

Crimson & White Connection

A ministry of encouragement to "High School, College, & Singles" and now primarily "adults" about morals, values, and the Christian life

Values & Character + Spiritual Life + Relationships + some Fun stuff

Resources and some old back issues available at www.CrimsonWhite.org

WARNING

Do not read this 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.

Crimson & White? What's this?

It started with 37 college students. in 1998. Now, in the 23rd year of issues, less than 10% of the mailing list are "students" ages 14 to 24. About 40% are ... we'll just say "over 30" in the database, including several 80+ers. About 1/3 of our over ~900 print copies go into prisons in 24 states (9/1/20 count), a direction we never expected this to go. But "the spiritual life," and values are not age or marital status or gender or life situational specific, they are universal. -- Topics are character, values, spiritual life - "walk the walk, not just talk the talk" - relationships and more ... and some fun.

The theology position is "conservative," i.e. Jesus is God's only Son, eternal, born of a virgin, sinless, crucified, died, 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. Jesus said it comes down to 'love God and love your neighbor' (Matthew 22:37-40).

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 (John 14:6). If you admit that you can not reach God's standard, are repentant and sorry for your short fall (sin) and rebellion against Him 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?

You WILL BE and ARE a slave! But you can CHOOSE your master! CHOOSE God today. John 3:16 is true. Accept no substitute!

January 18, 2022 - v25n01 Shine

By Dr. Richard R. Dymmel, Ed.D., (c) 2005, 2006, edit. 2022

2022. A "new year" has begun. We're not big on "New Year's Resolutions." But ...

And it even raises a question about 'Just when IS the start of a year?' - 'Another year could be considered to be May 19th. That's my birthday. This coming May 19th will start year number 77 ... Gee, I'm getting 'old'! ... At least by some perspectives. - And then there is the Jewish New Year, and the Chinese New Year, and...

The Bible is 'old.' Thousands of years old. But it's content is still relevant.

A few years back I bought a copy of Shine, a book by the Newsboys (2002, Whitaker House). (They were a popular 'Contemporary Christian group' a few years ago. The physical rough edges, the burgundy print, the layout, the occasional quotations, ... and being on a super-sale, all attracted me to get it, as well as what the content may be. It following the theme of one of the songs they are known for: "Shine: make 'em wonder what you got. Make 'em wish that they were not On the outside lookin' bored (I always thought the words here were "On the outside lookin for it"). Shine, let it shine before all men, Let 'em see good works and then, Let 'em glorify the Lord."

But now I ask you to think about that a minute... How can you "shine"? What is required to "shine"? What do you need to "shine"?

Let's get back to "shine." ... (p.46-47) "There's a reason that "Shine" comes before "Make them wonder" in the title. It is a truth we often forget or ignore: We can't make people wonder about Christ if our light isn't first shining. We can't make them wonder what we've got if we haven't got it! So when Christ says, "Let your light shine," (Matt 5:16) He's saying, in essence, "Remember who the Light is. Let Me shine through you."

What sets you apart? Are you doing "good works"? - I admit it, I haven't gone and worked on a disaster relief team. I have encouraged some to go. I've promoted it. I've promoted and gone to and taken men and students to events like Promise Keepers and to Alex McFarland's "Truth For a New Generation" conferences. (Look that up on the web, they are great weekends!)

Now "good works" won't save you. But out of gratitude to God, He has asked you to be set apart. Be different. - Out of 5000 students at Wake Forest University, 100 went to do disaster relief work in the Gulf area after a hurricane (2006?). And when you do "good works" people do notice. Sometimes it may make the 10 o'clock FOX News or the newspaper. Most times not. But people do see what you do. And God sees.

If you have a light in you, Jesus in you, do you "hide it"? Let your light shine! - When I taught 'Wood Shop' one of the 'bigger projects' students could make was a table (I had pictures and dimensions) that I made as a copy of a table I saw at the Henry Ford Museum. It is a stand for a candle. And as the tall candle burns down, you can raise the table top so it remains high to shed light around the room, or bring it down low next to your chair where you might be reading a book..

Matthew 5:15-16 (KJV) Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

"People living in a culture where what is true and real has been trivialized will welcome an authentic manifestation of the life of Christ when it is communicated consistently and with love so that the difference is inescapable" (*Shine*, p.43-44). If you really like Fords or Chevys or a particular brand of clothes... I can't tell you how much kids wear A&F logo clothes, or a couple of my students talked about their cars. (Now, I tell people about our Volvos.) If you have Jesus, shouldn't that truth be even more important?! Standing at the crosswalk on campus, when I used to teach at a university, in the morning, I'd see a couple kids with shirts with some kind of Christian message. I've seen a couple stand up in front of hundreds of peers and tell what Jesus has done in their lives. Not just a candle... a torch. And when you put a bright light in a dark room, some will turn away. But others will be curious as to what the light is all about.

So, #1 is to GET the Light. And #2 is to let your light SHINE!

In Christ, Rich & Marie

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. Or a Chaplain or pastor. Or write us, or an email at RDymmel@aol.com. - With God, even if you have gone the opposite direction, you have never gone too far to turn around.



(Roger Bothwell's stuff is used with permission)

- Spring of Life -

H. Roger Bothwell (1960 - 2020)

Be Careful Who You Trust

#50 for 2006 www.religionworld.org/dd/archiv20/5169.htm

Selective Memories

Have you ever been accused of having a selective memory? If so, it was likely justified because most of us conveniently forget embarrassing details of past escapades. We only remember the good things we have done and even enhance them a bit. Lest we become righteously indignant over the idea of intellectual dishonesty let me share a wonderful verse from Hebrews 10:16 and 17. God said, "This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, said the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them; and their sins and iniquities will I remember no more."

In Psalm 25 David even prays for God to exercise selective memory. There are certain things he wants to be sure God remembers and others he wants to make sure God does not remember. "Remember, O LORD, thy tender mercies and thy loving kindnesses; for they have been ever of old. Remember not the sins of my youth, nor my transgressions: according to thy mercy remember thou me for thy goodness' sake, O LORD."

God apparently has no difficulty in putting certain events to rest. Since we are striving to become more and more like Him each day it seems we too should exercise selective memory. It is the key to a happy life. In Psalm 51: 9 David prayed, "Hide thy face from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities." When things are blotted out they can no longer be read. They are covered. When God's grace smothers us with love the bad stuff goes away.

There's

only



God DOES allow U-turns.



Yield to Him



Coming up **January 21st** is **National Hug Day**. Also started in 1986. Jesus was a "hugger." Read Mark 10:13-16 (TM); "gathering the children up in his arms..." You can learn more about his celebration by going to http://www.geocities.com/hugging_whining/ (Whiner's Day and National Hug Day are copyrighted. Anyone is free to celebrate these events. If money is being made from these events, the copyright holder reserves the right to negotiate a royalty fee.)

- Spring of Life -

H. Roger Bothwell June 23, 1960 - April 27, 2020

#46 for 2006 www.religionworld.org/dd/archiv20/5165.htm

EZ Pass

I love my EZ Pass. In the east we have lots of toll roads. Every few miles we have to stop and pay. Sometimes on holidays the lines are long and we inch to the tollbooth. But there is EZ Pass, a wonderful electronic device on the windshield that lets you bypass the long lines. You zip through the Fast Lane and the computer automatically charges your credit card. It's sort of like Monopoly. You pass "Go" and proceed right to jail where you can immediately pay and get right out.

I used to worry about God's Judgment. It was the place where I was going to have to pay. I would have to listen to all my sins being read from some horrible record book totally shaming me before everyone I knew. Then I had to wait to see if I was going to be lucky enough to receive God's grace. But I found John 5:24. Listen to this. "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that hears my word, and believes on him that sent me, has everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life."

Isn't that grand? It's like having an EZ Pass. There will be no waiting in line. We believe Jesus. We accept His offer and we do not come to condemnation. The moment we accept Jesus we pass from death to life. This is even better than an EZ Pass. There is no charge to my credit card. Jesus paid for it. Don't you just love the Gospel? This is such good news.

#41 for 2006 www.religionworld.org/dd/archiv20/5160.htm

The Banquet Table in Heaven is Round

Evening television is full of competition programs. We have the Winter Olympics, American Idol, Dancing with the Stars, Skating with Celebrities and of course Jeopardy and Wheel of Fortune that never go away. Each program features lots of losers. Watching brings back a host of memories of personal competitions and less than stellar results. We live in a competitive world and win-win situations are rare and far between.

I have seen family situations where children had to compete for their parent's love and approval. There is tremendous pain when one feels like they do not measure up or are not worthy of their parent's affection. The psychological damage of such relationships lasts a lifetime. So many adults still long to hear "I love you" from their parents. It doesn't matter how old we grow. It doesn't go away.

I have great news regarding our heavenly Father. We do not have to compete for His love. He has no favorites. Your pastor has no advantage. Those who gave their lives in martyrdom have no advantage. Sister Teresa has no advantage. "God is no respecter of persons." Acts 10:34. The banquet table in heaven is round. There are no high price and no nosebleed seats. Every seat was incredibly expensive and Jesus picked up the tab.

It is grand to live a fruitful life but your fruit occurs not because you are wonderful but because you are grafted into a wonderful vine. See John 15. If you sometimes feel worthless and can't make a list of people you have brought to Jesus, don't for a moment think God loves Billy Graham more than He loves you.

"When I accepted Christ, I became a part of the best family ever. It is a family with unconditional love -- the family of Christ" -- Stephanie H. Age 23. (p.61)

"Sometimes I still have to think about it before I speak, but now my words represent who I am -- a child of God." -- Jody D., Age 14. (p.113)

Dear God, there is a hole inside of me that I fill with all the wrong things. Your Word says that I am valuable to You. It says that You can see the hurts of my heart and have compassion. Help me to turn to You when I hurt. Let me find my self-worth in Your presence. Thank You that You are my Heavenly Father. (p.137)

"Hopefully we can show that we're different from what people expect, and that after that we might be able to actually show them what Christianity is truly like: a relationship with God, not just some cultural group that does certain activities, listens to certain music, and disrespects everybody else." -- Matt W., Age 17. (p.152)

Quoted from *Real Teens, Real Stories, Real Life* by T. Suzanne Eller. 2002.
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Dick Innes, ACTS International (Daily and Weekend Encounters)
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I walked into a Religious Education classroom in a public school in Australia and with tongue-in-cheek wrote in large letters across the blackboard: "I hate religion"

"Man, in this class, you'll get shot," gasped one student in amazement.

"But I'm sold on real Christianity," I responded.

"Well, what's the difference?" several chorused.

"Let me explain," I replied.

God's Purpose

True, Christianity is a religion, but people can be religious without being Christians. Christ condemned the religious Pharisees of his day because they hid their real selves behind a facade of religion and external morality.

It may sound odd, but God isn't into religion or external morality. He's into relationships and reality. That is, he wants us not only to have a right relationship with him, but also with each other and with ourselves. And he wants us to be real—to see and admit what we truly are so he can help us.

Neither is it God's goal to make us good. It's to make us whole, for only to the degree that we are made whole will our actions, lifestyle, and relationships be wholesome!

Religion tends to want to fix us from the outside in. God wants to fix us from the inside out. The first can become an impossible burden. The latter is what brings freedom. Christianity is not a set of rules and regulations. It is experiencing divine love, divine acceptance and divine forgiveness.

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, and say, "*I just asked Jesus to be my Lord.*"

To subscribe, FREE, and get several issues of the Crimson & White Connection all year long, contact RDymmel@aol.com or at 4401 Wild Oak Ln, Greensboro NC 27406 U.S.A. (The C&WC goes to several countries, from Australia to Sweden.)

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:

4401 Wild Oak Lane, Greensboro, NC 27406-8306

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

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