## Crimson & White Connection

A ministry of prayer and encouragement to "High School, College, & Singles" (& others, too) on Values + Character + Relationships + the Christian Life

Now resources and some back issues available at www.CrimsonWhite.org

The C&WC is produced and funded through Crimson & White Ministries, Inc., a nonprofit corporation, supported only by contributions. 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 60% of the mailing list are college students, 20% middle and high school, and 10% are age 22 to 30, and we'll just leave ages unsaid for the last 10% 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.

This letter and post cards are sent about twice a month. We're trying to say that <u>you</u> are <u>important enough</u> for us to put this in your mailbox. We care about you and want to encourage your character growth and your spiritual walk.

A second part of the ministry is prayer. We pray for each person on our mailing list as the mail is prepared. When you get mail from us, you know someone prayed for <u>you</u>.

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!

#### Feb 10, 2006 Those ol' love questions

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

Hey you know what's just around the corner... Valentine's Day. And what is scary... or maybe sad, about Valentine's Day? ...Have you gone to the www.CrimsonWhite.org web site and downloaded the Valentine card, printed them out, and tried to give them away? It's not

What if I climbed that mountain, what if I swam to that shore, What if every battle was victorious then would you love me more? Would you love me more? What if I were everyone's first choice, what if I went farther than before, What if I stood higher than the rest then would You love me more? Would You love me more?

You say I belong to you apart from the things I do. You say I belong to you, I'm in awe of why You do, why You do, Why You do, I'm in awe of You.

What if I ignored the hand that fed me, what if I forgot to confess, what if I stumbled down that mountain, then would You love me less? Lord would You love me less?

What if I were everyone's last choice, what if I mixed in with the rest, what if I failed what I passed before, then would You love me less, Lord would You love me less? oh no oh no oh no.

You say I belong to you apart from the things I do. You say I belong to you, I'm in awe of why You do. You do, You do, You do.

What have I done - to deserve Your Son, sent to die for me? What can I give, I want to live, give me eyes to see. In a world that keeps changin' there's one thing that I know is true: Your love is stayin', there's nothing else I'll hold on to.

("What If" from Jadon Lavik's CD: Moving On Faith)

too late. I even use it AFTER valentine's Day by asking, "Did you get too many Valentine cards?" ... Know what's sad? So far this year I already had someone say to me, "I probably won't get any cards. Since my husband died two years ago... (pause) Well, maybe I'll get one from my grandchildren." ... I remember last year after Valentine's, more than one person respond with, "I didn't get any Valentines." "Oh, I'm sorry. Can give you a Valentine card? :-)" "Sure :-)."

How do we get someone to love us? Tony Evans today on the radio (www.TonyEvans.org) said too many single people are "looking for marriage" and what they should be doing is (a) looking for love and (b) working on looking for being lovable. They need to stop trying to FIND the right person and focus on BEING the right kind of person. Michelle McKinney Hammond in her books also talks about being the right kind of person.

In Ravi Zacharias' message (tape, and I assume also in his book), "I, Issaic, Take You Rebecca," he tells of how his brother asked their father to pick a wife for him. No, even though their family is from India, they were part of this U.S. culture, and this was like 1975. The first time he SAW her was at the wedding ceremony. - "How can you know you will love her?" "Because I have decided I will love her." ... Love is a DECISION.

So how about you? I love you. And some of you I've never met. And some I have met... and I love ya anyway... maybe I shouldn't say that... Some have been disappointing... but, well, what the heck, I still love ya. I don't know why God put you in my path, whether you are someone I've met face-to-face, by being on the mailing list, by being on someone else's mailing list that gets this, or maybe years from now if this gets into a book form and you're reading that

Someone who was near the end of a drug rehab program said, "You know what made the difference? It was because a couple people didn't preach at me, didn't yell at me... but it was because they wouldn't let me go. They just wouldn't let me go. They showed me that they cared. That's why I'm going to Heaven now instead of Hell. Because I know you cared.' - The person telling me this story said, "Ya know what that reminded me of? That old saying 'They don't care how much you know until they know how much you care.'" - That caring is

From the mailbox (Letters may be slightly edited to remove

some personal content and identifying stuff. We won't blab your name or email address.) Your letters and notes encourage us, too. Rich

[As with a lot of "forwarded email" the original source gets lost. So for some of these the original source is unknown, so I can't give proper credits for those.]

[Responses to the daily morning e-devotional. Have you thought about trying it? Just send an email to rdymmel@aol.com and say, "try daily please."]

Subject: Re: 02/06/06 Mon -- First... **Date:** 2/7/2006 **From:** tryhard @ .com

Hey Mr. D! Lauren here... I just wanted to say this email made my day the best day I've had in a while! I walked into school yesterday with the biggest smile on my face. I couldn't stop smiling! I want to thank you for those words of peace. I love this daily devotional email system you have going and I LOVE the magazines! You are a very inspirational writer and a great one at that! Thanks so much for your help!

| Lauren |  |
|--------|--|
|        |  |

Lauren, thank YOU for your email. That is such an encouragement to ME. Dr. D.

**Subject: RE: Thoughts Date:** 1/13/2006 From: MD @ .edu To: RDymmel@aol.com Rich,

Actually, I want to thank you for sending those thoughts to me. I've loved reading them the past few days and a couple specific parts have stuck with me in particular. God is speaking through them when I'm concentrating on him and he's bringing a few things to light. This weekend I'm going on a retreat with a Saturday night ministry group, meaning this whole weekend will be focused on God and away from the "world". I really can't wait to spend that time with my

creator. You know, something hit me a little bit ago and I

think I should share it with you. God made a simple, but very awesome statement to me, [Underline emphasis is added] that the whole purpose of my life is to be one big worship service, with me being the most insignificant part. And if at the end of the day I can look back and see God's work and see that I worshiped him, then it has been a great day, despite any other part. I know it's very simple and infant, but it really hit me and for some reason I felt that I should share it with you. I'm finding out that the very basic things are sometimes the hardest to grasp. Anyway, I have to run to a meeting. Thank you again and I look forward to continuing

MD

to read your "thoughts"

Someone who had their 105th birthday was asked what is one thing that is great about being 105 years old. They replied, "No peer pressure."

a decision the person made. They were going to care. They were going to love that person because God made them and loved them.

So how about YOU? - How about YOU and GOD? - I've been thinking about the lyrics to the song by Jadon Lavik, "What If." What can you do to make God love you more? We all want to be loved. I know people that have done things just so someone would pay attention to them, give them attention, or love them. What can you do to get God to love you? ... Nothing! He loves you because He decided to love you! "First we were loved, now we love. He loved us first." (1John 4:19 The Message) "We love him, because he first loved us." (KJV) God loved you FIRST. It doesn't say "he loved us because we loved him" or "he loved us because we did such good stuff." In fact, we, you and I, weren't good. And God so loved us that He gave us Jesus to pay the penalty so He wouldn't have to spend eternity without me/you. Wow! That's love. And when I mess up, fail a test I passed before, am not as great or good as someone else, it's okay. He forgives, welcomes us

How many times can I mess up and be forgiven? It says, "seven times seventy" (Matthew 18:22) times we are to forgive each other. Seven represents the perfect number, so seventy is obviously more, and multiplied is tantamount to infinity. And that is for US. How much more capable than that is an infinite God?

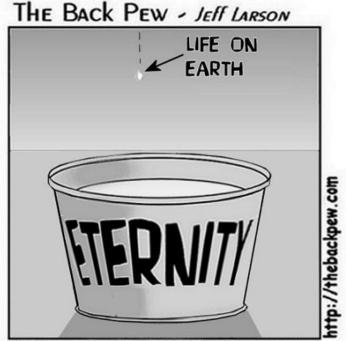
So back to the question of love... What does it take to be loved by God? Nothing. He already does, you can't stop Him, there's nothing you can do about it. All you can do is accept it or not.

So what are ya gonna do?

#### 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. -

## Keep things in perspective...



Our time on earth is a DROP IN THE BUCKET OF ETERNITY .. so live with eternity in mind.

It has been suggested that my style of (usually) short articles, single paragraph thoughts often, are ideal for young people today - TV (the most complex mysteries can be resolved and solved in 60 minutes, including 20 minutes of commercials) - Post-modern culture wants to not necessarily reason but experience it. - - I like that because I think I am probably ADHD. My brain switches gears often, I change thoughts, change opinions, hold multiple opinions simultaneously, don't concentrate on one thing for long, etc., ... Does that make me a post-modern, ADD, teenager? ... But I don't want to be a teenager! Been there! Done that! Don't want to go back! (all though I wouldn't mind going back to being 36 again, ... those were pretty good years... but I'm looking forward to hopefully retiring and not "working" a job but "working" at this)

So I was looking for stuff to use, and I was looking for "Valentine Day or "love" stuff and ran across just a bunch of stuff. So here goes....

LoveQuote [ To a few younger readers, you may not even recognize some of these names, but I hope you get the idea. ]

Infatuation is when you think he's as sexy as Robert Redford, as smart as Henry Kissinger, as noble as Ralph Nader, as funny as Woody Allen, and as athletic as Jimmy Conners.

Love is when you realize that he's as sexy as Woody Allen, as smart as Jimmy Connors, as funny as Ralph Nader, as athletic as Henry Kissinger and nothing like Robert Redford -but you'll take him anyway.

- Judith Viorst

[ This is from the math teacher in me... ] Love is like pi — natural, irrational, and VERY important. - Lisa Hoffmann

Love is a snowmobile racing across the tundra and then suddenly it flips over, pinning you underneath. At night, the ice weasels come.

- Matt Groening, Life in Hell

Absence diminishes small loves and increases great ones, as the wind blows out the candle and blows up the bonfire.

- La Rochefoucauld

Nothing takes the taste out of peanut butter quite like unrequited love. - Charlie Brown

Love is a fire. But whether it is going to warm your hearth or burn down your house, you can never tell.

- Joan Crawford

[Maybe you can't tell for sure, but you know when some things are wrong and some things are good.]

Love is a perky elf dancing a merry little jig and then suddenly he turns on you with a miniature machine gun. - Matt Groening

Love is the gross exaggeration of the difference between one person and everyone else.

- George Bernard Shaw

#### REDNECK ODE TO HIS VALENTINE

Kudzu is green, my dog's name is Blue And I'm so lucky to have a sweet thang like you.

Yore hair is like cornsilk A-flapping in the breeze. Softer than Blue's And without all them fleas.

You move like the bass, Which excite me in May. You ain't got no scales But I luv you anyway.

You're as graceful as okry Jist a-dancin' in the pan. Yo're as fragrant as SunDrop Right out of the can.

You have all yore teeth, For which I am proud; I hold my head high When we're in a crowd.

On special occasions, When you shave yore armpits, Well, I'm in hawg heaven, I'm plumb outta my wits.

Yo're as strong as a four-wheeler Racin' through the mud, Yet fragile as that sanger Named Naomi Judd.

Yo're as cute as a junebug A-buzzin' overhead. You ain't mean like no far ant Upon which I oft' tread.

When you hold me real tight Like a padded gunrack, My life is complete; Ain't nuttin' I lack.

Yore complexion, it's perfection, Like the best vinyl sidin'. Despite all the years, Yore age, it keeps hidin'. And when you get old Like a '57 Chevy, Won't put you on blocks And let grass grow up heavy.

Me 'n' you's like a Moon Pie With a RC cold drank, We go together Like a skunk goes with stank.

Some men, they buy chocolate For Valentine's Day; They git it at Wal-Mart, It's romantic that way.

Some men git roses On that special day From the cooler at Kroger. "That's impressive," I say.

Some men buy fine diamonds From a flea market booth. "Diamonds are forever," They explain, suave and couth.

But for this man, honey, These will not do. For you are too special, You sweet thang you.

I got you a gift, Without taste nor odor, Better than diamonds it's a new ridin' mower.



VALENTINES DAY at Euphoria Elementary got out of hand resulting in the suspension of 'Cupid' for violating the ... No Weapons policy, ... the Dress Code, and ... his candy hearts were deemed to be a controlled substance (sugar).

The "theme" started on page 1 was that of God loves you anyway. You can't do anything like being better, being someone that might get picked first, and *that* would make Him love you more. And if you pass "the test" once and then fail the test the next time, He won't love you less. This radio comment by Professor Bothwell talks to the "old nature," the "zombie" that just won't die.

http://www.religionworld.org/dd/archiv20/5147.htm
February 2006 - Professor Bothwell's comments are heard on KLOVE radio. Go to www.KLOVE.com and find an affiliate station in your area and listen to upbeat, encouraging, Contemporary Christian Music.
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#### - Spring of Life -

#### H. Roger Bothwell Death of The Zombie

It is so easy to think the Christian walk is a yearlong list of New Year's resolutions. We make a list of our moral defects and then work on eliminating them one by one. As we check them off we think we are doing better. The problem is Jesus never asks us to get better. Instead He asks us to totally kill off the old inside guy. Note II Corinthians 5:17, "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." When checking other passages like Romans 6:1-4 it becomes quite plain that Jesus is not looking for an improved us. He is looking for a new us.

Then there is the reality of the zombie-like nature of the old man. He just keeps coming back to life. In Romans 6:6 Paul speaks of the death of the old man of sin in us. Yet in chapter 7 he speaks of not doing the good he wants to do and doing the evil he doesn't want to do. Chapter 8:1 is so encouraging. There is no condemnation if we are in Jesus. By God's grace today we kill the old man. Tomorrow the zombie is back. We kill him again day after day after day. The good news is all the time this is happening we are safely in Jesus' hands. We are not in the kingdom and out and in and out. We are in and He, who very well knows our struggles, claims us as His own. But will it always be this way? No. I Corinthians 15 assures us someday this corruption will put on incorruption and when that happens we shall never see the zombie again.

I'm Roger Bothwell and my address is <a href="mailto:roger.bothwell@verizon.net">roger.bothwell@verizon.net</a> or 151 Old Farm Rd. Leominster, MA 01453. Thank you for your support of our faith ministry.

#### **BOYCOTT HELL!!!!!!**

http://www.religionworld.org/dd/archiv20/5132.htm January 2006 - Reprinted with permission

#### - Spring of Life -

# H. Roger Bothwell Looking The Wrong Way

I had an opportunity today to spend some time in a kindergarten. The children were assembled in a circle on a carpet while the teacher read them a book about polar bears. She asked questions about each picture before going on to the next page. One little guy insisted on sitting backwards. When the teacher asked him if he saw the picture he responded, "Nope." I thought, "Of course he can't see it. He's looking the wrong way."

I have some friends who are having a hard time with life. They tell me they just don't have time for church because they have too much going on to add another thing. They work hard. They read self help books. Despite reading the latest from pop psychiatrists things still seem pretty messed up. My diagnosis is this they are looking the wrong way. They are looking in the wrong books. They should be reading Dr. Luke and especially Dr. Paul. Luke was a physician and Paul certainly could have a doctorate from any prestigious university.

Paul understood that most of us look at the wrong things. He wrote, "While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal." If we want to see the picture we have to look in the right direction. If we want to be happy and lead a truly abundant life there is only one way to look, one place to look. When I was a boy I learned a song that has stayed with me all my life. The words go like this. "Turn your eyes upon Jesus. Look full in His wonderful face and the things of earth will grow strangely dim in the light of His glory and grace.

I'm Roger Bothwell and my address is <a href="mailto:roger.bothwell@verizon.net">roger.bothwell@verizon.net</a> or 151 Old Farm Rd. Leominster, MA 01453. Thank you for your support of our faith ministry.

"Christianity, if false, is of no importance, and, if true, of infinite importance. The one thing it cannot be is moderately important."

C. S. Lewis - 1893-1963

http://www.religionworld.org/dd/archiv20/5129.htm January 2006 - Reprinted with permission

#### - Spring of Life -

#### H. Roger Bothwell

#### Of Muscle Cars and Scripture

I pulled alongside a nice looking new Chevy at a traffic signal. Glancing over I noticed another old guy glancing at me. Deciding to have a bit of fun I inched ahead. He couldn't take it. He inched ahead. I inched ahead. Now the scene was set. It was a shootout at the OK Corral. The real fun was still to come. The light turned green and he took the bait. As I gently pulled out he squealed his tires and roared down the street. The only thing that could have made it better was if a policeman had seen him go.

As I smugly drove on to school I pondered the whole power issue with humans. Muscle cars and horsepower are a projection of a man's personal desire to be strong. I speak here of men since I do not understand the feminine psyche. The guy with the biggest flat panel TV screen, the hard drive with the most memory, the Ipod that plays the most songs and in educational circles the guy with the highest degree from an Ivy League institution, rules. An evolutionist would tell us this is a vestigial characteristic from our hunter-gatherer ancestry. Some creationists would maintain it is the fruit of Adam's transgression. But might it actually be a perverted characteristic of something good God built into us?

Repeatedly Scripture speaks of and promises to us power. We are to have the power to be the sons and daughters of God. We are to have power over sin and ultimately power over death itself. Apparently power is a good thing when rightly controlled. So I appeal to you to access all you can. Note this wonderful promise. "But ye shall receive power, after the Holy Ghost is come upon you: ..." Acts 1:8

I'm Roger Bothwell and my address is  $\underline{roger.bothwell@verizon.net}$  or 151 Old Farm Rd. Leominster, MA 01453. Thank you for your support of our faith ministry.

"You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart" (Jeremiah 29:13, NIV)

# ... And speaking of cars ... What do you worship? ... "Huh? I don't get it." Just read on..

(c) Dr. Rich Dymmel, 10/14/05

Why am I here? Because God made me to love Him and to worship Him. I think it is Jaci Valasques that has a song out recently that has lyrics that go something like this: 'We were all made to worship something. And I choose You.' – But it's our choice. We can worship our job, our music, education, our car, someone, something. – Worship our car? ... I read an article about a guy who has a custom car shop in Michigan. He takes your mundane common car and tricks it out. Depending on what you want done... to have him paint your car could cost as much as or even more than \$15,000!!! Just for the paint job!!! To me, I would call that either worshiping your car, over-extravagance, or stupid. So what do you spend your money and time and energy and attention on? That's what you worship. ... Priorities. Choices. ... Is God near the top of the list? Is God the #1 priority? Or is He on the "If I have some time left over" list?

#### **Hammer Theology**

(c) Dr. Rich Dymmel, 10/17/05

When Jesus and his disciples came upon the blind man (John 9:2), the disciples asked "Who sinned, he or his parents?" They had a single answer – sickness was caused by sin. Jesus answered "Neither. This is so that God can be glorified by his healing." (My loose paraphrase.)

Got a problem? Maybe it is so that God can be glorified by your healing or by your change. Maybe it is so that someone else can be blessed by ministering to you. Maybe it is so you can learn a lesson. – Yes, sin has consequences. But sin may not always be the reason for a problem.

When you see someone with a problem or illness, don't worry about the reason or cause. <u>You</u> think about how God can use <u>you</u>. Maybe it is to minister to that person, to comfort them, to help them.

Now go out there and be God's hands and feet. Be a "Jesus with skin on."

#### Problems... Purpose

(c) Dr. Rich Dymmel, 10/18/05

When I have problems, I have learned to have patience and eventually I usually see where God has either used me to minister to someone, has grown my faith, or has taught me a lesson. – At the time, I have sometimes been a bit discouraged, upset, confused; but it wasn't too many years ago that I seriously had to make a decision about my life. Either I was in control or God was in control. And if I was in control it wouldn't be working out like it was, so, God must be in control and He has a plan. My job was to fit into His master plan and find out how He was using me, be available, and go with it.

You can either... I saw a line: Don't figure out how to fit God into your plan, figure out how you fit into God's plan.

Have a blessed day.

Rich

#### How God sees you

Let's see... how does that go? ... God loves you just the way you are. But he wants to make you into something so much better. ... Something like that. He sees you as having been perfected, made perfect, because He sees you as you WILL BE in the future.

We all see things different. You and I see things through the "filters" of our experiences. Like in the story last night on TV, I can not imagine, how someone thinks like this... She saw her 3 year old daughter as competition for affection, so she killed her, fled to another country, befriended a girl who needed a parent, then she eventually saw her as competition for affection, and she killed her, too. – Sometimes our "filters" of life experiences can be badly warped and discolored and give us a "distorted" view.

But we can, even through those distorted lenses, see people in relationships that are "different," loving, generous, different from our experience. We can then choose to examine that and change our lens. We can change our perspective, our view of life.

We may see ourselves as unworthy, i.e., "Why would God want me?" Or we can look around and see the evidence of God loving people and say, "I guess God can love just about anyone. Why not me, too?" It means trusting Him at what He said and including yourself in the picture. — God so loved the world (that doesn't mean the dirt, it means people, me and you) that He gave His only son (Wow! That's something to give. What a gift!) that whosoever (that means ANYBODY, including you and me) believes on him (that "believes" isn't "I know stuff about him in my head" but "I believe and trust and am getting to KNOW him in my heart and soul) shall not perish (Ooo, perish, like destroyed, lost, dead, not life) but have everlasting life (life is good).

Barna Research says a lot of people that say they are "Christians" do not believe what the Bible says about "life" being a "free gift." They have to "earn" it, or be good enough. The Bible says it's "grace" and a "gift of God."

Are you "good enough"? I'm not. But God is not finished with me yet, I'm a work in progress. Someday I will be just like Jesus. In the meantime, I'm trying and growing. But my assurance is in GOD, not in Rich.

Blessings.

Rich

Faith@Work December 9, 2005 God Is Sure

"And I am sure that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on that day when Christ Jesus comes back again." - Philippians 1:6 (NLT)

"Therefore, I urge you, brother, in view of God's mercy, to offer your body as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is- his good, pleasing and perfect will." - Romans 12:1-2 (NIV)

Do you ever take time to imagine that when God sees you – he says – Wow! What a great person I created? That he looks at you and says – Cool! They are making it possible for my mission to be possible on earth!

We often look in the mirror and see all the imperfections, but God looks at our souls and sees beauty and goodness and the desire to be his and to live lives that make a difference for the sake of the Kingdom.

Dare to believe today that he has chosen you, that he has begun a great work in you and that he will truly see it to completion! How will this happen?

First of all you must trust his plan, his way, his time, and then by believing and living the verses from Romans 12:1-2. Read them through again. It's not a sometime commitment. God calls for you to be open to transformation throughout your entire body, soul mind, and spirit.

And when you commit your whole being to him, when you walk with him day by day, when you trust and choose to serve him, then he will walk with you, he will trust you with more and more, and he will serve you again and again with the gifts of mercy, grace and forgiveness. Through your offering your body as a living sacrifice, he will bring to completion his good work in you. That mission is possible because of his love and power in you.

Your mission is possible because of his work in you. It's not a one-time thing this commitment to God and to your mission, because the problem with living sacrifices is that we can pull back! Then the devil will have won! But choose today to believe that God sees you as a living sacrifice - which is good! A chosen instrument to be used, to be perfected, and to be loved!

#### Bringing it Home:

- 1. Do you struggle to trust God's plan for you? Do you struggle to believe that God really wants to use you? If so, today, take time to read through Philippians 1:6 at least five times! Then, read through Romans 12:1-2 and answer this: How is my life lining up with God's desires for me? What could I change that would help me not conform to this world but let God transform me?
- 2. Where does God's transformation need to come into your life? Pray today, that he will enter in here and that you will have the power to let go and grab hold of him in this area.

#### Prayer:

Holy Jesus, I know in my head that you want me, but so often it's hard to believe that in my heart. I see all my failings and short-comings and decide you could not really want to use me. I also confess it is far easier for me to believe that you couldn't use me. Help me to see me with your eyes today. Help me know the depth of your call to me. Help me believe that I can change, that I can walk with you, that I can carry the message of your saving love out into the world. Above all, let me reside in the depth of your love for me. I pray this in your name, Jesus. Amen.

Jane Jebsen, Youth and Family Minister Joy! Lutheran Church / Gurnee, Illinois www.joylutheran.org Please feel free to forward this devotion to others.

This was the morning devotional we sent out on 1/3/06. Like to get this kind of thing most mornings? Then send an email to rdymmel@aol.com and just say "try the morning email."

#### NEW ...email delivery

**"You've got mail."** - I like that movie... - A couple people have suggested that some college students do EVERY-THING by email and can't even remember their campus mailbox number. Our experience for some time now was that a physical piece of mail was preferred by everyone we talked to. So. We'll ask again, and now make that an option. If you would PREFER to get the C&WC by email please let us know. We will deliver by either method. - We've added that line on the form --> for new folks. Or you can just email us with that request for change of delivery method.

#### Mostly just for fun...

#### \*Great Writing\*

There was once a young man who, in his youth, professed his desire to become a great writer.

When asked to define "great" he said, "I want to write stuff that the whole world will read, stuff that people will react to on a truly emotional level, stuff that will make them scream, cry, howl in pain and anger!"

He now works for Microsoft, writing error messages.

#### How many bricks has Lego produced?

[I got this in an email in 2003. They've made a few more since.] Since the Lego Group began manufacturing blocks in 1949, more than 189 billion pieces in 2,000 different shapes have been produced. This is enough for about 30 Lego pieces for every living person on Earth.

#### \*Getting To Heaven\*

The pastor was talking to a group of young children about believing in Jesus and going to heaven. At the end of his talk, he asked, "Where do you want to go?"

- "Heaven!" they all piped up.
- "And what do you have to be to get there?"
- "Dead!" one boy yelled.

#### In the Army of The Lord

A friend was in front of me coming out of church one day, and the preacher was standing at the door as he always is to shake hands. He grabbed my friend by the hand and pulled him aside. The Pastor said to him, "You need to join the Army of the Lord!"

My friend replied, "I'm already in the Army of the Lord, Pastor." Pastor questioned, "How come I don't see you except at Christmas and Easter?"

He whispered back, "I'm in the secret service."

#### **Proposals**

Some teachers at state universities get to know our students fairly well. One instructor told his communications class of his plans to propose marriage. A student spoke up and said that he had recently asked his girlfriend to marry him as well.

"What was her answer?" the instructor asked.

"I don't know," the student replied. "She hasn't e-mailed me back yet."

#### The Famous Joke of the Day One Liners!

- \* The parachute company says you'll get a full refund.
- \* You have to walk carefully in the beginning of love; the running across fields into your lover's arms can only come later when you're sure they won't laugh if you trip. Jonathan Carroll

I like that: "God loves you so much, if He had a refrigerator, your picture would be on it." - Our refrigerator is plastered with pictures of people. Just think, your picture is on God's refrigerator! - I like that.

#### 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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School e-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

Becoming a Christian: A-B-C

**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.

**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, or call 1-888-NEED-HIM, and say, "I just asked Jesus to be my Lord."

#### **Crimson & White Connection**

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#### ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

U.S.Postage

A 39c stamp is required to forward this to a new address

PLEASE, if the student has moved, would you put a 39c stamp on this, change the address, and mail it to them?

If they have a NEW campus address, would you send that to me?

Feb 10, 2006

Love questions, quotes, thoughts Redneck Ode To His Valentine Muscle cars and more Someone PRAYED for <u>YOU</u> and mentioned <u>YOUR NAME</u> before <u>God's throne</u> as this was prepared for mailing. God bless and watch over you today.

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, counterculture publication. That's what Christianity is - a counter-culture. This should have a warning label.

# It's better to be alone than in bad company.

Bad company corrupts good character. 1Corinthians 15:33

# People are lonely because they build walls instead of bridges.

You should be like one big happy family ... loving one another with tender hearts and humble minds -- 1 Peter 3:8 TLB