

The Amish Voice



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PART IV—What is the church:

Who Belongs to Christ's Church?

People put great effort into planning something, only if it is important to them.

Illustration I: *If they consider their wedding ceremony to be important, a bride and groom will make many plans far in advance of their special day. They want their wedding day to be as perfect and special as possible.*

Illustration II: *A man who is considering the start of a new business will first sit down and evaluate all the negatives and positives. If he is wise, he will also seek advice from a trusted friend. Finally, he will count the cost to make sure that what he desires to do is going to pay off.*

Jesus too, put much effort into planning, preparing, and setting up the church. Clearly, the church was (and is) very important to Him—so important to Him that He stepped out of His heavenly abode and came to our planet. He put on a body, made of flesh, so that He could communicate His exciting plan with man kind.

The highest price anyone can pay for anything is his life. —When a policeman dies in the line of duty, people say he paid "the supreme price" —If a father dies, trying to rescue his family, he paid the highest price he could pay. —So Jesus bought the church, paying the highest price anyone could pay.

1. Jesus gave Himself for the church

...Christ also loved the church, and gave Himself for it. (Eph 5:25)

2. Jesus purchased the church with His blood

...which He hath purchased with his own blood. (Acts 20:28)

3. Jesus is the builder of the church

...I will build MY church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. (Mat 16:18)

4. Jesus is the head of the church

...And He is the head of the body, the church: (Col 1:18)

5. Jesus increases the size of the church

...And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved. (Acts 2:47)

6. Jesus decides who leads in His church

And He gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: (Eph 4:11-12)

The whole reason for all of this planning, hard work, and great cost was so that Jesus could...

...present it to HIMSELF a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish. (Eph 5:27)

When I was a young Christian, I remember asking myself, why did Jesus have to go through such bitter pain and agony to reconcile man back to Himself? Why so much blood shed? Why such an awful death on the cross? I mean, is it not true that since He is God He could



have found a 1,000 other ways to purchase the church? **But then one day the thought occurred to me, the reason He went through so much is because of the tremendous value and great importance that He puts on the church.**

The Hebrew writer makes it very clear that we as Christians are sanctified (or set apart) once and for all, through His bodily sacrifice on the cross.

Hebrews 10:10 *By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.*

One very important thing to keep in mind though is this—just because Jesus Christ

paid such an enormous price for man to be sanctified (set apart for His purpose) and become part of His church, does not mean that everyone will automatically become part of His church. No, absolutely not!

Who Is Invited to Become a Member of Christ's Church?

1. Geographical Location Makes No Difference In Christ's Church

Jesus commanded His disciples to go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature alive.

Mark 16:15 *And He said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.*

Later in the *Book of Acts* we are told again to go beyond the borders of our local com-

munities—we are to go all the way to the uttermost parts of the earth and proclaim the great news that Jesus Christ died on the cross for the sins of man.



Acts 1:8 *But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.*

Several years ago, another man and I were discussing the fact that Jesus commanded His people to go to every land and nation in the world, spreading the gospel to all people. When I asked him how he was planning on doing that, he said, "Well, I believe that my clothes and humble life style are

doing that for me." Needless to say, I was devastated that someone would actually believe such a lie from Satan.

2. People Groups Make No Difference In Christ's Church

It does not matter to God what the person's skin color is, nor does it matter to Him what language he/she speaks.

Acts 10:34-35 *Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him.*

If I am a RESPECTER OF PERSONS then it means I make a DIFFERENCE in the way I treat a person because of **outward things** (things that are not really the most important), such as the way he looks, the way

From My Heart To Yours



Hello Friend, I hope this finds you doing well. I pray that God is continually filling you with a deeper hunger to serve Him. I have found that if we are not careful, we can very quickly allow men to keep us from following and serving God the way He wants us to.

Paul writes in **Galatians 1:10**—*For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ.*

Over the years I have at times had a real struggle with trying to please everybody. There were times when I would put myself through all kinds of misery and sleepless nights, just so I could feel good about my relationship with that other person. But you know, the older I get the more I realize something—I will never, as long as I live, be able to please everybody all the time.

A good illustration of what I am talking about is this: we get responses from people who are getting the *Amish Voice* on a regular basis. Some are highly positive and excited about the teachings that this ministry offers and want to know how they can help financially. Others have gotten very angry at what

we are doing and want absolutely nothing to do with the publication.

Having said all that, let me say that I apologize if we ever publish anything contrary to God's Word—it is not our desire to mis-quote God's Word in any way. We do however not apologize for God's truth. I would like to encourage our readers to do what the Bereans did in **Acts 17:11** where it says...

These (Bereans) were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.

The following could be said about the Bereans. They were...

- **"Open-minded"**—they were teachable.
- **"Eager listeners"**—they were open to hear the truth.
- **"Scripture searchers"**—they did not take everything and everyone at its word. They did their homework.
- **"Truth seekers"**—they were looking for absolute truth.

May all of us try our best to have that same attitude about the Word of God!

— Joe Keim, Editor for the *Amish Voice*

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W Since our beginning in 2000, many people have written to us, asking to be added to our mailing list while others have send us names of
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he dresses, the color of his skin, the country he is from; his family background, his religious background, how rich he is, how popular or famous he is, how powerful he is, and so forth.

Looking at the scripture below, how were the church people in James 2:2-4 RESPECTERS OF PERSONS?

James 2:2-4 *For if there come unto your assembly a man with a gold ring, in goodly apparel, and there come in also a poor man in vile raiment; ³And ye have respect to him that weareth the gay clothing, and say unto him, Sit thou here in a good place; and say to the poor, Stand thou there, or sit here under my footstool: ⁴Are ye not then partial in yourselves, and are become judges of evil thoughts?*

Notice what God thinks about those who are respecer of persons...

James 2:9 *But if ye have respect to persons, ye commit sin, and are convinced of the law as transgressors.*

To better understand the fact that the GOSPEL is made known to ALL NATIONS, we need to **define** the following three people groups, mentioned in the Bible:

- 1) **JEW**S—The Jews are those people who are children (or physical descendants) of Jacob.
- 2) **GENTILES**—The Gentiles are those people who do not trace their descent (family line) back to Jacob; they are not Jews.
- 3) **SAMARITANS**—These were people who were HALF-JEW and HALF-GENTILE!

At this point I would like to bring out two very important facts that we often times don't think of. According to the Word of God...

FACT #1: There are only three people groups/types in this world:

1. **Jews**—(God's chosen people)
2. **Gentiles**—(sometimes called Greeks)
3. **Samaritans**—(half breeds)

FACT #2: You are either a "Jew" "Gentile" or "Samaritan"

Oh! You say, "That can't be true because we have Amish, Mennonite, Charity, Baptist, Brethren, Pentecostals, Methodists, Seven Day Adventists, Charismatic's, etc." But listen, these names that I just mentioned are all sub-groups that man put together. In heaven there is no such thing as an English or Amish man. We all fall under one of three categories—"Jew" "Gentile (sometimes called Greek)" or "Half-breed".

But hold on ——— it get's even better. In a spiritual sense, God's three people groups got narrowed down even more after Jesus was raised form the dead. Look what the Word of God says...

Romans 10:12-13 *For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek (Gentile): for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him.*

There is **no difference** between men in God's eyes. In God's eyes, all men...

- are His creatures.
- are sinful and separated from Him.
- are loved by Him.
- are saved only through the righteousness provided by His Son.

God does not save one man a certain way and another man some other way; neither does God reject a man because he is a Jew or a Gentile. God has no favorites.

If you belong to God's family, then the next scripture is true in your life.

Galatians 3:28 *There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.*

The Jews were very religious; the Gentiles worshiped idols, and the Samaritans had their own kind of belief system.

Right before Jesus went back to heaven, He gave His disciples a "one verse" outlined in Acts 1:8, telling of His PLAN. **He very clearly commanded them to go and be WITNESSES of HIM, both...**

- 1) **IN JERUSALEM** — the starting point (see Luke 24:49) (ACTS 2-ACTS 7)
- 2) **IN ALL JUDAEA** — the home of the JEWS (ACTS 8:1-4)

3) **IN SAMARIA** — the home of the SAMARITANS (ACTS 8:5-25)

4) **UNTO THE UTTERMOST PART OF THE EARTH** — the home of the GENTILES (ACTS 8:26-ACTS 28).

Below are two wise sayings worth remembering, if you belong to Christ's church.

- *Those on the road to heaven will not be content to go there alone.*
- *The church must go into the world because the world won't come into the church.*

The heart of Jesus was upon the harvest of souls. Men focus their hearts upon the world's harvest, the planting of seed, the reaping of grain, the investment of energy and money, and the receiving of wages and gain. But the heart of Jesus was, and still is, upon people, upon the planting of the gospel seed and the reaping of souls for God.

John 4:34-38 *Jesus saith unto them...Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest. And he that reapeth receiveth wages, and gathereth fruit unto life eternal: that*



both he that soweth and he that reapeth may rejoice together. And herein is that saying true, One soweth, and another reapeth. I sent you to reap that whereon ye bestowed no labour: other men laboured, and ye are entered into their labours.

The challenge of Jesus was, "**Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields.**" The challenge was to quit looking down upon the earth and upon the affairs of the world, but instead to *look up* and observe the fields of people streaming across the world.

The fields of souls are ripe *already*: they are ready for harvesting, *right now*. Since Christ has come to earth, God has put His

Spirit into the world and supernaturally activated...

- a thirst for God.
- a sense of sin
- a deep loneliness and emptiness.

It is absolutely necessary that believers lift up their eyes and look *now*. If not, the ripe harvest of souls and bodies will...

- remain in the fields of the earth.
- ripen *beyond* being tasteful and useful (be too old, too far gone).
- rot and be lost forever.

3. Race, Sex and Age Make No Difference in Christ's Church

1. Race (skin color) makes no difference

After Philip had served as God's special EVANGELIST to the Samaritans (Acts 8:5-12), God sent him to Gaza to witness to a Ethiopian man.

Acts 8:27 *And he (Philip) arose and went: and, behold, a man of Ethiopia, an eunuch of great authority under*



Candace queen of the Ethiopians, who had the charge of all her treasure, and had come to Jerusalem for to worship,

It is very possible that this Ethiopian man was dark-skinned. The Greek word "Ethiopia" means "BURNT-FACE" which indicates that the people from this African country of Ethiopia were dark-faced.

2. Sex makes no difference

Acts 16:9 *And a vision appeared to Paul in the night; There stood a man of Macedonia, and prayed him, saying, Come over into Macedonia, and help us.*

It is interesting that verse 9 (above) says, "There stood a MAN of Macedonia." This word "man" means "a MALE person, a man in contrast to a woman." But when Paul arrives in Philippi to help the Macedonians (4 verses later), who were the first

people that he met? See below...

Acts 16:13 *And on the sabbath we went out of the city by a river side, where prayer was wont to be made; and we sat down, and spake unto the women which resorted thither.*

One verse later (verse 14) we read that the first person to be **SAVED** in Macedonia was "a certain woman named Lydia"

Acts 16:14 *And a certain woman named Lydia, a seller of purple, of the city of Thyatira, which worshipped God, heard us: whose heart the Lord opened, that she attended unto the things which were spoken of Paul.*

In Acts 17:12 and 34 we read of other **WOMEN BELIEVERS**. And when Paul persecuted the **CHURCH** (before he was saved), he persecuted "BOTH MEN AND WOMEN" (Acts 22:4).

Thus in Galatians 3:28 we learn that **in the body of Christ** (in the church) "...there is neither MALE nor FEMALE; for ye are all one in Christ Jesus." **WOMEN** can enjoy **MEMBERSHIP** in the church just as much as **MEN** can.--THERE IS NO DIFFERENCE!!

3. Age makes no difference

God graciously invites **EVERYONE**, whether **YOUNG** or **OLD** to become members of His called-out **ASSEMBLY**, the **CHURCH**. In Acts 16:31 Paul and Silas explained to the Philippian jailer how he could be **SAVED**:

Acts 16:31 *And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.*

The promise of **SALVATION** is here given not only to the jailer but also to the members of his **HOUSEHOLD**, which probably included his wife, his slaves, and any **CHILDREN**



that he might have. If the jailer would simply

BELIEVE on the Lord Jesus Christ, then he would be **SAVED** and if his family (**HOUSE**) would believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, then they would be **SAVED** also.

It is obvious by reading verse 32-34, that all the members of the **HOUSEHOLD** became believers of Jesus Christ and were baptized.

Acts 16:32-34 *And they spake unto him the word of the Lord, and to all that were in his house. ³³ And he took them the same hour of the night, and washed their stripes; and was baptized, he and all his, straightway. ³⁴ And when he had brought them into his house, he set meat before them, and rejoiced, believing in God with all his house.*

A **CHILD** may be **SAVED** and may become a **MEMBER** of the church, but he (or she) must be old enough to do what (Acts 16:31; compare Acts 18:8)? _____

A **CHILD** may be **BAPTIZED** as long as he or she is old enough to do what (Acts 8:36-37)? _____



Thus, when it comes to **age** THERE IS NO DIFFERENCE! Even a young **CHILD** may become a **CHILD** of God because the Bible says...

John 1:12 *"AS MANY AS RECEIVED HIM (whether young or old), to them He gave the right to become the **SONS (CHILDREN)** of God, even to them that believed on His name.*

If you are old enough to read and understand this article, then you are old enough to receive Christ and be born again.

1 John 5:12-13 *He that hath the Son hath (eternal) life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life...*



the end

Simple Thoughts From Eli

To Forgive and Forget

Every one says forgiveness is a lovely idea, until they have something to forgive.

-C.S. Lewis, Mere Christianity, 1952

When the Nickel Mines schoolhouse shooting occurred last year, there was a lot of talk about the quickness of the Lancaster Amish to forgive. Forgiving quickly is much better than taking a lot of time.

Matthew 5:25 *Agree with thine adversary quickly, while thou art in the way with him; lest at any time the adversary deliver thee to the judge, and the judge deliver thee to the officer, and thou be cast into prison.*

I wish I could say that it always happens that way among us. But if the perpetrator stays among us and the law has let him off, the whole scenario changes. We feel uneasy whenever we meet with him. Eye contact is avoided. To be honest, we are a little afraid of him. Will he do it again? Is it wise to pretend it never happened? But we know that we need to forgive!

When we are wronged, very often a trust is broken. We can extend a certain amount of trust to strangers whom we have never met. But when trust between friends is broken, it takes a lot more effort to restore that trust than even a stranger needs to work at. Nobody has an obligation to forgive immediately, but according to scripture, you cling to your rights at your own peril when you choose not to forgive.

Matthew 6:14 *For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.*

And you cannot make someone trust another person by simply ordering it done. Rebuilding trust always takes time and effort, sometimes more time than people are willing to invest. Furthermore, it is quite possible that trust will never be as full as it was before. Therefore, trust and forgiveness are separate issues. To trust someone after they have hurt you without a proper and heartfelt confession and apol-

ogy plus a way to prevent a reoccurrence is to enable them to offend again. That would increase the hurt to an unbearable level. Yes, I can forgive but I can't possibly allow it to happen again. Forgiveness does not always restore full relationship instantly. You will have to earn it.

When we are wronged, we are owed something. Like a debt, we have the right to collect. When we feel pain inflicted by another person, either in body or in soul, we have a right to justice. It is only natural to want the other person to feel what we have felt. This impulse is called revenge. The outcome is often more revenge and hatred of each other. In all the stories from the Old Testament forgiveness is rare. But we who are Christians live in the days of the New Testament. Forgiveness is a concept that was not well known in the Old testament times. It was an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth under the Law of Moses. That is what we call justice. Do you want justice or mercy? If I want mercy to continue to be extended to me, then I need to extend mercy.

It is obvious that all forgiveness is not the same. True forgiveness says there has to be a confession of wrongdoing. Admitting under pressure that you are guilty is not the same as confession. It is admission and nothing more. However, that is often all that you will get. In such a case we have to move on and forgive to the point where we won't poison our own souls. Carrying a grudge will not only harm the mind, but our bodies can suffer as well.

See **JAMES 5:14, 15, 16** *Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him. Confess your faults one to another,*



and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

I have heard of incidents where prayer for healing of the body did not take place until forgiveness was given to someone else. This kind of forgiveness involves a choice to not seek revenge or redress any more. It does not under any circumstances mean we forget. It is simply choosing to not live in the attitude of bitterness. Sometimes the other party has died and we cannot involve them at all.

So what happens when we forgive someone who hasn't properly asked? Remember, carrying the right to redress is like a weight around your neck and you have the other person on a hook. When we hand our debtors over to God, it's kind of like handing off a debt to a collection agency. That may not be the best example, but the idea is that someone else is going to do the collecting. The debtor does not owe you now, but owes his debt to the Lord. Should God decide to collect, then we are free of the task. If God chooses to instead forgive the person, He is able to deal with any consequences.

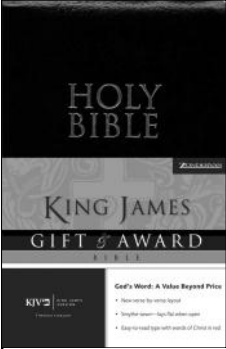
The highest form of forgiveness is when the guilty party chooses to take full ownership of the pain and reaches out and offers more than you asked for. To take ownership is to say to something the effect "It's not your fault at all, the hurt you felt was caused by me and I am truly sorry". It includes an attempt to restore a relationship with you. It places value on your feelings and person. Lame statements such as "If I hurt you, I am sorry" at this time won't help. The hurt party has already said that they were offended and that statement questions whether they were really hurt or are pretending. That will never restore a relationship. Only truly caring for another person's feelings will get the job done. Whether we admit it or not, feelings drive us all. God made us that way.

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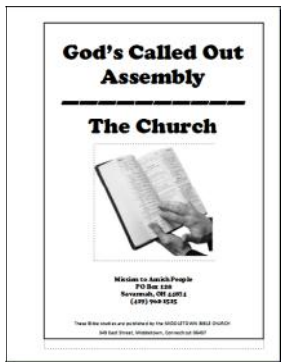
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Did you Know?

1. Babies are born without knee caps. They don't appear until the child reaches 2-6 years of age.
2. Baby robins eat 14 feet of earthworms every day.
3. Bats always turn left when exiting a cave.
4. Bubble gum contains rubber.
5. Camels have three eyelids to protect themselves from blowing sand.
6. Cats can produce over one hundred vocal sounds, while dogs can only produce about ten.

Amazing Facts In The Bible

Question: "What is the location of the Garden of Eden?"

The only thing the Bible tells us concerning the Garden of Eden's location is found in Genesis 2:10-14, "A river watering the garden flowed from Eden; from there it was separated into four headwaters. The name of the first is the Pishon; it winds through the entire land of Havilah, where there is gold...The name of the second river is the Gihon; it winds through the entire land of Cush. The name of the third river is the Tigris; it runs along the east side of Asshur. And the fourth river is the Euphrates."

The exact identities of the Pishon and Havilah rivers is unknown, but the Tigris and Euphrates rivers are well known. If the Tigris and Euphrates mentioned there are the same rivers by those names today, that would put the Garden of Eden somewhere in the middle east, likely in Iraq. People have searched for the Garden of Eden for centuries to no avail. There are various locations that people claim to be the original location of the Garden of Eden, but we cannot be sure. What happened to the Garden of Eden? The Bible does not specifically say. It is likely that the Garden of Eden was completely destroyed in the Flood.

Question: "Why did God put the tree of knowledge of good and evil in the Garden of Eden?"

God put the tree of knowledge of good and evil in the Garden of Eden to give Adam and Eve a choice – to obey Him or disobey Him. Adam and Eve were free to do anything they wanted, except eat from the tree of knowledge of good and evil (Gen 2:16-17). If God had not given Adam and Eve the choice, they would have in some sense, been robots, simply doing what they were programmed to do. God created Adam and Eve to be "free" beings, able to make decisions, able to choose between good and evil.

God allowed Satan to tempt Adam and Eve to force them to make the choice. Adam and Eve chose, of their own free wills, to disobey God and eat the forbidden fruit. The result – evil, sin, suffering, sickness, and death have plagued the world ever since. Adam and Eve's decision results in each and every person being born with a sin nature, a tendency to sin. Adam and Eve's decision is what ultimately required Jesus Christ to die on the cross and shed His blood on our behalf.

Genesis 3:24 *So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life.*

There was the possibility that Adam and Eve might try to reenter the Garden some day in the future and do what they had done before: eat the forbidden fruit, which in this case was the tree of life. God, therefore, had to keep man away from the Garden as long as man was upon the earth. This God did by posting angelic beings to keep man out of the Garden. Adam would never try—not even dare—to enter the Garden with those glorious and powerful beings guarding it.

Jesus Coming in the Air



You are in your buggy and driving home, thinking about all the things that are going on in your world, when suddenly a sound unlike any you've ever heard, fills the air. The sound is high above you. First it sounds like a trumpet; then a choir; then a choir of trumpets...you don't know for sure what it is, but you want to know. So you pull over to the side of the road, get out of your buggy, and look up. As you do, you see you aren't the only curious one. The roadside has become a parking lot. Buggy curtains and car doors are open, and people are staring at the sky. Neighbors are racing out of their house. The softball ball game across the road has come to a halt. Players and parents are searching the clouds. And what they see, and what you see, has never before been seen.

As if the sky was made up of two curtains, the atmosphere parts away; a brilliant light spills onto the earth. There are no shadows. None! From every color ever seen and a million more never seen. Riding on the flow is an endless fleet of angels. They pass through the curtains one multitude at a time, until they occupy every square inch of the sky.

North. South. East. West.

Thousands of silvery wings rise and fall in harmony, and over the sound of the trumpets, you can hear the cherubim and seraphim chanting, Holy, holy, holy. The final flank of angels is followed by twenty-four silver-bearded elders and a multitude of souls who join the angels in worship. All of a sudden the movement stops and the trumpets are silent, leaving only the triumphant triplet: Holy, holy, holy. Between each word is a pause; with each word, a profound reverence. You hear your voice join in the chorus. You

don't know why you say the words, but you know you must.

Suddenly, the heavens are quiet. All is quiet. The angels turn, you turn, the entire world turns, and there He is! Jesus, our Savior. Through waves of light you see the figure of Christ the King. He is atop a great stallion, and the stallion is atop a billowing cloud. He opens his mouth, and you are surrounded by his declaration:

I am the Alpha and the Omega.

The angels bow their heads. The elders remove their crowns. And before you is a Figure so consuming that you know, instantly you know: Nothing else matters. Forget the bank accounts and school reports, daily chores and busy day. Nothing is newsworthy... All that mattered, matters no more... For Christ has come.

Revelation 5:9-12 *And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; ¹⁰ And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth. ¹¹ And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beasts and the elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands; ¹² Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing.*



Bracelet Pulled From Chicken is One Clucky Find

Boy's ID bracelet lost decades ago turns up in a gizzard from Minnesota bird

FAIRMONT, Minn. - More than two decades after Aaron Giles lost his identity bracelet, he's finding how it was discovered tough to swallow.

A meat cutter at Olson Locker in Fairmont came across the shiny object in a chicken gizzard and saw a name, address and phone number engraved on it.

"I've heard of livestock swallowing unusual objects, but this situation stands out," Mark Olson, who owns the meat locker, told the Sentinel of Fairmont.

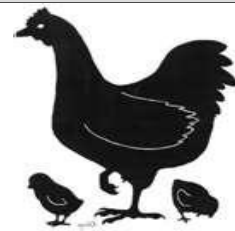
Giles had lived in Fairmont as a child and played hide-and-seek and other games

with his brothers in their grandfather's barn near Sherburn.

"I would spend most of my time out at his farm, and that's the only place I can think of that I would have lost it," Giles said about his bracelet on Thursday. The 31-year-old said he thinks the bracelet was lost when he was 4 or 5.



The barn was dismantled a few years ago, and Giles thinks his bracelet was imbedded in materials used to construct another barn in Elmore, about 45 miles away.



The bracelet was found in a chicken that came from an Elmore farm.

Olson was able to track down Giles' father, who had moved to Arizona. Giles, who now lives in Gloucester, Mass., said he received his old bracelet in September.

"It was in pretty immaculate shape. Everything was working on it, and all the engravings on it were still legible," Giles said. "It was quite the surprise."

Giles said he expects the bracelet to stay in his family for many years to come. "I have no plans on trying to lose it again," he said.

The King and His 4 Wives



Once upon a time there was a rich King who going to remarry!"

had four wives. He loved the 4th wife the most and adorned her with rich robes and treated her to the finest of delicacies. He gave her nothing but the best.

He also loved the 3rd wife very much and was always showing her off to neighboring

kingdoms. However, he feared that one day she would leave him for another.

He also loved his 2nd wife. She was his confident and was always kind, considerate and patient with him. Whenever the King faced a problem, he could confide in her, and she would help him get through the difficult times.

The King's 1st wife was a very loyal partner and had made great contributions in maintaining his wealth and kingdom. However, he did not love the first wife. Although she loved him deeply, he hardly took notice of her!

One day, the King fell ill and he knew his time was short. He thought of his luxurious life and wondered, "I now have four wives with me, but when I die, I'll be all alone."

Thus, he asked the 4th wife, "I have loved you the most, endowed you with the finest clothing and showered great care over you. Now that I'm dying, will you follow me and keep me company?"

"**No way!**" replied the 4th wife, and she walked away without another word.

Her answer cut like a sharp knife right into his heart.

The sad King then asked the 3rd wife, "I have loved you all my life. Now that I'm dying, will you follow me and keep me company?"

"**No!**" replied the 3rd wife. "Life is too good! When you die, I'm

His heart sank and turned cold. He then asked the 2nd wife, "I have always turned to you for help and you've always been there for me. When I die, will you follow me and keep me company?"

"**I'm sorry, I can't help you out this time!**" replied the 2nd wife. "At the very most, I can only walk with you to your grave."

Her answer struck him like a bolt of lightning, and the King was devastated.



Then a voice called out: "**I'll go with you. I'll follow you no matter where you go.**"

The King looked up, and there was his first wife. She was very skinny and she suffered from malnutrition and neglect. Greatly grieved, the King said, "I should have taken much better care of you when I had the chance!"

In truth, we all have the 4 wives in our lives:

Our 4th wife is our **body**. No matter how much time and effort we lavish in making it look good, it will leave us when we die.

Our 3rd wife is **our possessions, status and wealth**. When we die, it will all go to others.

Our 2nd wife is **our family and friends**. No matter how much they have been there for us, the furthest they can stay by us is up to the grave.

And our 1st wife is **our Soul**. Often neglected in pursuit of wealth, power and pleasures of the world. However, our Soul is the only thing that will follow us wherever we go. Cultivate, strengthen and cherish it now, for it is the only part of us that will follow us to the throne of God and continue with us throughout **Eternity**.

Sand and Stone

Two friends were walking through the desert. During some point of the journey, they had an argument; and one friend slapped the other one in the face.

The one who got slapped was hurt, but without saying anything, wrote in the sand:

"**Today my best friend slapped me in the face.**"

They kept on walking, until they found an oasis, where they decided to take a bath.

The one who had been slapped got stuck in the mire and started drowning, but the friend saved him.

After he recovered from the near drowning, he wrote on a stone:

"**Today my best friend saved my life.**"

The friend who had slapped and saved his best friend asked him, "After I hurt you, you wrote in the sand and now, you write on a stone, why?"



The friend replied, "When someone hurts us we should write it down in the sand, where winds of forgiveness can erase it away. But when someone does something good for us, we must engrave it in stone where no wind can ever erase it."

Learn to write your hurts in the sand and to carve your benefits in stone.

They say it takes a minute to find a special person, an hour to appreciate them, a day to love them, but then an entire life to forget them.

Be Extraordinary Not Ordinary

Paul was a man who was used by God to do extraordinary things, but did you know that he did not start out that way? Believe it or not his name was Saul, and he actually used all of his worldly and religious education to work against the things of God.

After he witnessed the martyrdom of the deacon Stephen, Saul went to his leaders and received letters of authority authorizing him to arrest Christians. Saul, above all others, was well known to the early Christians as a threat, one who hated them, and who would bring much anguish and pain to them. He worked hard trying to stop the spread of Christianity. He was convinced that what he was doing was the correct thing to do, and he had the legal right to do it. He used any and all means available to him to bring an end to what he saw as a false teaching. People need to be sensitive to how they voice their convictions to someone else.

One day while Saul was on the way to arrest some Christians, something happened to him that changed his life forever. **He had a first hand encounter with Jesus**



Christ. He met him face to face, and he was never the same

again. He went on to proclaim the Name of Jesus every opportunity that he had. This led him into palaces and several court rooms. He gave an account of himself before judges and even kings. In the end, he gave his life but he did so bringing honor to his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Yes, Paul was a man of character who was allowed to do extraordinary things.

Today Satan is working very hard trying to capture our minds and hearts. He wants our focus to be on anything except the pure word of God. His desire is to keep people off of their knees and out of their bibles. Satan will use any means available to him to achieve his goal.

Like Paul, God wants you to do extraordinary things, for righteousness sake. But the question is, have you been brought to your knees yet? Have you come to a place in your life where you have begun to look up? Are you allowing Satan to work through men to keep you off of your knees and out of your bible?



Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 2:12 "Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God."

Paul knew that God wanted him. You and I to know and understand the things that God Himself freely gave to us, and for this reason He has given His Spirit to his children. In fact, Romans 8:9 teaches us that if any man have not the Spirit of God he is none of His.

Being extraordinary starts with having a **first hand encounter with Jesus Christ** and receiving God's Spirit. I'll write more about this later. If you have questions about how you can know if you have the Spirit of God dwelling in you, please:

- Go to your knees
- Spend some time in prayer
- Study your **B-I-B-L-E** "*Basic Instructions Before Leaving Earth*"
- Ask God to point out from His Word what He would have you to know

He truly wants you to freely know the things that He has given to you.

Matthew 7:7 "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you..."

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Tater People



Some people never seem motivated to participate, but are content to let others do all the work. They are called "**Speck-Taters**".

Some people never do anything to help, but are gifted at finding fault with the way others do the work. They are called "**Comment-Taters**".

Some people are very bossy and like to tell others what to do, but don't like to soil their own hands. They are called "**Dick-Taters**".

Some people are always looking to cause problems by asking others to agree with them. It is too hot or too cold, too sour or too sweet. They are called "**Agie-Taters**".

There are those who say they will help, but somehow just never get around to actually doing the promised help. They are called "**Hezzie-Taters**".

Some people can put up a front and pretend to be someone they are not. They are called "**Emma-Taters**".



Then there are those who love others and do what they say they will. They are always prepared to stop whatever they are doing and lend a helping hand. They bring real sunshine into the lives of others. They are called "**Sweet-Taters**".

From A Woman's Stand Point

A Woman after God's Own Heart?

I have been meditating on what God says about King David. God said that David was



a man after God's own heart. If you do a study of David's life you will find out that he

was a murderer, an adulterer, and he had a son that sought to kill him. These are just a few of the things on King David's list. The truth is something had to happen in David's heart in order for it to change to be a heart after God. As I read through some of the Psalms that David wrote it is like reading David's journal. One of the first lessons I learned in order to become a man or woman after God's own heart is honesty. We have to be honest with ourselves and with God about our feelings and our thoughts and things we have done or are doing.

First, I realized I have no strength or enough will power to change me and to change the things in my life that needed to be changed. This was the first step in my journey of honesty with me and with God. The next thing I realized is that change in my life that will bring me closer to God has to start with confession. First of all, confessing that I am a sinner (we are all born into sin because of Adam's sin – January, 2008 Amish Voice). Secondly, acknowledging and confessing specific sin in my life. Thirdly, repentance has to follow confession. We can take up a lot of time confessing sins/faults, but if we have no intention of changing then all the confessions means nothing. Jesus did not condemn the adulteress woman for her sin, but he did tell her to go and sin no more.

My first step in my confession was to acknowledge that I needed a Savior. I told God that I am not able to make the changes in me that needed to be made in order for me to become the woman after God's own heart I wanted to be.

My second step was to recognize the truth of why Jesus was born and then crucified.



After Adam's fall, God knew he had to provide a way for mankind to be reconciled with Him and in order for Him to have communion with us. This is why he sent Jesus. He sent Jesus to do what no man was able to do.

The third step was to receive that gift of salvation which I did 12 and ½ years ago. Once we receive and believe the truth of why Jesus came, only then God can send His Holy Spirit to dwell inside of us and this is where change happens. Once God's Holy Spirit is inside of us; leading us, guiding us, and convicting us, we then get to chose whether to submit to God's Holy Spirit or take our own way. If we truly have a heart after God's own heart we are going to start surrendering our will and our way to God's will and way.

May each one of you, who has a desire to become a man or woman after God's own heart, take the time to seek out the truth of God's Word. None of us is going to be able to tell God the reason we did or believed what we did is because that is what we were told or taught. We all have the same access to God's Word and the truth if we will stop being afraid. God's Word says fear does not come from God, and it also tells me that God is not going to deceive me or allow me to be deceived. I trust God and I trust His Word!



In Romans 10:8-13 *But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach; That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God has raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed. For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all*

that call upon him. For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

In 2 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.*

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Amish Voice Responses

1. *Thank you for the Amish Voice you are sending out. I believe you are touching some very important issues of our day. I sense in you a desire to be very scripturally grounded, keep discerning God's word. ~ R — IN*

2. *Thank you for your steady, unwavering support that comes from the Lord. The Amish church needs that like any other church to stay on the right soul saving track. Thank you for exposing any dark area's and holding us accountable, increasing our knowledge now, rather than be lost before the final judgment day. I need your study course "The Church". I have a check included for \$26 – please use the extra as a contribution. ~ J — PA*

3. *Hello, please send me "The Church" study. I enjoy your Amish Voice. ~ B — IL*

4. *After receiving these misleading pieces of trash in our mail, we ask of you to put a stop to this. The man of God you pretend to be would certainly not offend anyone, which you are doing now. Maybe in your judgmental eyes, you have overlooked the 23rd chapter of Matthew! Also it wouldn't hurt to be aware what (our Heavenly Father) not Joe K. says to us in Matthew 24:4&5, "take heed that no one deceives you for many will come in MY name saying I am the Christ and will deceive many". So we will wait and see how honest you are. Seems to us, picking up trash along the highway would certainly be more worthwhile than running your mouth. ~ J — OH*

On January 13-15 the *Freedom From a Wounded Heart Seminar* was presented in Ohio. Over 120 people participated in the three-evening event. We live in a culture full of wounded people. So



many of these people have been in church all their life yet they still are not free from the chains of woundedness. Yet, the salvation our Heavenly Father has provided will set us free from the bondages stemming from a wounded heart. Below are some truths that will help you understand the wounded heart:

What is a wound? A wound is anything that hurt you at any point in your life and continues to affect the way you act, think, feel and live.

How do wounds work? Wounds are like computer viruses—they run in the background in secret places of the heart, yet they affect everything we do and how we think. These wounds (like computer viruses) dominate our core belief system. They become so much a part of who a person is that often the person doesn't even know they are being controlled by the wound.

What are some ways people are wounded? There are thousands of ways people become wounded. Here are just a few: feeling ugly, born into a poor family, crippled, sexual abuse, not affirmed or nurtured by a parent, rejected by people, hurt by spiritual authority, circumstances that caused fear to be planted in the heart, feeling below other people, being treated unfairly in school. Wounds can take root in a heart in any way that causes pain.

How does woundedness affect a person's behavior? There are many ways a person is affected by woundedness. People who are *controllers* are wounded, so are compliant people-pleasers. An angry spirit is the result of wounding. Other responses are fears and phobias, depression, insensitivity, self-centeredness, fear of change, critical/judgmental spirit, religious spirit,

lust and all addictions.

Is it the wound that affects our behavior and thinking? No, actually everybody is going to be rejected, hurt, mistreated, victimized or abused many times in life. Where woundedness becomes a negative thing is when a person lets the hurt or wound **take root in their heart** and they accept the pain, instead of giving the pain to the Lord.

What does a wound do to a person when they let it take root? Life becomes a journey to satisfy the brokenness and to get justice for the life stolen from them. The



person erects protective *walls* to guard them from further pain, abuse, suffering, rejection or other negative things. Life becomes an inward battle to find peace and self-satisfaction.

What are wounded people like? Wounded people can be nice or not nice, depending on how they have chosen to protect themselves. But **always** their thinking is misguided. If an authority hurt a person, they may be suspicious of all authorities. Wounded people often see the half empty cup in people instead of the half full. Sometimes small things become major issues, or when they feel as if they are wronged, one simple wrong will take their focus more than 100 acts of kindness toward them. Most often wounded people are *insatiable*—nothing you say helps them. This is because the root cause of their wound can only be satisfied in Christ.

What are lies connected with wounds? Wounds produce all manner of lies people believe. A few of them are: *You don't understand!; What happened to me is worth hurting about!; I am not reacting out of self-protection! (denial); What happened once will probably happen again!; If this hadn't happened to me I would be happy and satisfied!* Most of the time people don't admit that their agreement with their wound **is sin and unbelief**.

What are truths about wounds? We deal

with wounds the same way we deal with sin—we break our agreement with them and take them to the cross; no one separated us from the love of God—nor did any circumstance; all things work together for good to those who love God and are called according to His purposes (Rom. 8:28); no one but God knows where you would be if you had not been wounded. In other words, that wound may have been a very positive thing that shaped your heart and actually protected you from worse things that could have happened to you; with every thing that happens to you, you have the choice to become bitter or better; God can restore the years the locust ate; your authority and power to help others is primarily in the place of victory over your own wounds (if you get victory over sexual abuse, you will have authority to lead other sexual-abuse victims to freedom.); death creates life. May He set you free!

~Bruce Lengeman, Door of Hope Ministries
PO Box 321, Lynn, NC 28750

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A one week conference designed to help you live victoriously and joyfully in Christ Jesus.

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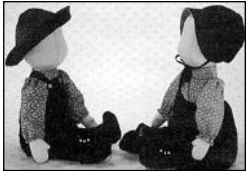
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Noteworthy News

What a solution!

With all of the toys and other item recalls we have experienced in the last months, safety of the toys and furniture we get for our children is on everyone's mind. As a result, finding other ways to buy toys that we know are safe for our children is first on our minds.

A Natural Home located on North Main Street in Fredericktown, OH, sells toys and other goods all made from organic and natural materials. Local people, mostly Amish, make the goods this business sells. and almost all of them are Amish.



Although you may pay more for a baby crib, the craftsmanship, quality, and safety makes cost not an option. Also, the fact that you are supporting people who are local is worth the extra cost.

As a mother myself just having the peace of mind knowing the toys are safe and the furniture is safe for my children and environmentally friendly is what matters.

Taxis Hauling Amish Being Targeted

In Pennsylvania, the Public Utility Commission is targeting those who provide taxi services to the Amish. They are talking about fining those who are providing taxi services without being certified \$1000. For these drivers to become certified would cost \$350 for the certificate and could cost as much as \$6000 to carry commercial insurance a year.



If this law passes, these drivers will have to start to charge more for their services. Right now, many of the Amish already spend \$1000s of dollars a year on taxi services.

Wisconsin Lawmaker Wants to Charge Buggy Registration Fees

Indiana has required plates for horse-drawn vehicles for many years and Illinois has also enacted similar legislation in recent years. A lawmaker in Wisconsin, Rep. Joan Ballweg of Green Lake County, introduced a bill in 2005 that would require the Amish to pay a registration fee on their horse-drawn vehicles, wants to see this bill revived. It failed the last time it was introduced. The idea is that although people, namely the Amish, who use horse-drawn vehicles on the highways, don't help pay for the maintenance and upkeep of the roads because they don't pay the registration fees or gasoline taxes. The lawmaker plans to reintroduce the bill once it returns from the Legislative Reference Bureau.



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