

# The Amish Voice



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## PART 12—What Is The Church

### The Witness of the Church (Part 1 of 2)

#### 1. WHAT IS A WITNESS?

A witness is someone who knows something or has seen something. Suppose there were to be a lunar eclipse at 3:14 a.m. in the morning. A lunar eclipse is when the earth is between the sun and the moon, and the earth blocks the light of the sun from shining on the moon. What would normally be a full moon is covered by the earth's shadow.

Some people might get up in the early morning to see this eclipse. Others would rather stay in bed and sleep through these early morning hours. Those who got up and saw the eclipse could say, "I was a WITNESS. I saw this eclipse with my own eyes. I was an EYE-WITNESS." Those that slept could not say this. They would have to say, "I did not WITNESS this event. I slept while it was happening. I may have heard about it on the radio but I did not see it myself."

Here is another example. Suppose you were walking down the street and suddenly you saw a car being driven very fast and swerving from side to side as if the driver was drunk. The car swerved again, went up over the curb and onto the sidewalk, hit a girl who was riding a bicycle and then sped off. This is called a "hit and run" accident. The driver knew he hit someone but he

drove off and "ran away" (drove away) from the scene of the accident. You saw all of this happen.

1. Would you be considered a WITNESS?
2. Would you know some things that others who did not see the accident would not know?
3. Would you be able to appear in court and tell the jury and judge what you know about the accident and what you saw?

Those who did not see this accident could not be called forth as WITNESSES.

If a witness lies about what he knows or about what he saw, then this person is a FALSE WITNESS.

*Thou shalt not bear FALSE WITNESS against thy neighbour. (Exodus 20:16)*

1. If you knew who the *hit and run driver* was and if you were to tell the police that you did not know who it was, would this be truthful?
2. Would this be bearing false witness?

There are seven things that God hates and one of them is "*a FALSE witness that speaketh LIES*" (Proverbs 6:19)

If we see something or know something, then we need to tell the truth about it.

#### 2. GOD'S WITNESSES

The person who saw the car accident is a witness. He must go to court and represent that accident truthfully. He must present that accident as best he can so that people will know what really happened. **GOD'S WITNESS** must represent God accurately and truthfully. He must know God in a personal way. By his life and by his words he must present God so that people will come to know what God is like and what God has said. Just as the man who saw the accident wants to paint a clear picture of that accident in the minds of people (so they will really understand what happened), so the believer wants to present a clear picture of God.

In Acts 1:8 Jesus said to His disciples:

*"But ye shall receive POWER, after that the Holy Spirit is come upon you: and ye shall be WITNESSES unto Me."*

Jesus was saying, "YOU WILL BE **MY WITNESSES**." These disciples knew Jesus. They knew Him as their Savior and their Lord. They knew that He was alive. They knew that He could save all who would believe in Him. They wanted to represent their Savior in the right way.

In Isaiah 43:10 God spoke to the children of Israel and said this:

"Ye are my WITNESSES, saith the LORD, and

my servant whom I have chosen: that ye may **KNOW** and **BELIEVE** Me, and **UNDER-STAND** that I am He."

God's WITNESS is someone who knows God, believes God and understands who God is:

**1) A Witness Knows God**

A witness is acquainted with God and has a personal relationship with Him. He knows that God is the only God and the only Savior (Isaiah 43:10-11; 44:6,8; 45:21-22).

**2) A Witness Believes God**

A witness is one who trusts, and relies on God. God's witness is the person who believes God's Word and relies completely upon what God has said. He believes God (Hebrews 11:6) and takes God at His Word: GOD SAID IT! I BELIEVE IT! THAT SETTLES IT!

**3) A Witness Understands Who God is**

God's witness not only knows God, but his knowledge of God grows deeper and deep-

er. He wants to know God better and better, more and more.

Philippians 3:10 says, "That I may **KNOW** Him..."

He wants to daily GROW in the knowledge of His God and Savior.

*1 Peter 2:2: As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may **GROW** thereby:*

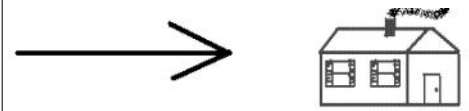
*2 Peter 3:18: But **GROW** in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.*

Are you a GROWING believer? Do you understand more about God this month than you did last month?

Those who KNOW and BELIEVE and UNDER-STAND (Isaiah 43:10) are those who will **GLOW** (they will shine for their Lord). A witness is someone who **KNOWS** and God's witness should also be someone who **GLOWS!**

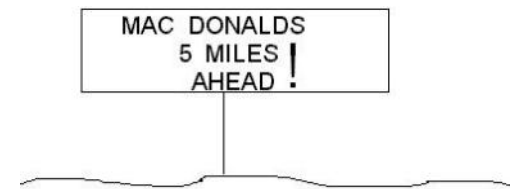
**3. A WITNESS IS SOMEONE WHO POINTS TO GOD.**

A WITNESS is like an arrow. A witness points to something else



The arrow does not want to be seen. The arrow wants you to look at the house. It wants the house to get all the attention.

**Think of a sign that you might see along the road**



**Heart to Heart with Joe Keim**

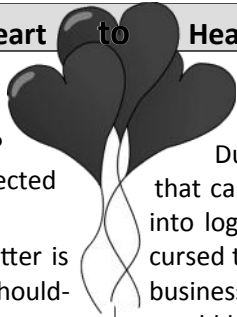
One million years from now, what will be the only thing that will matter? Will it matter how much money you made? Will it matter how much property you owned? Will it matter that you worked 15 hours a day and neglected God and your family?

One million years from now, the only thing that will matter is who is in heaven and who is in hell. And if that is true, shouldn't that be our greatest concern?

In Matthew 18:11, Jesus said, "For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost." If it was Jesus' greatest priority to reach the lost, shouldn't it be ours too? With that in mind, what are you doing today that will matter one million years from now?

2nd Cor 5:10 teaches us, "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad." Do you believe that? Can you close your eyes right now and try to imagine what that is going to be like? Do you think it will matter at that moment if you shared your faith with a lost and dying world, which by the way is the ONLY answer for a lost soul.

**More than 150,000 people die every day and go into eternity.** Since that is true, shouldn't you do everything in your power to get



the word out to your lost neighbors and friends? If not you, who? If not now, when?

During my growing up years, there was an English man that came to my dad's shop on a regular basis. He was heavy into logging, drove 4-wheel drive trucks, chewed tobacco, and cursed the Lord's name on a regular basis. Mr. Spellman was all business and would not even acknowledge us youngsters and would have walked right over us, if we didn't get out of his way. We were afraid of him.

About 15 years went by and one day I walked into a nursing home in our local area. I was there to visit some older people, when out of the corner of my eye, I noticed a big burley looking man sitting in the corner, pouting. I looked a little closer and then a little closer yet, and low and behold, it was Mr. Spellman. Right away, shivers ran up and down my spine, as I recalled his rough lifestyle of chewing tobacco and cursing the Lord's name. At first, I wanted to run as fast as I could, for fear that he might see me.

I hurried on to visit the friends I had come to see, but I wasn't able to keep my mind from wondering back to Mr. Spellman. What would I say? What would he say? Would he know me? Would he curse the Lord's name?

(Continued on page 5)

**W H O** This publishing work is registered as a charitable organization in the USA and is supported through freewill offerings. We welcome your articles, testimonies and questions. We reserve the right to edit or decline any material and are not responsible for the return of any articles.

**W E A R E** Since our beginning in 2000, many people have written to us, asking to be added to our mailing list, while others have sent us names of their friends and family members. We think it is important for us to tell you that the cost of *The Amish Voice* is \$.45 a copy and is totally funded by readers from across our great country, who appreciate the ministry and care to support it. If the Lord would lay it on your heart to come along side of us, by helping with expenses, it would be a great benefit as well as highly appreciated. In order to continue receiving the Amish Voice, please keep us informed of any changes to your address.

If a hungry group of people were riding in a car and saw this sign, what would they say? Would they say, "Hurray! There is a beautiful sign!" or would they say, "Hurray! McDonalds (a fast food restaurant) is only a few miles away"? The sign does not want you to think about the sign; it wants you to think about McDonalds! The sign wants to point you to a RESTAURANT which is five miles down the road.

John the Baptist was an excellent WITNESS:

*John 1:6-7: There was a man sent from God, whose name was JOHN. The same came for a WITNESS to bear witness of the Light" that all men through Him might believe.*

John the Baptist was an ARROW that pointed clearly to Jesus:



John was like an arrow or signpost pointing to Jesus and saying, "HERE HE IS!"

*John 1:8: He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light.*

In John 1:29 and John 1:36 John used the word "BEHOLD." This word is a "pointing" word (like an arrow). "BEHOLD" points out something to which the speaker wants to draw attention. It would be like saying, "BEHOLD, MCDONALD'S IS UP AHEAD!" John was saying, "BEHOLD, HERE HE IS! THIS IS HE! HE'S THE ONE!"

What should you do if a person comes to you seeking salvation?

1. Can **you** save this person?
2. Can **you** forgive his sins?
3. Can **you** get this person to heaven

The answers to these three questions is obviously "NO". However, there is something very important that you **can** do: YOU CAN POINT THEM TO THE ONE WHO CAN SAVE AND THE ONE WHO CAN FORGIVE AND THE ONE WHO CAN GET THEM TO HEAVEN!

Did you know that the coins in your pocket (or pocketbook) are WITNESSES? These coins point to the fact that we ought to be trusting God. Written on the coins of the United States is the national motto which

says, "IN GOD WE TRUST." Do you trust in God? The coins that you carry with you are pointing to the fact that you should be doing this. Even though these coins never talk or say a word, they carry an important message.

#### 4. FOUR WITNESSES THAT POINT TO GOD.

God wants to make Himself known! God wants people to know WHO HE IS. Let us consider four things that point to God and help to make God known. These are four WITNESSES and they all begin with the letter "C."

##### Creation

Creation points clearly to the Creator. As a person looks up at the heavens and sees the greatness of the universe (Psalm 8:3; Psalm 19:1), he realizes that Someone **even greater** must have made all these things. Whether we look through the telescope or whether we look through the microscope, we can see the handiwork of the Creator.

*Romans 1:20: For the invisible things of Him from the BEGINNING of the world are clearly SEEN, being UNDERSTOOD by the things that are MADE, even His eternal power and Godhead..."*

Think of modern computers. Did someone make these computers or did they just come about by accident?

It would be silly to say that no one made these amazing electronic devices! God has made millions of living creatures that are far more amazing and far more complex than any machines that intelligent men have ever made. How foolish is the person who says, "No one made these animals and plants."

Tornados and thunderstorms point us to God's power. The feathers of a peacock are beautiful and point us to God's artistry. Rain from heaven, sunshine and fruitful crops remind us of God's goodness (Acts 14:17; Matthew 5:44-45). The fact that every snowflake is different points to God's creativity. The day-night cycle and the seasonal cycle (summer, fall, winter, spring) point us to God's great faithfulness. **CREATION** (the things that are made) is an arrow that points us to the **CREATOR** (the Maker of all things):

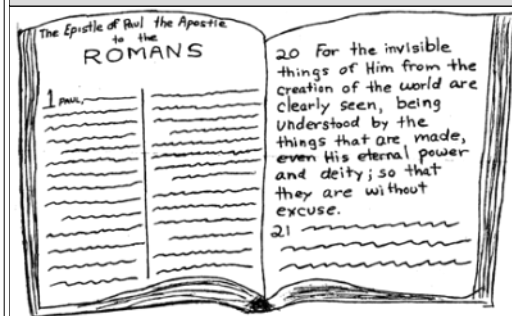
**The Problem:** Creation can only teach us some things about God but there are other important things about God that Creation cannot teach us. A man will never learn how to be saved by looking at the heavens or by looking at the feathers of a peacock. Creation teaches us about the God of POWER and WISDOM and GREATNESS, but it does not teach us about the God of SALVATION and FORGIVENESS and ETERNAL LIFE.

##### The Canon

##### (the Bible, the 66 Books of the Bible)

The Bible can point men to God's Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ (2 Timothy 3:15). The Bible can point us to the God of SALVATION --the God who is able to forgive all of our sins and give us His gift of ETERNAL LIFE.

The Bible is a BOOK that points to God and tells people many more things about God.



Jesus taught that the Bible was a WITNESS:

*John 5:39: Search the Scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which TESTIFY (BEAR WITNESS) of ME.*

The Bible points clearly to Jesus Christ who is the only Savior!

**The Problem:** Most unsaved people do not read the Bible. They may have a Bible in their home (most people in our country do), but it may sit for months and years without ever being opened and just collect dust. What good is a sign if people do not look at it? What good is a Bible if people do not read it?

##### Christ

Jesus Christ perfectly pointed to God. To see Jesus is to see God (John 14:9)! Jesus Christ is God's perfect Witness. To get to know Jesus Christ is to get to know God (John 14:7).

**The Problem:** Jesus Christ is no longer in the world today.

Jesus said in *John 16:10*: *I go to my Father and ye SEE me NO MORE.*

The world (unsaved people) can no longer see Christ today. What good is a sign if people cannot see it? There is, however, a way that the world can see Christ today. Did you know that today Jesus Christ has a body which is on the earth and this body can be seen? This brings us to our fourth witness:

### The Church (Christians)

Believers living today are members of the Church, Christ's body, and these believers are God's WITNESSES...

*Acts 1:8: ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem (my city), and in all Judaea (my state), and in Samaria (my country), and unto the uttermost part of the earth (the whole world).*

It is the job of the Church to POINT clearly to God. People do look at the Church. People may not read the Bible but they do read us...

*2 Cor 3:2: Ye are our epistle (letter) written in our hearts, KNOWN and READ of all men.*

## 5. THE BODY POINTS TO THE HEAD

The Church is the BODY OF CHRIST. Looking at the next two verses, who is the HEAD of the Church?

**Colossians 1:18** He (Jesus) is the head of the body, the church:

**Ephesians 1:22-23:** *And hath put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be the HEAD OVER ALL THINGS TO THE CHURCH, Which is His body, the fulness of Him that filleth all in all.*

- Today, Jesus Christ is in heaven and is **unseen by mankind** (John 16:10).
- The Church (made up of all who believe) is on earth and is **seen by mankind**.

If you see the tail of a cat wiggling under a door, then you know that there must be a cat on the other side of the door. The wiggling tail points to the fact that there must be a living cat on the other side. If you were to see a man working under his car and all you could see were his legs and lower body sticking out from under the car, what would this tell you? Would this

not tell you that there must be an upper body and head even though the upper body and head cannot be seen? The lower



body and moving feet which are seen point to the upper body and head which are not seen.

The world cannot see Jesus Christ today, but it can see His living (and "wiggling") BODY which is on the earth. As the world sees and watches the body (they see believers at school, at work, in the neighborhood, in town, etc.), this points to the fact that there must be a living HEAD in heaven!

## 6. HOW CAN THE WORLD SEE THE TRUTH?

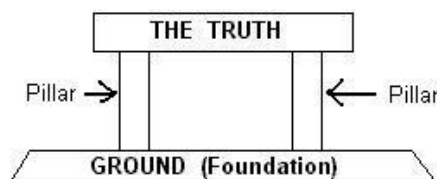
In John 14:6, Jesus said, *"I am the way, the TRUTH and the life"*

In John 17:17, Jesus said, *"Thy WORD (God's Word) is TRUTH"*

These two verses tell us that JESUS CHRIST is the truth and THE BIBLE is the truth.

**The Problem:** Jesus Christ is no longer in the world and can no longer be seen by men. The Bible is here but few people read it. Therefore, HOW CAN THE WORLD SEE THE TRUTH?

In 1 Timothy 3:15 we learn that the CHURCH is the PILLAR AND GROUND of the TRUTH.



Think of an ancient (long ago) temple. Just as the foundation and pillars of the temple would hold up the roof, so the Church is to hold up the truth of God. People cannot see Jesus Christ today and they often are not willing to read the Bible, BUT THEY WILL SEE AND WATCH YOU. They will read your life (2 Cor. 3:2). As they watch you...

1. Are they seeing GOD'S TRUTH?

2. Are they seeing you put God's truth to work in your life?
3. Do they see God's truth shining out from your life (Matt. 5:16; Philippians 2:15-16)?

God wants us to be "good arrows" that point clearly to Him and to His truth.

## 7. GOD USES THE CHURCH AS HIS WITNESS BEFORE ANGELS.

If you are a believer, did you know that you are in this world to teach angels a lesson? God wants to teach the angels about His wonderful WISDOM and GRACE that made it possible for Him to save sinful men. How does God teach the angels? He teaches them THROUGH US!

Read Ephesians 3:10.

*Eph 3:10: To the intent that now unto the PRINCIPALITIES AND POWERS IN HEAVENLY PLACES might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God.*

You might say, the universe is God's school room. God is the Teacher. The angels (principalities and powers) are the students. The CHURCH (made up of Christians) is the OBJECT LESSON. What is God teaching the angels? Not about history, but about His wonderful WISDOM.

When God wants to teach the angels about His wisdom and His grace He points TO US (the Church) and shows them what He has done for us. Did you know that God is using you to teach angels? Did you know that angels (good angels and bad angels) are probably watching you right now?

## 8. THE CHURCH POINTING OUT GOD TO MEN AND ANGELS.

God wants to make Himself known through the Church. The Church is in the world to "SHOW OFF" God!

In our next edition of the Amish Voice, we are going to look into God's Word again to find some of the things that God wants to "SHOW OFF": Until then, let's be arrows that point to Jesus Christ, the Savior of the world!

—The End—

This Bible study was published by the MIDDLETOWN BIBLE CHURCH of Middletown, Connecticut

**Continued from Page 2  
(Heart to Heart with Joe Keim)**

Then it happened. The Lord began to convict me that I should go back and share God's greatest love story of how He sent His only begotten Son to die on the cross.

At first I argued with God—**send someone else, I am not your man**, but He didn't give up. I finally gave in.

As I made my way back to where he was sitting, I felt my heart pounding like a sledge hammer.

As I approached the place where he was sitting, I looked him in the eye and asked, Mr. Spellman, do you remember me? **He looked at me for a minute and then growled in a low voice, "yes, you are Johnny's boy."**

We talked for a few more minutes and then I asked the question, Mr. Spellman, I have something I must ask you, if you should die today and go into eternity, do you know if you would go to be with God?

He looked at me as if I had just hit him on the head with a 2x4. And then he said, "well I don't know about that but I do know this, I want out of this place now and if someone does not get me out of here right now, I'm walking out myself."

I waited awhile until he got over his anger spell and then I said, Mr. Spellman, if I could show you from the Bible how you can have all your sins forgiven and a home in heaven when you die, would you let me? To my huge surprise, he said, "well, I guess but make it quick."

I got my Bible out and began with Romans 3:23 where it says, "**for ALL have sinned and come short of the glory of God**". Isaiah 53:6 says, **ALL we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way**; I explained to him that no matter how many good things we have done in life, **ALL** of us have sinned and come short of God's perfection, therefore we have been separated from a totally Holy God, as the drawing shows.



Next, I explained to him that mankind has attempted to bridge the gap which sepa-

rates himself from God by doing good works ... living moral lives ... doing good things ... even being religious ... but he has always failed.

The Bible says in Titus 3:5 **Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us...**



Salvation does not come by good works. Man cannot earn righteousness by good works. No person can be good enough or do enough good to make God accept him.

What man fails to see is that God is perfect, and as perfect, He cannot accept anything imperfect. Therefore, no matter how many works of righteousness man does—no matter how much good he does—man is not saved by his own efforts. He cannot earn, win, or merit salvation.

Next, I moved to Romans 5:8, where the Bible says, "**But God commendeth (proved) His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.**"

I explained to Mr. Spellman that Jesus loved him with such an indescribable passion that He gave up the Glory of Heaven, came to our sinful and wicked planet and allowed His very own created beings to murder Him on the cross between two evil men. Jesus did all this so that he, Mr. Spellman could have ALL his sins forgiven and receive everlasting life.



1 Peter 3:18 says, **For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God...**

All of a sudden I saw the tears welling up in Mr. Spellman's eyes and then he began to weep out loud. It was at that moment that he began to realize how great the love of Jesus was for him. Through tears, he looked at me and asked, "what can I do to be saved?"

I took him to Romans 10:9 and 13, where it reads, "**That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from**

**the dead, thou shalt be saved. For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.**"

The next few moments were so precious, as Mr. Spellman cried out to Jesus Christ, the Son of God, for forgiveness of sins and everlasting life.

When we got all done, he thanked me for sharing Jesus with him, we hugged, and I went home, glad that I had given in and shared God's simple plan of salvation.

A week later, I received word that Mr. Spellman breathed his last on this side of eternity and died. When I heard about it, I was filled with joy, knowing that Mr. Spellman was with his Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ—just like the thief on the cross.

The Bible says in Romans 10:14-15, "**How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace...**"

I have heard Christians say, "well, the lost can just look at my life and see that I have the love of Jesus." I suppose that means the lost will need to assume that they too should love Jesus. If that were true, then whose life are you really sharing—yours or God's? They would not know why you are such a good person, so you would be sharing your life only.

When we don't want to talk about our faith it is usually because we are ashamed of what people might think of us. The Apostle Paul writes in Romans 1:16, "**For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.**"

My dear friend, we have no time to spare! People are dying every day and going to hell. We must do something about it! Jesus commanded us in Matthew 28:19-20, **Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen**

## THE NEW TESTAMENT IN PENNSYLVANIA DEITSH



Es Nei Teshtament in Pennsylvania Deitsh is the work of a translation committee formed expressly for translating the Scriptures into Penn. Deitsh. The committee consists of a group of Amish men along with a member of the Wycliffe Bible Translators, under whose auspices the work was done. All members of the committee are mother tongue speakers of the language.

In making this translation, the committee's purpose was two-fold: 1) to adhere as closely as possible to the Textus Receptus Greek text, which is closely associated with Luther's (German) and the Authorized (English) versions, the two versions most commonly in use by the Amish, and 2) to make the translation in fluent everyday Pennsylvania Deitsh as it is spoken in the home.

The translation procedures and principles used in this translation are basically those employed by the Wycliffe Bible Translators, and the exegesis closely follows their series of in-house "Exegetical Helps". The final manuscript was checked for exegetical accuracy by New Testament Greek specialists from the Translation Department of the Wycliffe Bible Translators.

The first printing of 10,000 copies of the Pennsylvania Deitsh New Testament was published in 1995. Since many Pennsylvania Deitsh speakers use diglot German and English Scriptures, the committee decided to follow this tradition and print the New Testament in Pennsylvania Deitsh and English. By 1999 it became evident that another printing was necessary, and the committee decided to include Psalms and Proverbs in the next printing of 10,000 copies, which was published in 2002. To date about 16,000 copies have been sold altogether. With the good response by the Amish community to Es Nei Teshtament Mitt Di Psaltah Un Shpricha, the committee continued with the work of translating the Old Testament. At present, a first draft translation of the whole Old Testament is on the computer. However, there is much work left to be done on the manuscript, such as spell checking, editing, consultant checking against the original Hebrew manuscripts, etc. At this stage we cannot project a publishing date.

If you would like to obtain a New Testament with Psalms and Proverbs in Pennsylvania Deitsh, they are available for \$13.95 postpaid from the **Committee for Translation, 3864 Township Road 162, Sugarcreek, OH 44681. Phone 330-852-4663.**

You do not need to send money ahead of time; we will bill you with your order. Your local Christian bookstore may also have them available. A self-teaching primer with delightful little Pennsylvania Deitsh stories and poems is sold along with the New Testament as a package at no extra cost.

## Amazing Facts In The Bible

### Question: What Does Jesus Look Like?

**Revelation 1:12-17 says, And I [John] turned to see the voice that spake with me. And being turned, I saw... one like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle. His head and his hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and His eyes were as a flame of fire; And His feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and His voice as the sound of many waters. And He had in His right hand seven stars: and out of His mouth went a sharp twoedged sword: and His countenance was as the sun shineth in His strength. And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead. And he laid His right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last:**

**Note:** John's vision of Jesus Christ was so awesome that it was beyond description. There was no human language to describe Him. All John could do was take some of the precious and awesome things of earth and say the glorified Lord is like that.

**John writes in verse 17: And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead.**

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**Daniel 10:5-6 says, Then I [Daniel] lifted up mine eyes, and looked, and behold a certain man clothed in linen, whose loins were girded with fine gold of Uphaz: "His body also was like the beryl, and His face as the appearance of lightning, and His eyes as lamps of fire, and His arms and His feet like in color to polished brass, and the voice of His words like the voice of a multitude"**

**Note:** Daniel too had an amazing vision and an encounter with an awesome being. It was early spring, the twenty-fourth day of the first month when this breathtaking encounter took place. Daniel and his companions' response to the amazing vision was sheer terror (vv.7-9). Only Daniel actually saw the vision. His companions did not see the awesome person, but they did sense his presence. And they fled in terror. When Daniel caught a glimpse of the glorified person, he was emotionally overwhelmed and physically weakened. His face turned deathly pale, and he became utterly helpless. Falling to the ground, he heard the awesome, glorified Christ speaking.

**Daniel writes in verse 8: ...there remained no strength in me: for my comeliness was turned in me into corruption, and I retained no strength.**

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**Isaiah 6:1-4 says, I [Isaiah] saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and His train filled the temple. Above it stood the seraphims: each one had six wings; with twain he covered his face, and with twain he covered his feet, and with twain he did fly. And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, Holy, Holy, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory. And the posts of the door moved at the voice of Him that cried, and the house was filled with smoke.**

**Note:** Isaiah actually saw the Lord sitting on His heavenly throne, high and exalted. It was the throne of the King of kings Himself, the Lord Jesus Christ. The Lord was exalted as the sovereign God over all the universe: above, before, and over all that exists. He was exalted above all rulers and governments throughout the universe. He held dominion, ruled and reigned, over all powers and principalities, both in this world and the spiritual world.

**Isaiah writes in verse 5: Then said I, Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts.**



## The Bottom Line

A while ago, I had a phone call from a reader who asked the question "Are you trying to bring us around to your way of thinking?" I replied, "My aim is to encourage people to find their footing in the Bible." Never is it my aim to get people to agree with me. My opinion is of no value next to God's instruction. Never add to or take away from what is written in Scripture. We will always have different ideas of how things should be done.

**But there is one fundamental question that must be answered first before we get into any debates.** That question is printed in BIG letters just below. If we cannot answer that question, all the debates about different types of church practices are meaningless. Once we have answered that question, then we have Christian fellowship and those practices are less of a barrier. That is why I prefer to ignore those questions, as I feel not called to get into that. We may in fact promote division and strife if we try that. As well we miss the most vital point. The big question is this:

### WHAT DOES GOD SAY I HAVE TO DO TO ENTER HEAVEN?

When the man on the road to Jericho fell victim to the thieves and was beaten almost to death, it was a scene repeated many times over in history. Even today you could easily come upon a car wreck and find people expecting to die within minutes. The wounded person may say "Help me, I'm not prepared to die." You don't know their background or training. **If the dying person**

**asks you the big question, what will you say?** You will have no books, no person to give answers, no time to ask opinions. Unless you can answer that question within minutes, a soul will have slipped away into eternity. Lost forever without hope. Every question about how we dress, what church you come from, how big and bad is your sin etc., instantly becomes meaningless.

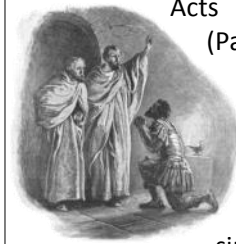
If a man answers all the questions correctly when joining a church, makes all kinds of vows, is baptized, yet cannot give reason based on God's word for what saves a man, you simply have a wet sinner. He may please his parents and get along well with his neighbors. **But if he lacks the answer to the big question, all his other practices are useless.** If God has touched your life, then you will know how it happened. If not, you will have nothing to share. I want you to know what the answer is. **Seek until you know for certain that you have found it.** God has already said that if we seek him we will find him.

If the big question is answered, we will remain to have different views on church practices. I expect there will be plain people for the rest of time, and I do not intend to argue the point with anyone, as that is not what's ultimately important. Almost every Amish person I have met believes other people who are non-Amish are Christians too. **What is the common thing that makes us Christians?** Is there not only one set of rules in the Bible?

Is the answer simple? Jesus said this in Matthew 18, 2-3; *And Jesus called a little*

*child unto him, and set him in the midst of them, And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven.*

The character of a child is to be able to grasp the simple. Therefore the message is simple.



Acts 16; 31 says; *And they (Paul and Silas) said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.* That has to be one of the shortest and simplest sermons ever,

yet look at the result!

Unfortunately many of our church leaders could not answer that big question years ago. Sometimes I meet Amish people who know the answer very well. But not all do. **We may have our opinions and old ways, but ultimately it has to be God's way, as he owns heaven.** I cannot grant or deny anyone entrance into heaven. Neither can any one else. That is why I strongly encourage everyone to strive to understand the Bible in any language.

Our duty is to reach all people everywhere including Amish people. **That will be done only when they can answer the big question.** No books, no opinions, not much time, only what you have inside yourself is all that you can take with you. Do you have it? If not, let's find it. That is my main reason for writing.

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## Two Friends Walking In The Desert



Two friends were walking through the desert. They had an argument; and one friend slapped the other 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. The friend saved him. After he recovered, he wrote on a stone:

**TODAY MY BEST FRIEND SAVED MY LIFE.**

The friend who had slapped and saved asked, "After I hurt you, you wrote in sand. Then you wrote on a stone when I saved you. Why?" His reply, "When someone hurts us we should write it in sand

where winds of forgiveness can erase it away. 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 SAND AND CARVE YOUR BENEFITS IN STONE.**

It has been said, it takes a minute to find a special person, an hour to appreciate them, a day to love them and a lifetime to forget them. Take time to live! Value who you have in your life.



A source of RPM Books,  
Dr. Robert W. Kellemen

# Here I Stand!

(Martin Luther's Story)

Part 2 of 3  
(to be cont')

Martin Luther's Main Message: In ourselves, we stand naked before the All-Holy God; in Christ, we stand clothed in righteousness before our All-Compassionate God.

*For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith. —Romans 1:17*

### Presentation Introduction: Purpose

The presentation you are about to witness is a dramatization of major points in the life of Martin Luther. It will vividly portray the differences that he had with the Catholic Church of his day regarding the way of salvation. The intent is not to offend, but to instruct. The purpose is to enlighten the heirs of the Protestant Reformation to the nature of the doctrine of salvation by grace through faith in Christ alone.

The following story is a continuation from the previous edition of the Amish Voice.

## 2. The Filthy Rags of the Merits of the Saints:

I [Martin Luther] hungered to find assurance of my salvation. However, the rigors of the monastic life could not calm my clamoring conscience. I saw that I was a great sinner in the eyes of God and I realized how impossible it would be for me to please God on my own merits. So I fled to the merits of the saints.

Though I was not good enough, perhaps the pooled goodness of all the saints would be good enough to please God. I believed the Church's teaching that the combined goodness of the saints, especially of the Blessed Virgin Mary, could save me. Mary, I was taught, was better than she needed to be for her own salvation. The extra merit of her righteousness constituted a treasury that the Church could transfer to my account. In other words, I would borrow her goodness to make up for my lack. Such a transfer or borrowing, the Pope called an indulgence.

Wanting to take full benefit of such a transfer, I felt myself highly privileged when the opportunity arose to go to Rome. Rome, like no city on earth, was richly endowed with spiritual indulgences. I could touch a piece of the very cross on which Christ died and shorten my time of punishment by 17,000 years. Each "Hail Mary" I said before the statue of the Blessed Virgin would earn me ten years worth of good works. I felt truly blessed to be able to climb, on hands and knees, the very stairs Christ climbed in Pilate's temple. Each "Our Father" said on each step

was worth nine years' forgiveness, and an "Our Father" said on the step with the silver cross was worth double merit. I even kissed each step for good measure.

However, arriving at the top stair, I raised myself to full height and exclaimed, "Who knows whether it is so?" I had gone to Rome with the onions of my good works, and returned home only with the garlic of the merits of the saints.

My chief concern in going to Rome was that I might become a saint through the merits of the saints. Yet, all I found in Rome was the shamelessness, godlessness, and wickedness of all people, so-called saints included. For they, too, were sinners, unworthy of a holy God. How could they possibly offer me anything acceptable to God? I was striving after my own good works and the merits of the saints in order to compensate for my sins, but I could never feel that the ledger was balanced.

## 3. The Filthy Rags of the Sacrament of Penance:

I could not acquire heaven by becoming a saint, nor by the qualities of the other saints. However, I had one more set of filthy rags to wear—the filthy rags of the sacrament of penance. I was taught that the sacraments—like baptism, communion, or confession—actually added or dispensed grace. We may not be good enough, the saints may not be good enough, but the Church can add to our goodness because our participation in a sacrament serves as a reservoir for accumulating more of Christ's grace.

In particular, I availed myself of the sacrament of penance or confession to a priest. I confessed frequently, often daily

for as long as six hours. I believed that every sin, in order to be absolved or forgiven, had to be specifically confessed. Therefore, I had to search my memory for sins of action and sins of motivation. I would review my entire life to be sure to remember everything, until even my confessor grew weary.

The great difficulty I experienced was my lack of assurance that I had recalled everything. My soul would recoil in horror when, after six hours of confession to a priest, a new sin would come to mind that I had not recalled. Even more frightening was the realization that a sinner like me did not even recognize some sins as sins.

I went every day to confession, but it was of no use to me. I always thought, "You did not perform that correctly. God has not forgiven you."

I had recourse to a thousand methods to stifle the cries of my conscience. Yet I despaired because I always doubted that God was gracious to me. I could find no doorway to salvation. I could not enter into fellowship with God through the harbor of my own good works. I could not approach God through the window of the merits of the saints. I could not draw near to God through the door of the Church.

I came to realize that the religious answers of my day would never quiet my soul. I came to realize that all human beings and all human institutions were spiritually impoverished. I was a spiritual very poor.

## Here I Stand: Clothed by Faith in My Holy Savior

Ah! But this realization was the beginning of the Reformation. My awareness of my spiritual poverty motivated me to cry out



to God for grace in spiritual humility. As I turned away from the world and turned to God's Word, I began to understand that no matter what coverings I attempted to wear to hide my sins, the piercing eyes of my holy God saw only filthy rags. God's Word opened the eyes of my heart to another truth—the Reformation truth that I could stand before my holy God clothed by faith in my holy Savior.

Before any of us can stand before God, we must discover and admit that there is something drastically wrong with us. I came to understand that my very nature was corrupt and that my whole nature needed to be changed. I came to perceive that it wasn't just individual sins that needed forgiveness; I needed to be forgiven.

### A. Standing before God Clothed and Accepted

But how? How could I find forgiveness? How could I stand before God clothed and accepted? My questions were answered as I studied Paul's letter to the Romans. My study of Romans was my Damascus Road though which God's light radiated and peace with God became real. As I once wrote:

Romans is the chief part of the New Testament and the very purest gospel. It is worthy not only that all Christians should know it word for word, but that they should occupy themselves with it every day, as the daily bread of the soul. In Romans, I found the answer for which I had been endlessly searching. I discovered that the route to God leads through the path of faith in Christ.

### B. Faith in My Forgiving Father

Through my studies, I began to see God in a drastically different light. My image of God radically altered. Where God had been an angry Enemy, He was now a forgiving Father. The All Terrible was now the All Merciful. The All Holy was now also the All Compassionate. I gained my new awareness through an ardent thirst to know what God meant by the phrase in Romans 1:17, "*The righteousness of God is revealed in the gospel.*"



I had hated the phrase, "*the righteousness of God,*" for I had been taught that it meant only that God is righteous and that He punishes unrighteous sinners. In fact, I was angry with God. I was born in sin, I lived in sin, and the only sure fact that I could count on was that I would be damned in sin by a righteous God.

**Galatians 2:16—Knowing that a man is not justified (made righteous) by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.**

At last, God being merciful, as I meditated day and night on the connection of the words, "*the righteousness of God is revealed in the gospel, as it is written: 'the righteous shall live by faith—(Rom 1:17).*" I began to understand that the gospel was a gift of God received by faith. And that our loving Father forgives us when we place our faith in Christ's righteousness. As I wrote at the time:

**Ephesians 2:8-9—For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.**

This immediately made me feel as though I had been born again, and as though I had entered through open gates into paradise itself! And now where I had once hated the phrase, "*the righteousness of God,*" so much I began to love and extol it as the sweetest of words, so that this passage in Paul became the very gate of Eden for me. Now I had found God's portal of salvation. Through the door of faith in Christ, I could enter God's heavenly home. In Christ, God accepted me.

I now viewed God as a loving Father instead of a wrathful Enemy. Now I perceived myself as loved by God and free to love instead of being hated by God and consumed with hate.

### C. Faith in My Gracious Savior

Placing faith in my forgiving Father, I

also placed faith in my gracious Savior. I read in God's Word that, "*He who was without sin, for our sake became sin for us.*"—1st Cor 5:21. Christ took to Himself the iniquity of us all! He identified Himself with us to participate in our alienation. Wrath and love mingled on the cross of Christ. In the utter desolation of the forsaken Christ, God the Father reconciled the world to Himself.

I could not believe this. Christ suffered for me. He took my sin. He died for me. I had known Christ only as a stern Judge, now I knew Him as my gracious Savior. I began to see Christ as One who comforts, not as One who alarms. I now saw that Christ was my bridge to God. I am not good and righteous, but Christ is. Listen to what I wrote one day about my experience in Romans:

In Romans my anxious conscience found relief through the unconditional forgiveness of sin granted as a gift of grace from God through His Son, Jesus Christ. If you have a true faith that Christ is your Savior, then at once you have a gracious God, for faith leads you in and opens up God's heart and will, that you should see pure grace and overflowing love. When you behold God in faith, you look upon His fatherly, friendly heart, in which there is no anger nor ungraciousness.

All my life, I wondered how I could ever find peace with God. I longed to know what I could do to be accepted by God. Now I knew. I could do nothing. What had to be done; Christ had already done. Christ died and rose again to pay for my sin. In paying for my sin, Christ opened the arms of God. God's arms were now open to me, welcoming me, and all I had to do was believe. **By faith alone, in Christ alone, God declared me righteous and acceptable.** Now I had peace with God.

**Peter writes in Acts 4:12**  
*Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.*

**Paul Writes in 1 Corinthians 2:2**  
*For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified.*

—The End—

## Set Up for A Blessing

When the Father prompts us to do little things, He is never trying to take anything away from us. He is always trying to set us up for a blessing. Our bodies are made just the right way: we can feel when it's time to slow down, and take it easy, or even stop what we are doing and sleep. **We can only do so much, and that is because God created us in such a way that we know when we have had enough.**

Sometimes, we have this nagging feeling that we ought to do this, or we ought do that. There might be something that we should talk about to our spouse, or whom-ever it may be, and we try to ignore it and go on. We tend to think it's not a big deal, when in fact, we are putting ourselves under stress by trying to solve it on our own.

Things the Lord asks us to do which look unimportant to us are apparently very important from His point of view. Once we fully understand the im-portance of hearing and immediately obeying the Lord's promptings, we will want to set it as a priority; doing what we need to do to stay in a place of peace.

Deut. 5:29: *"O that there were such an heart in them, that they would fear me, and keep all my commadments always, that it might be well with them, and their children forever!"*

**Often, the Lord wants us to spend a little time with Him so that He can refresh us.** After a long day at work, we might have things around the house that need to

be taken care of, or we might want to just sit and relax because we're tired. We may sense the Holy Spirit speaking, "Stop what you're doing and come with Me." What we don't realize, is that the Lord is trying to set us up for a blessing. We might say something like, "Oh, I had a long day, that can wait," or we might want to spend time with family. If we are in that state, then we're not relaxing! Usually, the longer we continue doing what we want, the more tired we become. **But by obeying the Lord, even ten minutes in His presence can bring the refreshment we are trying to find by doing what we want to do.**

I don't mean to say that spending time with family to unwind is a bad thing. I love to spend time with my husband and two little boys. That is important. The point I'm trying to make is that it is more important to obey the Lord's will. We can receive power and strength from the Lord, if we choose to do so. **When we're tired, the Lord can strengthen and refresh us. He will refresh our body and soul.**

We should never be too busy for our Father; it only takes several minutes to stop what we're doing and ask the Lord to refresh us. I know how it feels after a day's work, and sometimes it's almost like our bodies start to cave-in physically, and even mentally. That's when we need to slow down and ask the Lord for help. Lean back for a minute and let Him give you that power, and as Scripture promises, He

increases our strength, causing it to multi-ply and making it to be boundless.

Isa. 40:28-31: *"Has thou not known? Has thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the Lord, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? there is no searching of his understanding. He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might He increaseth strength. Even the youth shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall: but they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength. They shall mount up with wings as eagles; and they shall walk, and not faint.*



**Often, the Lord wants us to spend a little time with Him, so that He can refresh us.**

**Nothing is ever too much for our Father to handle. He wants us to come to Him with whatever it may be that we're going through.** No matter how much material you read, or how many seminars you attend on stress, you will find the relief you want from stress by going to God and letting Him refresh your soul. The Lord will give rest to the overburdened.

Matt.11:28-30: *"Come unto me, all you that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and you shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."*

The Lord's burden is to be light and easy to carry. We take His yoke upon us by obeying His will.

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### The Story Of Two Wolves



One evening an old Cherokee told his grandson about a battle that goes on inside all people. He said, 'My son, the battle is between two 'wolves' inside us all.

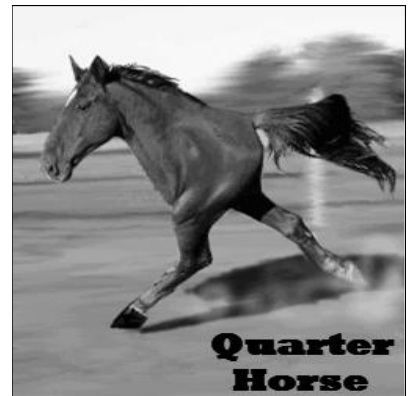
**One is Evil.** It is anger, envy, jealousy, sorrow, regret, greed, arrogance, self-pity, guilt, resent-

ment, inferiority, lies, false pride, superiority and ego.

**The other is Good.** It is joy, peace, love, hope, serenity, humility, kindness, benevolence, empathy, generosity, truth, compassion and faith.'

The grandson thought about it for a minute and then asked his grandfather: **'Which wolf wins?'**

**The old Cherokee simply replied, 'The one you feed.'**



**Quarter Horse**



### 10 Interesting Facts

1. If you are right handed, you will tend to chew your food on your right side. If you are left handed, you will tend to chew your food on your left side.
2. Chewing gum while peeling onions will keep you from crying.
3. Bats always turn left when exiting a cave.
4. The pupil of the eye expands as much as 45 percent when a person looks at something pleasing.
5. The roar that we hear when we place a seashell next to our ear is not the ocean, but rather the sound of blood surging through the veins in the ear.
6. The owl is the only bird to drop its upper eyelid to wink. All other birds raise their lower eyelids.
7. The sound you hear when you crack your knuckles is actually the sound of nitrogen gas bubbles bursting.
8. Human hair and fingernails continue to grow after death.
9. Every day, 400,000 babies are born, and 140,000 people die.
10. When you blush, the lining of your stomach also turns red.

by Joyce Knepp

### Marriages, Mistakes, and Miracles

—written Sept 25, 2008

Dear Mary,

Wow, Mary, you're a married woman by now! How does it feel?? You've been on my mind all day and I finally dropped everything and grabbed a tablet and pen to scribble a couple of lines to you. I'm sure you had an amazing wedding sermon and don't need another one but I promised God that I would try to find at least one lady and use my past to help keep her from making the same mistakes I made.



I remember on our wedding day the future looked so bright and wonderful but all too soon Jay said or did things that didn't quite measure up to my idea of how a husband should be and right there

was my **#1 mistake**—EXPECTATIONS—OUCH! Never, never, have them because a human husband can hardly ever live up to a human wife's expectations.

Then came my **#2 problem**—I didn't know how to forgive him and release him from whatever "sin" he had committed. So I would, in my mind, "take him to court" and of course find him "guilty" and then sentence him to whatever I felt he deserved: chewing outs, silent treatments, etc, etc!! Oh, yes, also the "poor little me" attitude, which I have shortened to "PLOM".

**Well, God never asked us to change our husbands but He has commanded us to revere them, and leave the changing**

**to Him.** In Eph. 5:33, the last part of the verse, it tells us *"...and the wife see that she reverence her husband."*

If you look the word reverence up in the dictionary—one meaning is "to be in awe of" also "respect". I KNOW that when we truly reverence (from the heart) them they have a much greater desire to please us but even then, don't forget they are HUMAN and think so much different than woman. Also, remember they cannot read our minds and when we expect them to read our minds, it's like a teacher grading a test the student never got.

But I get carried away, back to forgiveness. Don't ever wait until you feel like forgiving; we must make a mental choice to forgive and ask God to bring our feelings in line. One of the devil's major tools is the idea that you can't forgive until you FEEL like it. I like to think of it as a tractor and trailer—the tractor being your choice and the trailer being your feelings. As long as the tractor is in the ditch, your trailer is there too, but once you get your tractor on the road, the trailer will follow. Also a good verse to remember on the subject of forgiveness is Eph. 4:32, *And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.*

The Word of God gives no place on waiting for feelings. And once we realize how much God has forgiven us, how can we withhold forgiveness from another person?????

**Problem #3:** For me, it was not at all understanding the headship order that was ordained by God in the very beginning. Think of it as an umbrella. God, Jesus,

Man, Woman, Children. The minute we women move out of our God designed place we are smack-dab out in the weather with NO PROTECTION whatsoever. Now, mind, I'm not saying women should be a doormat because I don't believe any man can love and respect a doormat, but when we step out of the headship order we are in rebellion to God's will, which the Bible says is like witchcraft—See 1 Sam. 15:23. So, you can expect the same symptoms as if you are in witchcraft. But anyway, Mary, I'm going to quit on that now.

You were always special to me and my desire is to see you enjoying God's gift of marriage to the fullest! It really truly is a taste of Heaven, because it represents Christ and His Bride, the Church.

I need to get a move on, got the dishes to wash and laundry to put away. You guys take care and hope to see you soon. We've been hankerin to take a trip to Grandma's house again!

Love you much and wishing you all the best.

Oh, Yes, one more thing, I was going to tell you, most men love to be praised. You probably know that already, but I thought I'd tell you. They really, really are little boys yet! Ha ha!! Better not tell Kyle that or he won't ever talk to me!! Just joking.

Also, want to thank you for all the times you helped me. I have never forgotten "Sel gute-manich Mary!" **Uh-oh, another thing, we can make or break our husbands.** I'll quit now (for real) (smiley face)

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### Dads: Take the Lead with Discipline in the Home

—By John Collins

Dad is on his way home to his castle. You know the saying, “A man’s home is his castle.” Believing this to be true then, he is the king, and the king’s role is to sit around and be waited upon by his subjects, mom and kids. Tired from a long hard day at work, he is looking forward to some peace and quiet. When he opens the door, he finds two of his children yelling at each other at the top of their lungs.

It isn’t quite the picture he envisioned. So what is a husband to do at this point? Just having learned how to give orders to those he worked with on the carpentry crew, this seems like a great time to put this new principle into action and delegate it to his wife. As can be expected, she does not agree with the wisdom of this plan and proceeds to share with him a little about how her day went. She has been dealing with this all day and now reinforcement has arrived. The “heavy hitter,” the “big gun” is home. Dad is here to set things straight!

**If you are a father, God has set you up as the head of the family.** You should be the leader in handling discipline issues in the

home. Ephesians 5:23 tells us, *for the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body.* Ephesians 6:1 encourages children to “*obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.*”

These two Scripture passages put dad as the head of the home, which also means that dad is to be the leader in discipline. What does it look like to be the leader in discipline in the home? Here are a few ways it could be displayed:

1. You should be the one who is taking the lead in reading books that will give you and your wife wisdom in the area of discipline.
2. You should be the one who takes the lead with your wife in setting up the procedure you will go through when your children are subject to discipline.
3. You should be setting up times to get with godly couples who you have observed to ask questions and get input on how to implement discipline in the home.
4. When you are home, you are the one who should take the lead in discipline is-

sues. This does not mean that you need to have all the answers. Your wife will most likely have great insight that you will need as you lead in this area, but God wants you to be the one setting up the plan and to be the main instigator of the plan.

5. It also means that you will have the right biblical attitude about raising your children.

God gave our children as a gift and we only have them for a little while. **Godly children don’t just happen; they are trained to live godly lives by godly parents.**

Men, God has given you the privilege of raising children who will honor Him with their lives. As a dad, you have a huge impact on the kind of children you will have. Take your role as a leader seriously and humbly ask God for wisdom. With God’s help, you can be an effective leader in this area.

**Do our children see you** spending time with God by being in His Word daily and spending time in prayer? Do your actions teach your children to love the Lord? Parents, let’s set a godly example for our children by putting these words into action!