

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 old back issues available at www.CrimsonWhite.org

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

Crimson & White? What's this?

It started with 37 college students. in 1998. Now, in the 26th 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 (9/1/21 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!

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.

Oct 22, 2023 v26n07 (It's Oct., this is only #7 this year. I'm behind!)

A Return

© 6/00, 3/05, 10/22 Dr. Richard R. Dymmel, BS, MA, MA, EdD

The bible says that in many ways we are like sheep. Sheep are followers. I heard that if sheep are going through an opening in a fence and there is a bar that they have to jump over, that after the first few have jumped the bar, you can remove the bar and the rest will also jump over the bar, even though it isn't there any more.

An experiment was done where instructions were given to a group of teenagers to select the longest line on a card held up to the group. All but one had been told earlier that they were to always select the *second longest* line. The test was whether the *one* person would submit to peer pressure and agree, even when the group was wrong. In *every case*, with dozens of teenagers, the one went along with the group even though the group was wrong.

If a shepherd counts and finds a sheep missing, he'll go looking for it. When he finds it, he returns it to the safety of the sheepfold and celebrates. That's the picture of "the good shepherd" in the Bible (Matt 18:12-14). That's one picture of Jesus and us.

But there's another side of the relationship, too. We aren't sheep; we're people. Sheep are dumb animals. They can't reason and do get lost. You and I *can* think, reason, and we make *choices* ... and we "get lost."

In the story in Luke 15:11-32, when the one son *decided* to leave home (the sheep didn't decide, it just got lost or trapped), the father *let* him go. He waited, watching the road, hoping, day after day, that the son would *decide* to return. We know he was watching 'cause the story says he saw him coming a long way off. -- When the son *decided* to return, the father RAN down the road to meet him before he had even reached home. He threw a party to celebrate his return. For the father to "run" it meant picking up his long robe and in very undignified manner in that culture, RUN to meet the child that was returning. There's a song that talks about how "God ran" to meet him. [Phillips, Craig & Dean, 1999, "When God Ran"]

As a person with the freedom to choose, you and I choose every day, multiple times a day whether to stay with Jesus or to leave. Whether to follow the group; and which group. Whether to take a drink or not; to smoke pot or not. How far to go sexually. Whether to pick up that magazine. Whether to go to Sunday School or stay home. Whether to pay attention to the preacher. Whether to sneak out of the house when we're grounded. Whether to have an abortion. To keep the excess change. Whether to

If we chose to leave Jesus and His standard for our life, we can choose to return. If we return, He is waiting, watching, eager for our return. He won't come get us and drag us back. We have to decide to come to Him. - I can tell you stories of people I know that "chose paths that led DOWN... until they reached "bottom" before they CHOSE to turn to God. - drugs, jail, ...

I picture a farm house back in Washington Township, Michigan called the Octagon House, built in 1860. It had been part of the "underground railway" for slaves. It was a two-story octagon (unusual rooms) with a center spiraling staircase that went up three stories to a glassed in landing where they could look out across the fields and see for a mile or so, watching for anyone coming. I imagine Jesus watching out those upper windows for anyone coming across the field. When he sees one of us returning, He comes *running* down the stairs, *SHOUTING*, "*Out of my way! They're coming back! They're coming back! I'm going to meet them!*" Angels scatter to get out of His way as He runs out the door, the screen door slams open hitting the wall as He bursts through, across the porch and out into the field to meet us as we return. -- If you decided to leave, even for a little while, He eagerly awaits your return.

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 336-908-3652. Or call 1-888-NEED-HIM. -- With God, you have never gone too far to return.



Daily Encounter ~ Thursday, March 17, 2005
 Know God: http://www.Got-God.net/know_god1.htm
www.ACTSweb.org Store: www.actscm.com/store

By Richard (Dick) Innes. Published and (c)
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Today's Daily Encounter

I Have a Problem

"But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, 'God, have mercy on me, a sinner'" (Luke 18:13, NIV).

A man went to visit a psychiatrist, or so the story goes, and said, "Doc, I've got two problems." The psychiatrist said, "Okay, tell me all about it." The man began, "Well, first of all, I think I am a Coca-Cola Machine."

The psychiatrist sat the man down and started therapy. For weeks, he gave it his best shot but nothing seemed to help. Finally, out of exasperation, the psychiatrist jumped up one day, took two quarters (25-cent pieces) out of his pocket, shoved them in the man's mouth, grabbed him by the ears and shook him till he swallowed them. Then he hollered, "Okay, now give me a Coke."

That's when the man said, "I can't, Doc. That's my second problem, I'm out of order."!

Jokes aside, the only people who have a problem that anyone can ever help, and the only ones that God can help are those who admit, "I have a problem. I need help. I'm out of order." As long as we blame anybody else for the way I react to situations, we will never overcome our problems. What others do to me is their issue. This is not to justify what they have done. However, how I respond is my responsibility. In other words, what bothers me is my problem and I need to resolve that.

Overcoming any problem means acknowledging that I have a problem, admitting what the problem is, seeking help to overcome it, and persistence to hang in until the problem is resolved.

Suggested prayer: "Dear God, whenever I have a problem, please give me the courage to admit it and then do something about overcoming it ... and lead me to the help I need so to do. Thank you for hearing and answering my prayer. Gratefully, in Jesus' name, amen."

1. Parables, Etc. Nov. '86, Submitted by Ed Rutherford, Cerritos Assembly, Cerritos, California.

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2. For help to be sure you're a real Christian without having to be religious click on: <http://www.actsweb.org/articles/article.php?i=2&d=1&c=1&p=1> (or cut and paste the URL in your browser).

"Jesus was either INSANE to die for what he said he was, a FRAUD to even say what he said, OR HE IS WHO HE SAID HE IS, the Son of God who can take away your sin and reconcile you to God"

God DOES answer prayers of His children. Sometimes He answers "Yes," sometimes "Not now," and sometimes "No." Sometimes He doesn't give us what we ask for because He knows better what we need.

God Answers Prayer

"Therefore, to keep me from being too elated, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me, to keep me from being too elated. Three times I appealed to the Lord about this, that it would leave me, but he said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness.'" So, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me." 2 Corinthians 12:7-9

We pray. We pray. We pray, always asking. Asking. Asking. Do you ever really seek to know the answer from God. Sometimes it is easy. Sometimes it is hard, especially when we would like a different answer.

Bill had just received the message that he was going to loose his job. He immediately prayed to God, asking God to provide for him. Thirty minutes later the phone rang and Bill was offered a 6-month temporary position! Not a permanent job, but God was giving Bill time to search for it! God is good!

Janet and Steve had been praying, asking God to help them move toward a tithe in their financial giving. Not long after that Janet lost her job. They soon looked at the math and without Janet's income, the amount of money they were giving to the church was . . . a tithe! Even though this was not the way that they had desired God to help them move to a tithe, they saw this as God's answer to their prayer. They continued to give the same amount, this time as a tithe! When Janet eventually got a job they continued to give the 10% of the new increased income! God is good!

The Apostle Paul desired to bring to the world the power and presence of God in Jesus Christ. I am sure that he prayed that he could be a vessel in which the power of God was made manifest. His prayer was answered! Even better, Paul recognized the answer! God made Paul weak, so that the power of God's grace would shine through him to the world . . . and it did! God is good!

Bringing It Home:

1. Do you just ask and ask in your prayer life and never take the time to see God's answers to your prayers? What keeps you from seeing God's answers?

2. When was the last time God answered a prayer in a different way than you wanted? Have you been able to accept that answer and to thank God for God's faithfulness to you?

Prayer: Lord, I thank you that you always hear my prayers. No matter what, I know you hear me. Please forgive me for not truly being open to see the answers which you daily provide. Grant me faith to see and faith to be patient and accepting of your care for me. Amen.

John A. Holm, Shepherd of the Lakes Church, Grayslake, IL
www.shepherdofthelakes.org
 Faith@Work March 8, 2005

IN THE NEWS.... Anxious to 'include' as many minorities, religions and disabilities as possible, the human resources department of the University of Alberta has put up a Braille poster outside its main office. The poster has been placed inside a display case with a glass front. [This is brought to you by the same geniuses who put Braille instructions on the drive up window at the bank.]