



## A publication of the... churches of CHRIST

Founder: Christ – Mt. 16:18

Place: Jerusalem – Isa. 2:1-3, Acts 2:5

Time: A.D. 33 – Dan. 2:44, Acts 2

Head: Christ – Eph. 1:22

Organization:

Christ as head – Eph. 5:23

Elders oversee local church –

Heb. 13:17, Titus 1:5

Deacons as servants –

Acts 6:1-6, 1 Tim. 3:8-13

Members compose body –

Col. 1:2

Name (group):

Church of God – Eph. 3:15

Body of Christ – Eph. 1:22-23

Churches of Christ – Rm. 16:16

Bride of Christ – Rm. 7:4

Name (individuals):

Disciples – John 15:8

Saints – Rm. 1:7

Brethren – Lk. 8:21

Children of God – Gal. 4:26

Christian – Acts 11:25-26

Creed: Jesus/Bible – Acts 8:37

Rule of Faith & Practice:

Word of God – 2 Tim. 3:16-17

Worship: Jn. 4:24

Sing – Eph. 5:19

Pray – Acts 2:42; 1 Thes. 5:17

Teach – Acts 5:42

Communion – 1 Cor. 1:23-26

Contribute – 1 Cor. 16:1-2

Mission: Save Souls – 1 Tim. 4:16

Warning: Be Faithful – 2 John 9

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## Looking for Love?

Allen Webster

# People all over the world are looking for love.

According to Amazon.com, there are at least 32,507 books currently in print with the word *love* in the title (over 145,000 that deal with the subject of love). There are more than 11,000 popular albums/CDs with *love* in the title. A Google search of the Internet reveals that there are at least 121,000,000 Websites that use the word *love* as one of their key words.<sup>1</sup>

The Bible is a book about a love story. It is about God's love for humanity, His wooing of our affection through the mediator, His Son. The word *love* (various forms) is found 419 times in the Bible. The book of 1 John has love for its theme. It tells us that "God is love" (1 John 4:8), and then shows that God has demonstrated—made manifest—His love (3:16; 4:9-10). Love is not just something we feel; it is more often something we do.

Love requires action; it is demonstrated through behavior. God's love is more than just talk; He demonstrated compassion so we would learn to be compassionate. As Paul said, "Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it" (1 Thessalonians 5:24). John wrote, "My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth" (1 John 3:18; cf. James 2:15-16).





## Looking?

Continued from page 1

### GOD DEMONSTRATES HIS LOVE FOR US BY GIFT-GIVING.

One of the “five languages of love”<sup>2</sup> is “gift-giving.” We enjoy surprising our mates with a little something we picked up on a trip. We take pleasure in giving presents to our children during the holidays. We celebrate graduations, weddings, and births with gift-giving.

God also uses this “love language” to express His sentiments to man. He “gave gifts unto men” (Ephesians 4:8). He leaves no one out—even His avowed enemies get daily gifts from the Creator they deny. “The Lord is good to all; and his tender mercies are over all his works” (Psalm 145:9). He gives us sunshine and rain, fruitful seasons, and beautiful vistas. Paul and Barnabas explained that God had “left not himself without witness, in that he did good, and gave us rain from heaven, and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness” (Acts 14:17; cf. Matthew 5:45).

### GOD DEMONSTRATES HIS LOVE FOR US THROUGH THE LIFE OF HIS SON.

Jesus helped us to get to know the God of love. *Love* (various forms) is found eighty-six times in the eighty-nine chapters of Jesus’ biographies (when *compassion* is added, the total increases to one hundred times). Jesus told Philip, “He that hath seen me hath seen the Father” (John 14:9). We saw Jesus’ love demonstrated in feeding hungry people (John 6), healing hurting people (Matthew 4:24), directing lost people (Matthew 9:35–36), correcting wrong people (Matthew 23), accepting rejected people (Luke 19:1–10), and dying for lost people (Matthew 20:28).

Someone once wrote about a traveler who fell into a deep pit and couldn’t get out. Several persons came along and saw him struggling in the pit.

- ▶ The sensitive person said, “I feel for you down there.”
- ▶ The reflective person said, “It’s logical that someone would fall into the pit.”
- ▶ The aesthetic person said, “I can give you ideas on how to decorate your pit.”
- ▶ The judgmental person said, “Only bad people fall into pits.”
- ▶ The curious person said, “Tell me how you fell into the pit.”
- ▶ The perfectionist said, “I believe you deserve your pit.”
- ▶ The evaluator asked, “Are you paying taxes on this pit?”
- ▶ The self-pitying person said, “You should have seen my pit.”
- ▶ The counselor said, “Just relax. Don’t think about the pit.”
- ▶ The optimist said, “Cheer up! Things could be worse.”
- ▶ The pessimist said, “Be prepared! Things will get worse.”
- ▶ Jesus, seeing him, loved him, and lifted him out of the pit.<sup>3</sup>

A Christian can truthfully sing, “I was sinking deep in sin, far from the peaceful shore” when “love lifted me!”

### GOD DEMONSTRATES HIS LOVE FOR US THROUGH THE DEATH OF HIS SON.

God has an infallible track record. He can be trusted. He has proven beyond question that He loves us. The Bible says, “But God commendeth<sup>4</sup> [demonstrated] his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us” (Romans 5:8).

John Griffith lived in Oklahoma in 1929, and he lost all he had in the stock market crash. He moved to Mississippi, where he took a job tending a bridge for a railroad trestle. One day in 1937, his eight-year-old son, Greg, spent the day with his dad at work. He played in the office that morning and asked a thousand questions. Then a ship came through and John opened the drawbridge. Suddenly, he realized his son wasn’t in the office.

Frantically he looked around, and to his horror saw him climbing on the gears of the draw bridge. He hurried outside to rescue his son, but just then he heard what he knew was a fast-approaching passenger train, the *Memphis Express*, filled with four hundred people. He yelled to his son, but the noise of the now clearing ship and the oncoming train made it impossible for the boy to hear him. John Griffith realized his horrible dilemma. If he took the time to rescue his son the train would crash and kill all aboard. If he closed the bridge, he would sacrifice his son.

He made the decision he would relive ten thousand times and pulled the lever to close the bridge. As the train went by he could see some passengers’ faces. Some were reading, some waved, and all were oblivious to the sacrifice that had just been made on their behalf.

God once faced a similar dilemma. He could not save sinners and spare Jesus, too. How could He be “just” and “justifier” at the same time? (cf. Romans 3:26). God had to allow the jaws of death to close on His Son. He “spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all” (Romans 8:32). Millions go by oblivious and indifferent, even some who know the sacrifice.

Still, there is one tremendous difference between the two fathers. Unlike the *Memphis Express* that caught John Griffith by surprise, sending Jesus was not a panic move. It wasn’t a spontaneous decision. It was planned. Paul said, “But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law” (Galatians 4:4). Jesus’ death was not the result of jealous Jews or hard-hearted Romans. It was the result of a loving God who saw there was no other way to save man. “Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us” (1 John 3:16).<sup>5</sup>

Since people are looking for love, and “God is love” (1 John 4:8), God is what people are looking for!

#### Endnotes:

<sup>1</sup> “God Is Love,” Scott R. Bayles, SermonCentral.com.

<sup>2</sup> According to Gary Chapman’s best-selling book *The Five Language of Love*.

<sup>3</sup> Author unknown.

<sup>4</sup> *sunistao, sunistano, sunistemi*, “to set together, by implication to introduce (favorably), or (figuratively) to exhibit; intransitively to stand near.”

<sup>5</sup> For more, see “The Scourging of Jesus.”

<http://www.housetohouse.com/hth/archives/scourging.htm>.

# Why Go to Church?

A churchgoer wrote a letter to the editor of a newspaper and complained that it made no sense to go to church every Sunday. "I've gone for 30 years now," he wrote, "and in that time I have heard something like 3,000 sermons. But for the life of me, I can't remember a single one of them. So, I think I'm wasting my time and the preachers are wasting theirs by giving sermons at all."

This started a controversy in the "Letters to the Editor" column, to the delight of the editor. It went on for weeks until someone wrote this clincher:

"I've been married for 30 years now. In that time my wife has cooked some 32,000 meals. But, for the life of me, I cannot recall the entire menu for a single one of those meals. But I do know this. They all nourished me and gave me the strength I needed to do my work. If my wife had not given me these meals, I would be physically dead today. Likewise, if I had not gone to church for nourishment, I would be spiritually dead today!" —Author Unknown

"Upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together . . ." —Acts 20:7

## God's Plan for Saving Man

God's Grace	—	Ephesians 2:8
Christ's Blood	—	Romans 5:9
The Holy Spirit's Gospel	—	Romans 1:16
Sinner's Faith	—	Acts 16:31
Sinner's Repentance	—	Luke 13:3
Sinner's Confession	—	Romans 10:10
Sinner's Baptism	—	1 Peter 3:21
Christian's Work	—	James 2:24
Christian's Hope	—	Romans 8:24
Christian's Endurance	—	Revelation 2:10

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## The Ultimate Act of Sportsmanship

It occurred in a college softball game in Ellensburg, Washington, in which Western Oregon was facing Central Washington in the second game of a double header. The game was scoreless when Western Oregon's Sara Tucholsky stepped to the plate in the top of the second inning with two runners on base. The first pitch was a called strike. She swung at the second pitch and knocked it over the center field fence!

This was Tucholsky's first-ever homerun, and in her jubilation, she missed first base on her home run trot. When she turned back to tag the base, her right knee buckled. Instantly in pain, she managed to crawl back to first base.

According to Graham Hays, "Umpires confirmed that the only option available under the rules was to replace Tucholsky at first base with a pinch runner and have the hit recorded as a two-run single instead of a three-run home run. Any assistance from coaches or trainers while she was an active runner would result in an out. So, Western Oregon Coach Knox prepared to make the substitution, taking both the run and the memory from Tucholsky."

Then Coach Knox was asked: "Excuse me. Would it be OK if WE carried her around and she touched each bag?" The one asking the question was a member of the opposing team: Central Washington first baseman, Mallory Holtman!

The umpires ruled it to be legal, so Holtman and shortstop, Liz Wallace, lifted Tucholsky off the ground, supported her weight between them, and began to carry her around the bases. They stopped at each of the remaining bases and lowered Tucholsky, allowing her to gently tap the base with her left foot. The trio finally reached home plate—and with a standing ovation from the fans—the homerun hitter was passed into the arms of her own teammates.

Western Oregon went on to win the game 4-2, but it is this ultimate act of sportsmanship that will be remembered most.

The selfless actions of Holtman and Wallace picture what Jesus Christ wants to do for each of us: He wants to carry us all the way home to heaven! It's not that we've hit a home run and then injured ourselves along the way. The fact is we have all "struck out" at the plate (Romans 3:23)! Yet, God loves us so much that He offers us forgiveness, and through His Son Jesus, the opportunity to go home.

Jesus "carries home" those who: believe in Him (Acts 16:30-31), turn from sin in repentance (Acts 17:30-31), confess Him before men (Romans 10:9-10), and are baptized (immersed) for the forgiveness of sins (Acts 2:38). He will continue to "carry" those who continue to walk in the light of His Word (1 John 1:7).

The real ultimate act was done when Christ went to the cross to pay the price for our sins (Ephesians 1:7), enabling us—by His grace—to go home to heaven. Will YOU allow Him to carry you home through your trusting obedience? —David

A. Sargeant, Mobile, Alabama

The



# HOME PAGE

## Why the Fourth Finger?

There is a beautiful and convincing explanation given by the Chinese as to why wedding rings are worn on the fourth finger. Each finger represents a relationship:

- ▶ Thumb: your parents
- ▶ Second (index) finger: your siblings
- ▶ Middle finger: yourself
- ▶ Fourth (ring) finger: your life partner
- ▶ Last (little) finger: your children.



First, open your hands (palm to palm), bend the middle fingers, and hold them together—back to back. Second,

open and hold the remaining three fingers and the thumb—tip to tip.

Now, try to separate your thumbs (representing the parents). They will open—because your parents are not destined to live with you lifelong, and have to leave you sooner or later.

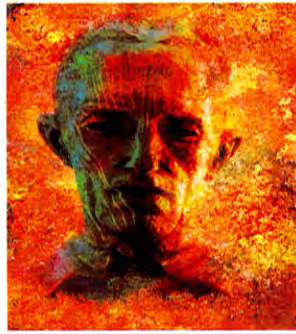
Join your thumbs as before and separate your index fingers (representing siblings). They will also open, because your brothers and sisters will have their own families and will lead their own separate lives.

Now join the index fingers and separate your little fingers (representing your children). They will open too, because the children will get married and settle down on their own some day.

Finally, join your little fingers, and try to separate your ring fingers (representing your spouse). You will be surprised to see that you cannot, because husband and wife have to remain together all their lives—through thick and thin!

**“For the woman which hath an husband is bound by the law to her husband so long as he liveth.”** —Romans 7:2

## King David As a Father



David, the son of Jesse, wore a lot of different hats in his lifetime. He was a shepherd, armorbearer, and harp player for King Saul; a soldier, king, and prophet of Jehovah; a husband, and a father. While each of his roles had its distinct challenges, surely nothing was more challenging to him than being a dad. As a parent, David showed some traits that are worthy of imitation, but he also demonstrated serious flaws that we would do well to avoid. Consider these brief observations on King David as a father.

**David did not properly restrain and discipline his sons.** When David’s son Amnon raped David’s daughter Tamar, David “was very wroth” (2 Samuel 13:21), but there is no indication in the Bible that he did anything about it. Later, we read that when Adonijah, David’s son, tried to steal his father’s throne, David “had not displeased [rebuked, NKJV] him at any time” (1 Kings 1:6). Tolerance and lack of discipline helped corrupt David’s family. Remember Eli’s failure to restrain his sons properly (1 Samuel 3:13).

**David showed favoritism toward one of his sons.** David had many children, but he made it no secret that Absalom was “Daddy’s boy.” Jacob had made the same mistake in loving Joseph more than his other sons (Genesis 37:1–3). David’s elevated affection for Absalom hurt David’s family and his reputation; it also adversely affected the nation.

**David endured the pain of having a son turn against him.** That son was Absalom, the very one whom David loved so much! Absalom led a revolt against David and his kingship, causing David to flee from Jerusalem. Absalom made his choices of his own free will, but the havoc that he caused in David’s family and in the nation of Israel were, in part, a punishment for David’s sin with Bathsheba (2 Samuel 11).

**David endured the pain of losing a child.** No parent wants to see his or her child die, but David faced such sadness at least three times—the first son that Bathsheba bore to him, Amnon, and Absalom. To his credit, through his suffering and weakness of the flesh, David time and again turned to the Lord for strength: “In God is my salvation and my glory: the rock of my strength, and my refuge, is in God” (Psalm 62:7).

**Before he died, David showed interest in his son’s project.** God made it known that He wanted Solomon, not David, to build a temple for Him. Rather than pout and work against that task, David worked diligently, doing all he could to help rally the nation behind his son’s project. Wise dads today will take an interest in their children’s activities at school, in recreation, and especially in the things that they do that are related to the Lord’s church.

**Before he died, David gave wonderful advice and exhortation to his son.** As his death approached, David told Solomon, “Be thou strong therefore, and shew thyself a man; and keep the charge of the Lord thy God, to walk in his ways . . . that thou mayest prosper in all that thou doest” (1 Kings 2:2–3). Is there anything more important that a father could express to his son?

Like the rest of us, David was flesh and bones, a mere mortal. As a father, he endured hardships, made mistakes, and did some things well. Let us learn from this famous father. —Roger D. Campbell, Cleveland, Tennessee



For more material on the home and family, fathers and mothers, husbands and wives, grandparents, and family finances, go to [www.housetohouse.com](http://www.housetohouse.com).



## Luke 14:26: Hating Family?

*How does one explain Jesus' injunction for followers to "hate" their families?*

When Christ observed that great crowds were following Him—some obviously for mundane reasons (cf. John 6:26)—He challenged them thus:

If any man cometh unto me and hateth not his own father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple (Luke 14:26).

To some this passage is quite difficult, for it appears to contradict other biblical injunctions which require love for family, both physical and spiritual (cf. Ephesians 5:25; 1 John 2:11).

In ancient times, however, the term *hate* was frequently employed idiomatically to denote simply the preference of one thing over another. For example, in Genesis 29:31 it is said that Jacob "hated" his wife Leah, yet the context makes it very clear that he merely loved his other wife Rachel more than Leah (v. 30).

Accordingly, when Jesus demands that we must hate our family members, He is not suggesting that we must literally have ill feelings for them. Rather, the Lord is stressing that we must love Him more than all others, even those dearest to us. This is borne out by a comparison of Luke 14:26 with a parallel in Matthew 10:37, where Christ declares: "He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me."

Underline, therefore, the word "hateth" in Luke 14:26, and in your margin write: Literally, love less; see Genesis 29:29–30; Matthew 10:37. —Wayne Jackson, [www.christiancourier.com](http://www.christiancourier.com)

To ask a Bible question or view previously answered questions, go to [www.HouseToHouse.com](http://www.HouseToHouse.com).

# Bible Quiz



Send us your answers (address on front). We'll grade and return all entries, and randomly select one to receive a Bible, New Testament cassettes, or Bible Dictionary.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Questions Taken from the King James Version

## Starts with the Letter "S"

Find answers in Genesis 4:25; 5:32; 17:15, 19; 19:24, 26; Exodus 16:23, 26; Numbers 21:21; Judges 3:31; 16:9; 1 Samuel 1:20; 15:1; 1 Kings 1:17; Psalm 23:1; 100:3; Proverbs 30:28; Isaiah 1:18; Matthew 4:10; 16:6; 27:46; Acts 5:1; 7:58–60; 15:40; Ephesians 6:16; 2 Timothy 3:16; 1 John 3:4 (not in order).

1. "The Lord is my \_\_\_\_\_; I shall not want."
2. \_\_\_\_\_ Day of rest in the Old Testament
3. \_\_\_\_\_ Strong man of the Bible
4. \_\_\_\_\_ Son of Elkanah and Hannah; priest and judge
5. \_\_\_\_\_ Wife of Ananias; lied about giving
6. \_\_\_\_\_ Abraham's wife; Isaac's mother
7. \_\_\_\_\_ Enemy of mankind; tempted Jesus in wilderness
8. \_\_\_\_\_ First king of Israel
9. \_\_\_\_\_ The third son of Adam, and father of Enos
10. \_\_\_\_\_ Judge who killed 600 Philistines with an ox goad
11. \_\_\_\_\_ The eldest son of Noah
12. \_\_\_\_\_ Part of Christ's fourth cry on the cross
13. \_\_\_\_\_ King of the Amorites when Israel arrived on the borders of the Promised Land
14. \_\_\_\_\_ Paul chose him as traveling companion after disagreement with Barnabas
15. \_\_\_\_\_ is the transgression of the law.
16. \_\_\_\_\_ Wicked city destroyed with fire and brimstone
17. \_\_\_\_\_ David's wise son who ruled after him
18. \_\_\_\_\_ First Christian martyr
19. "Above all, taking the \_\_\_\_\_ of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked."
20. "We are his people, and the \_\_\_\_\_ of his pasture."
21. Lot's wife turned into a pillar of \_\_\_\_\_.
22. "Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and of the \_\_\_\_\_."
23. "All \_\_\_\_\_ is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable."
24. The \_\_\_\_\_ taketh hold with her hands, and is in kings' palaces.
25. "Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as \_\_\_\_\_."

**Answers to Last Issue:** *Starts with the Letter "Y":* 1. Yarn (1 Kings 10:28); 2. Yokefellow (Philippians 4:3); 3. Years (2 Peter 3:8); 4. Yoke (Matthew 11:29); 5. Yea, yea (Matthew 5:37). *Starts with the Letter "E":* 1. Eden (Genesis 2:8); 2. Ed (Joshua 22:34); 3. Edom (Psalm 108:9); 4. Eglah (2 Samuel 3:5); 5. Egypt (Exodus 1:8–11); 6. Elders (1 Peter 5:1–2); 7. Eli (1 Samuel 4:15–18); 8. Eliab (1 Samuel 17:13–14); 9. Elizabeth (Luke 1:13); 10. Elijah (2 Kings 2:1, 11); 11. Elisha (2 Kings 6:1–7); 12. Elymas (Acts 13:7–8); 13. Eunice (2 Timothy 1:5); 14. Eagle (Proverbs 30:19); 15. Earth (Psalm 24:1).

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## America's Favorite Book

When it comes to literary pursuits in the United States, most people agree on at least one thing—the most popular book is the Bible, according to a new survey.

It came in first in a Harris Poll of nearly 2513 adults, but the second choice in the survey was not as clear-cut. “While the Bible is number one among each of the different demographic groups, there is a large difference in the number two favorite book,” Harris said in a statement announcing the results.

Men chose J. R. R. Tolkien’s *The Lord of the Rings* and women selected Margaret Mitchell’s *Gone With the Wind* as their second-favorite book, according to the online poll. But the second choice for 18- to 31-year-olds was J. K. Rowling’s Harry Potter series, while 32- to 43-year-olds named Stephen King’s *The Stand* and Dan Brown’s *Angels and Demons*.

“Finally, they may not agree on candidates, but one thing that brings together partisans is their favorite book. For Republicans, Democrats, and Independents, the top two books are the same—the Bible followed by *Gone With the Wind*.” —Reported by Julie Mellins

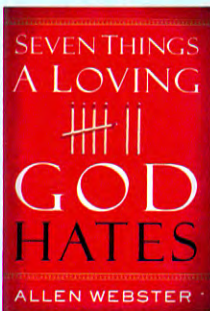
“O how love I thy law! it is my meditation all the day . . .” —Psalm 119:97

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- ▶ Is Instrumental Music a Salvation Issue? —Alan Highers
- ▶ The Love of God —Allen Webster

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## Free Book!

This issue marks the beginning of our “Back to the Bible” national correspondence course drive. As an incentive to encourage readers to start an in depth Bible study, we are giving away more than 1,000 copies of our study book on Proverbs 6. Simply request your **FREE** Bible course, using the contact information on the front, and your name will be entered in a drawing for a free book. This is absolutely free (we even pay the postage.)

## More!

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- I would like a daily Bible reading schedule.

### TRACTS:

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- NEW! You Are Not Going to the Prom?**
- Asleep in the Storm.** Lessons from the time Jesus fell asleep.
- How to Get Ahead by Not Getting Even**
- Five Animals You Won't Meet in Heaven**
- Why Not Be a Prodigal? Part 1 (Teens/young adult)**
- Abortion Wrongs.** Arguments for abortion considered (woman's right, rape, incest, child abuse).
- Was Joan of Arc Really Noah's Wife?**
- A Proud Look.** Part of series on Proverbs 6:16-19.
- A Thief Who Has Robbed Us All**
- You Can't Get to Heaven Alone**
- How to Get More Time Out of Your Day**
- Let Every Man Be Slow to Speak**
- When I Survey the Wondrous Cross**
- Married for Life.** How Five Couples Reached Fifty Years.
- When Jesus Was a Boy**  **Can God Really Forgive Me?**
- Investing Time Wisely**  **Next Week's Best Seller**
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- God's Lamb in the Devil's Zoo**  **Lonely?**
- Why I Quit Going to the Beach**
- Back issues of *House to House/Heart to Heart*

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# The U in Jesus

Before **U** were thought of or time had begun,  
God stuck **U** in the name of His Son.  
And each time **U** pray in His name, you'll see it's true,  
You can't spell Jes**U**s and not include **U**.

You're a pretty big part of His wonderful name,  
For **U**, He was born; that's why He came.  
And His great love for **U** is the reason He died.  
It even takes **U** to spell cr**U**cified.

The stones split away, the gold trumpet blew;  
this word res**U**rrection is spelled with a **U**.  
When Jesus left earth at His upward ascension,  
He felt there was one thing He just had to mention.

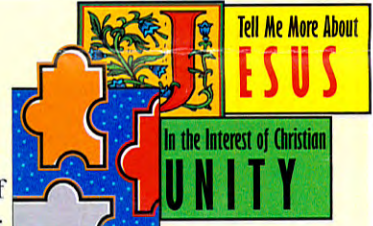
"Go into the world and tell every creat**U**re it's true that I love them all just like I love **U**."  
He sent the Holy Spirit on Pentecost Day; He started the ch**U**rch to show men the way.  
So many great words are spelled with a **U**; don't forget j**U**dgment is, too.  
Will we be ready? It all depends on what **U** will do; He'd like all to know, but it all starts with **U**!

**"The Son of God ... loved me, and gave himself for me."** —Galatians 2:20

## Do We Love the Lord More?



"So when they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me more than these? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my lambs" (John 21:15).



**Do We Love the Lord More Than Our Kinsmen?** If we do, we will not let them keep us from obeying the gospel. We will be willing to leave the religion they have accepted if it is proven wrong. We will not let them keep us from attending the services of the Lord's church. Remember, Jesus said, "He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me" (Matthew 10:37).

**Do We Love the Lord More Than Money?** If we do, we will not make the heaping of riches the chief object of our living. We will give liberally of our means to the Lord (2 Corinthians 8:1–5). Remember, the Lord said, "For the love of money is the root of all evil" (1 Timothy 6:10).

**Do We Love the Lord More Than Pleasure?** If we do, we will not engage in that which is forbidden, that which will hurt our influence for Christ. Remember, the Lord, in speaking of perilous times, said men shall be "lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God" (2 Timothy 3:1–4).

**Do We Love the Lord More Than Praise of Men?** If we do, we will be willing to stand for the Lord and the right, though we must stand alone (2 Timothy 4:16–17). The chief rulers "did not confess him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue: For they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God" (John 12:42–43).

The Lord should be the supreme object of our affection (Matthew 22:37). May we learn to sing, and mean it, "More love to thee, O Christ, more love to Thee!" —Wendell Winkler



## What's So Great about Following Jesus?

Jesus gives a life of genuine peace and happiness.

Jesus promised, "Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28). In Jesus there truly is rest for the weary. Take, for instance, the example of a man from Ethiopia that rejoiced after he was baptized into the Christ (Acts 8:36–39).

One who serves the Savior has the satisfaction of knowing that he is doing the Lord's will, that he is showing reverence for his Creator, and that he is keeping His commands, which is the whole of man (Ecclesiastes 12:13).

With peace of mind and joy comes the confidence that the Lord will be with us and bless us. If we remain faithful to Him, then His promises hold true: "I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee" (Hebrews 13:5), and as we walk in the light, "we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin" (1 John 1:7).

"Come and see" (John 1:39). —Roger Campbell, Cleveland, Tennessee