's taking care of and singing "Jesus Loves Me" to the bed-babies, or reading Bible stories to toddlers, or playing soccer with kids, or listening to teenagers, or... or maybe teaching Sunday School, or being the one who asks all the questions in a class and gets a discussion started, or being a deacon, or making breakfast, or cleaning up after breakfast, or ... There are no small jobs, only some people who think the job is too small for them. – Reminds me of a story... A church got a new pastor. He noticed that there was one man who wasn't the custodian, but every week he would show up on Monday evening wearing blue jeans and a t-shirt and clean up the bulletins that were left on the pews, straighten the hymn books, fix the visitor cards in the pews, pick up papers and trash on the floor, etc. After a few months seeing this, he asked one of the deacons who he was. 'Oh, that's Mr. Smith.' 'Who is he?' 'He's the president of the biggest company in town.'

Be blessed in all you do.

Rich

www.youtube.com/watch?v=FxG1NxQPorU&NR=1

Animal Face-Off: Alligator vs. Black Bear

The American alligator uses its formidable jaws to crush turtles, but find out how it will fare against another Florida native. Smaller than brown bears and polar bears, black bears are not...

How does a furry bear battle with an armor plated set of tooth lined jaws?! The gator has one vulnerable area. Flipped on its back, it's soft belly is exposed. How would a bear know that's where to attack?

I see things like this, and like the question at the end, "How would a bear know this?" It's like how do birds and whales migrate without a GPS? Who taught male penguins to keep the egg warm by holding it on their feet and settling down on it? (We watched the start of "Happy Feet" last night.) That's not "evolution." That's GOD!

From: Sheila 7/22/08

Live your life in such a way that when your feet hit the floor in the morning, Satan shudders and says... 'Oh crap... She's [or He's] awake!!'

"And take the high road. There's less traffic."

Leonard Pitts, Jr.

Crimson & White Connection

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Aug 26, 2009

The Professor and the Chalk
Top 10 Devotionals
What will you do?

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

If you are forwarding or
mailing this, it needs a 1st
class stamp for 1 ounce.

Someone PRAYED for YOU and mentioned YOU before God's throne
as this was prepared for mailing. God bless and watch over you today.

www.CrimsonWhite.org for back issues and other stuff

**A publication so dangerous it now
comes with a warning label.**

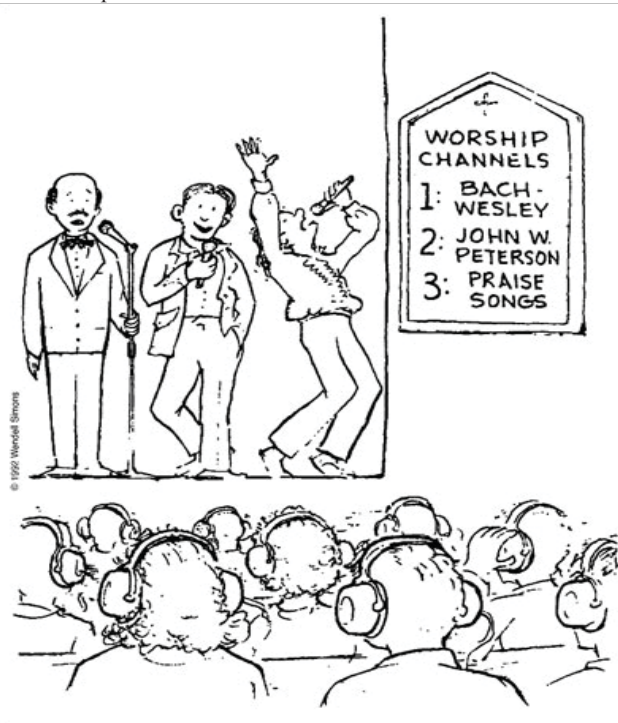
Yes! This is a subversive, challenging, counter-
culture publication. That's what Christianity is - a
counter-culture. This should have a warning label.

WARNING

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

**GRACE
CAN ERASE
ALL YOUR
MESS**

This Week's Cartoon Tuesday, June 02, 2009 Cartoonist: Wen-
dell Simons, 1992. International/BuildingChurchLeaders.com.
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**No
matter
your
"style,"
JOIN
together
in
worship.**