

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

To subscribe, FREE, and get several issues of the Crimson & White Connection all year long, contact us at RDymmel@aol.com or at 4401 Wild Oak Ln, Greensboro NC 27406 U.S.A. (The C&WC goes by email across 18 time zones from Australia to Sweden. And 1/3 of printed copies go into prisons)

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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 27th 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 ~980 print copies go into prisons in 24 states (1/1/24 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.

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School grades ... and Lessons – Almost an A

First written/printed: 10/9/2015 by Dr. Richard R. Dymmel, Ed.D

True story. -- After I finished my Doctorate, I still liked school and learning. I had decided to take a couple classes that looked interesting. -- Exams over, I stopped by the professor's office to see how I'd done. I had pulled out a 97.7%, an A, and an 89.5%, a B+. The Geometry class was the easier one. The History of Mathematics, was (a) not logical problem solving and (b) often required calculus and stuff I hadn't done since before I went in the Army in 1967! When I stopped at the professor's office to pick up the last assignments I had turned in and see if he had posted the grades, he was in. We talked for a while. He said, "I don't have the grades posted yet, but I can show you. ... A 97.7%, that's an A. ... and an 89.5%, that's a B+."

"Gee, doesn't 89.5 round off to 90?" (90% would be an A.)

He said, "I don't round off. You have to have the 90%. You were close. You had 537 points in the tests and assignments out of 600 and that's 89.5%. If I gave grades subjectively, every bright student like you and every cute girl would get an A. So it has to be strictly mathematical."

"Well, mathematically, shouldn't the .5 round up to the closest even number, 90%? That's just standard math rules for rounding and it is a math class," I said with a smile.

He just laughed and repeated, "I don't round off." -- I wasn't going to get the A. He made the rule. I had to accept it. ... I was only 3! points away, 3! out of 600!, from getting an A. Only 3 points kept me from having a perfect 4.0! But "Close only counts in horseshoes, hand grenades, bocce ball, and nuclear war," is what I always tell my students when I teach math. But a B+ is probably a truer reflection of my worth in that class. Even the A in Geometry isn't really a perfect 4.0. I only got 97.7%, 586 out of the 600 possible.

The spiritual life is like that. No matter how hard we try, we just don't measure up. Even if we're pretty good, it's not good enough. We fall short. [Rom 3:23 - NKJV - all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.] ("...God's glorious standard" - NLT)] We get the B+. Even if we're really good at one thing, 97.7%, we aren't perfect. In *this* world, we may even get that 4.0 grade for being 90%, have great looks, great body shape, have the team record for points scored, be valedictorian, ..., whatever. But we're not perfect.

I know some really good looking kids who are really smart academically (4.0+ GPA), or are athletically gifted. As time passes, they may (some have) make bad moral choices, the 4.0 GPA may fall off, ... all the outward characteristics will lose their perfection. But inner beauty ... Many times I've said, "When they smile, they just change 1000%." "That one's adoptable." "A sweetheart." (Remember "Are you a sweetheart?" 9/99 issue.) Goodness of character and personality and behavior and self-confidence is so much more beautiful and attractive, even sexier than just looks or abilities without character (when you're old enough you realize self-confidence is really sexy). Attitude

(the right kind) + self-confidence + a smile
= sexy; not just tight shorts (guys and girls).
– Would you want a great looking star athlete, model, or cheerleader who treats you like you are invisible, or an average person physically who smiles, is pleasant, bright, you can trust, and who treats you special? Character is important!

It has been said: **“I cannot tell you how wonderful it is to have kids with good hearts. The world has enough smart people. We need more good people”** (DR. LAURA SCHLESSINGE)

But how do we measure up? When we compare ourselves to God’s standard, we can’t quite reach 100%. We may even be great in one area, even 100%, but God requires perfection in all areas. If perfection is the standard, and we can’t meet it, why even try? The answer is, we make it based on Jesus’ righteousness. “For whosoever believes on Him, shall not perish but have everlasting life” (John 3:16). We make the grade based on His purity, holiness, and person. We try to live in holiness and purity out of gratefulness for the future He has provided. It’s our “thank you note” to God for all He will and has provided. -- The thief on the cross next to Jesus, he was far from “perfect.” But he acknowledged who Jesus was. And what did Jesus say to him? ... (Luke 23:41-43 KJV) 41And we indeed justly; for we receive the due reward of our deeds: but this man hath done nothing amiss. 42And he said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom. 43And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise. [He didn’t speak the “King’s English, that’s just the KJV of the Greek which was the translation of the Aramic Jesus probably would have spoken. - Some people get all caught up in ‘which Bible translation.’] He hadn’t gotten a 10 year perfect attendance pin from the Temple; he was a convicted thief sentenced to death!

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 336-908-3652. 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 Christ, Rich

“The plan is progress ... not perfection.”

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(Based on notes from listening to Chuck Swindoll and some late-night TV)

Philippians 3:12-16 Forgetting what lies behind – leave it, don’t look back, focus on looking forward; past achievements and past failures are lessons learned.

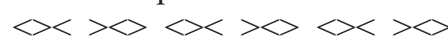
I once heard an interview with a student who said that once their GPA had fallen below a 4.0, since they weren’t perfect, they felt like they didn’t have any standard to uphold anymore. So they were drinking, doing pot, having casual sex, ... “Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase?” (Rom 6:1)

Well, we can’t be perfect. No one is. I’m sure not. You can’t be. But we can be pretty good. On “Sally” the other night they brought back “tough teens” from previous shows. One girl said, ‘I’m making progress. You can’t do this in one big step.’ She, age 15, had been sleeping with a 25 year old guy. Her mother said, ‘She now has her 18 year old boyfriend sleeping over and admits to having unprotected sex at home.’ ‘Well, isn’t that progress? At least he’s closer to my age and I stay at home.’ Another girl there on stage said to her, ‘No. You have to make a clean break. What you’re doing is stupid and dangerous and wrong! You won’t ever make it by trying to change gradually.’

If you know what is right, and you’re doing what you know is wrong, you have to want to stop and turn around, that is called repentance. In a courtroom, a judge would not consider repentant a thief who would say, “I’ll improve a little. I’ll start making progress by stealing less expensive stuff.” If you’re repentant, you try to not do it at all. You might fail, but you want to try to have a real change.

Like, if you want to jump across a small chasm, you can’t make it if your plan is to try to do it in two leaps. Even if your leap only gets you to the edge of the other side and you have to grab rocks and branches and begin to pull yourself up... there are probably people on the other side that will reach out and help you, too. -- The alcoholic can’t stop gradually. -- The alcoholic may “fall off the wagon” but he tries again and again because they know what is good for them, even if they occasionally fail. They don’t plan on failing, it might just happen. Our “old nature” still tries to drag us back. It is an ongoing struggle. - - Know what? The longer you struggle, the farther you get away from the “old ways” and the easier the “new way” gets.

Have you made a “leap of faith”?



We could learn a lot from crayons:
some are sharp, some are pretty,
some are dull, some have weird names,
and all are different colors.... but
they all exist very nicely in the same box.