

Issue 7 Christ For Youth Newsletter

Issue VII

Editor-in-Chief: Rev. B. R. Hicks

July/August 1988

Greetings from Rev. Hicks

It is hard to believe how quickly time passes. Already, it is the middle of summer, and it is almost time for our Youth Convention which is scheduled to start in August. I am looking forward to seeing all of you here. Let me say just one more time how grateful I am for those of you who are faithful to pray for me. Only God knows how desperately I need extra prayer these days, and only He knows how much your prayers help to restore my strength and energy so I can keep pouring out my life for Him. May God bless you, everyone.



From the desk of REV. B. R. HICKS

This issue of the Christ for Youth Newsletter should arrive in your home about the same time you are making preparations to return to school. In the coming months you will be faced with many temptations. The world can seem so alluring, even to a person who has lived many years, but when one is young, the world seems to hold a special attraction. So, in order to help you make some sound choices, choices that you will not have reason to regret in eternity, I would like to talk to you about the difference between God's holy love and worldly love.

This lesson is considerably longer than some of the ones we have published in the past, but you need to know the truth that is in it so your scales can be properly balanced.

Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever (I John 2:15-17).

Briefly stated, godly love is the manifestation of God's divine love, whereas worldly love pertains to the imitative forms of love manifested by the world, the flesh, and the Devil.

I did not start on this spiritual race, young people, after I became an old lady. I started running on for God when I was just nineteen years old and just as worldly as a typical unsaved person can be, perhaps even a little more so. I had an all-girls dance orchestra and played for some the finest places in Louisville, Kentucky. Yet I was so miserable that I tried to take my own life. It did not take me long to discover that the world has nothing truly satisfying to offer. There is no telling where I would be now had I not found Jesus Christ and His godly love. He is the One Who gave me something to live for. Bless His precious Name!

God's love is clothed with clouds of glory light.

Godly Love
Clouds of Glory Light
Glory Love



The highest form of God's love is revealed in the person of Jesus Christ, God's Only Begotten Son.

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reprov'd. But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest that they are wrought in God (John 3:16-21).

What is the sum and substance of God's love? If anyone is qualified to answer this question, certainly it is Jesus Christ. Jesus said, "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends" (John 15:13).

God's love, in a single word, is the Cross. Godly love is sacrificial giving. God so loved that He freely gave His only Son to die on the Cross. Jesus Christ so loved that He gave His very life as a living sacrifice for lost mankind. God's beloved Son willingly, happily (not grudgingly) gave His life to be poured out in death at Calvary's Cross. Through Jesus' supreme blood sacrifice, lost mankind can be saved and restored to the loving relationship he had with God in the Garden of Eden before sin broke the unity between man and his Creator.

Now let us look at worldly love, for a person cannot stop loving the world, as God's Word commands him to do, until he sees the contrast between God's holy, godly love and the imitative forms of love seen in the world.

Instead of being clothed in clouds of glory light, worldly love is covered in clouds of sin and darkness. Instead of being under the glorious headship of sacrificial light and truth in Jesus Christ, worldly love is under the darkened, deceitful, selfish headship of fallen Lucifer, the prince of this world.

Worldly
Love



Two more unlike things cannot be found than godly love and worldly love. God's secret of ultimate success and happiness is contrary to everything the world teaches. The world says, "Get, and you'll be happy." People who believe this lie strive to gain the riches of the world, and if they happen to get a little, they shout, "I've got it! Look what I've got! It's mine!"

So what if you should gain some worldly riches? You cannot eat gold and silver. And you can squeeze only so much joy out of selfishly hoarding worldly treasures and looking at them.

If it were possible to heap the treasures of the world into huge mountains, and if it were possible for a man to possess them all, he still would not be happy or satisfied in his soul. Why? Because selfish desire for gain is like an insatiable monster, always hungry, always crying for "more, more, more."

Get and keep. That is what worldly love says will make you happy. This is just the opposite to God's divine principle for finding true happiness.

God says that happiness is in sacrificial giving. It is no wonder, then, that there is so much misery in the world. There is no way to find true happiness, young people, unless you learn to operate out of the right principle.

The Apostle John spoke of the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the price of life. The real stumbling block in going on for God is not the flesh, the body. God knows that the body gets hungry, and there is nothing wrong with eating. God knows that the body gets thirsty, and there is nothing wrong with satisfying one's thirst—as long as it is done under the LORD's headship and not with the intoxicating, addictive drinks of the world. God created in man the desire as well as the need for a procreative union between a man and woman; then He instituted marriage as the legitimate means of meeting this physical need of the body. The problem is not the flesh, young people, but the lust of it.

It is not your eyes that hinder you spiritually. I appreciate my eyes.

Without them, I could not have read, studied, and learned the many things I have been privileged to learn and know in the Word of God. There is nothing wrong with your eyes; it is the lust of them that gets you in trouble.

Neither is it your life that causes problems, but it is your pride, both the superiority and the inferiority kind. What is the essence of the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life? Selfish keeping.

Worldly love is taking love, greedy, keeping love. Simply defined, it is selfish love. God's love or godly love, in contrast, is giving love, sacrificial, sharing love. That is easy to understand. Knowing the difference between these two kinds of love helps us to discern what kind of love is motivating our actions from day to day.

How much of your life did you keep for yourself today? What did you say to the person who asked you for a drink of water, for instance?

Did you say, "Get it yourself"? Did you say that you were too busy or too tired? If so, how did you feel after that? Happy? Of course not! You felt condemned because you were operating out of the wrong principle.

Most people are experts at making excuses for not doing what someone else asks them to do. Be it mother, father, brother, sister, husband, wife, pastor, or supervisor at work who asks for a favour, it does not matter; the excuse makers always seem to have a legitimate reason for doing what they want to do instead of what the other person wants or needs done. These selfish people, while they think they are winners, are in reality losers, because blessing and happiness come with giving, not in keeping.

I had every reason in the world, naturally speaking, to rest tonight instead of working on this lesson for you. However, I did not do what my flesh would have enjoyed doing. Instead, as you can see, I chose to fulfill my commitment to have an article in each issue of your Newsletter. I realized that this was an opportunity for me to do some sacrificial giving for Christ's sake.

Suppose I had just returned from a vacation and was feeling rested and strong. Would it have been a great sacrifice, then, for me to handle this material? Not much, not really. The real sacrifice is when you work when your body already is wrung out from working so many hours. You have to give more of yourself when you feel as though you were taking your last steps. But being called upon to give when you are exhausted, naturally speaking, is not a reason to complain. It is a beautiful privilege to give sacrificially, just as Jesus Christ gave His precious life as a living sacrifice for us.

To prove that there is real happiness in giving of yourself, I want to challenge each of you to keep a daily ledger for a month. Get a book and divide it into two sections. Label the front part "Spirit" and the back part "Flesh". Under the "Spirit" section, write down every time you have a chance to sacrifice for someone else and you do it willingly. Under the section called "Flesh," list the times you do the selfish thing that Self wanted to do.

What does it mean to sacrifice? A sacrifice hurts; it costs you something.

If you are at the sink getting yourself a glass of water, for example, it is not a sacrifice to get a glass of water for someone else because you are already up and standing at the sink. But it is different when you are sitting comfortably in a chair, resting with your shoes off; if you are asked then to get a glass of water for someone, that is a sacrifice-if it is done willingly and cheerfully as unto the LORD.

God so loved that he gave a sacrificial love offering at the Cross of Calvary. Isaiah 53:10 says that it pleased the LORD to bruise Him. Why? Did God love to see His Son suffer? Of course not! It pleased God because God has a godly, sacrificial love that loves to give even when it hurts Him and when it hurts the One He loves the most.

That is why God sometimes lets His children suffer now. He wants to see if we, like Jesus Christ, will be loyal and give back a sacrificial offering to the LORD.

There is no loyalty in the world's selfish love. I have told you that countless times. Now you can understand more about why I said it. Self-love is loyal only to the Self; therefore, it cannot be loyal to anyone else, not even to God. People may tell you they really love you and would do anything for you, but if their love is not godly love, if it does not have its origin in God rather than the flesh, then they have an ulterior motive somewhere on the northwest corner; down underneath, they are looking for what they can get out of you. Do not look so shocked; you do the same thing. There is no point in getting angry at anyone else. Everyone's flesh is the same-selfish. You will see this better if you conscientiously keep a record of the times you choose to please Self rather than to give sacrificially to someone else. Be sure to make a note of how you feel when you operate out of selfish love and when you operate out of godly love. There is a difference, a definite difference.

Godly love and worldly love are on trial in this court. And in this case, each individual must serve as both the judge and the jury. You have the power of choice which will exonerate one of these loves and condemn the other one. Before you make your choice, remember this. God's giving is done in the light, and He points us to the supreme sacrifice of the Lamb of God, Jesus Christ, Who was hung up on Calvary's hill for all visible and invisible creatures of heaven and earth to see. It was daylight when Jesus Christ poured out His life to save lost mankind. God has no darkened, ulterior motive in giving His Son. God is not out to "get" you. He is out to "give" you something. He did not connive this thing up in the dark. The Son of God was hung upon on a Cross, suspended between heaven and earth, in the sight of all. "Look at Him," God is saying. "This is my visible demonstration of My love for you."

Conversely, selfish, worldly love works in darkness to accomplish its secret desire for self-exaltation and self-gain.

But if exaltation and gain could make a person happy, all the famous and wealthy people of the world would be happy. Everyone knows that this is not the case. It is not always the poor, unknown person who commits suicide. Some of the richest, most renown people in the world, those who seemingly had everything to live for, have ended their own lives because they failed to find in worldly love the happiness it promised.

Worldly love has "kindling" power. Because it tries to imitate the divine, holy, fiery love of God, worldly love is like a fire enfolding itself. It kindles itself or feeds off of itself. Thus, it constantly blazes higher, deeper, longer and broader. The problem with this is that worldly love is not infinite, as God's love is. There is an end to worldly love.



There is an end to the heights of Self, an end to the depths of Self, and an end to the length and breadth of Self. That is why some people go crazy or kill themselves. After they have experienced the ultimate of pleasurable worldly satisfaction, after they have plumbed the depths of Self and explored the outer limits of the length and the breadth of it, selfish worldly love continues burning, feeding, and generating more fire. That is why some people become drug addicts and why some people cannot remain sober, even when they have had all the grand, glorious, and satisfying things of the world.

The only way to be truly happy is to get the kind of love God has, the godly love that gives freely, sacrificially. Do not make the mistake of thinking that you will wait until you can make some big sacrifice. Godly love does not come that way. Oh, eventually you can learn to live making big sacrifices, but you have to start small, surrendering daily to give up a little more of yourself to Jesus Christ.

If you are not willing to sacrifice a little of your time and a little of your physical energy to get someone else a glass of water for Christ's sake, do not deceive yourself into thinking that you suddenly will become willing to lay your head and all your life on a chopping block as a martyr for His sake.

Learn to sacrifice for Christ's sake every day, instead of going through life seeking your own happiness and pleasure. You do not have to worry about being happy. All you have to do is start giving out of godly, sacrificial love, and happiness will overtake you.

Make note of every time you willingly do something for someone else that costs you something. Even if it is as small a thing as giving a glass of water, it costs you some of your time and energy. It costs you a moment in your life. Jesus said that anyone who gives a cup of cold water in His Name, in His nature of sacrificial giving, would not lose his reward. Jesus' smallest reward, I can tell you from personal experience, is joy unspeakable and full of glory.

The little suffering that we experience from the little sacrificial giving we do for Christ's sake is not worthy to be compared with His glorious light, life, and love which He shares with us.

Worldly love is love, for God created us with love. However, it is misplaced love. It is selfish love. It is corrupt love. It is counterfeit love. It is a substitute for God's real love. That is what is wrong with the world today; they do not have the real thing. Consequently, they cannot feel happy and satisfied.

You do not need to turn to drugs, pills, alcohol, wild, lascivious living, and worldly music to be happy. You do not need the world's kind of love if you have the reality of Jesus Christ's living, sacrificial love in your heart. You can be happy if you have only a dime. Buy some suckers with your dime and give them to some little children who live down in some poverty corner somewhere.

Watch their little faces as they lick on those suckers and feel the thrill that comes into your soul because you have given sacrificially.

The next time you feel unhappy, instead of getting down and beating the altar and trying to pray your way through, try something different. "Give" your way through to happiness. See how many people you can make glad in a single day. You will be surprised how little it actually costs. Sometimes it takes only a smile and a few sincerely spoken words of appreciation to brighten someone else's whole world.

If you will practice this simple principle of sacrificial giving, you can enter right now into the happiness of Jesus Christ's ever expanding, always satisfying godly love. However, by the same token, if you choose to practice the principle of selfish keeping, you eventually, either in this life or in eternity, will discover the painful misery, woe, affliction, and unhappiness at the end of worldly love.

Young people, no one else can make this choice for you. You are the one who must decide which kind of love you want.

Do you want godly love? Do not answer glibly, for this decision will affect your present life and also your eternal destiny. Weigh this matter carefully. Let me remind you that to say "yes" to godly love requires that one must also accept the suffering that goes with serving Christ and allowing Him to live out His sacrificial, giving life through you. While you may suffer greatly in this life as you walk with Christ, you will also experience an even greater measure of present pleasure, and in eternity you will know the joy of eternal satisfaction in the presence of the LORD Jesus Christ. If the thought of suffering for Christ's sake frightens you and causes you to hesitate, let me remind you of a very sobering truth. If you refuse God's holy, sacrificial love, there is just one alternate choice, and that is worldly love. Bear in mind that the fleeting pleasures offered by worldly love are mixed with much misery even in this life, and in eternity you will have to drink the bitter dregs of the cup of painful regrets.

No matter how much I love you; no matter how much your parents love you; no matter how much your local pastor loves you—none of us can make you serve the LORD against your will. We can pray for you and encourage you, but we cannot make the choice for you. Most of you already are teenagers. So the power of choice has been committed into your hands. My prayer is that each one of you will give serious thought to this matter, and that you will be wise enough to make the choice that will bring you the greatest peace in this world and in the world to come.



Do you get confused when you hear your teachers teach on evolution? Order the new evolution book written by Rev. B. R. Hicks and find out the TRUTH!

Order by writing or calling the Press Department.

CHRISTIAN BEHAVIOUR
IN PUBLIC PLACES

by Monica Lindgren &
Pernilla Lindgren

As Christians we are a testimony for our church when we are at any place whether we are alone or with our church friends as a group. People can already see we are different so they watch us closer, and since they see we are "religious" they expect a little more out of us—and they should! As Christian teens we should have fun but good, clean fun, and we should always remain mannerly.

Public places include restaurants, schools, work places, shopping malls, etc. In restaurants remember to treat your waiter or waitress with respect even if he or she is not treating you with equal respect. Be sure to always leave a tip even if the service has been lousy.

Remember that at school all your actions (that includes your language and how you speak to and about others) are watched closely by your classmates and teachers. Your personal attitude towards God and your religion effects how other people feel about God and religion.

The key is to remember that people should be able to see the Christ in you by your outward appearance, your attitude and all of your actions.

What kind of testimony have we as Christ Gospel young people, been leaving lately???

A recipe that is fun to make and eat too!

Super Easy
Summer Shakes

by Anders Lindgren

Ingredients

2-3 bananas*
2 1/2 cups of
vanilla ice cream**
1 cup of milk

Mix in blender all of the above ingredients until they are well blended. Pour into a tall glass and serve. Serves 2.

* Peaches or other fruits may be substituted for the bananas.

** Sherbet may be used in the place of ice cream.

SEND US YOUR FAVORITE RECIPE TO SHARE IN THE NEWSLETTER. WE'D LIKE A SPECIAL FALL RECIPE TO SHARE IN THE COMING ISSUE.

SEND YOUR QUESTIONS TO
AUNT BEA!!!



DEAR AUNT BEA

Dear Aunt Bea:

I have a computer and there are some games I want to get, but they are games that are made from P.G. rated movies and in the games you have to hurt or kill other men. One of the distributor's names is Mindscape. The names of the games are "Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom", "Contra", and "Rush'n Attack". In one of the games you have to go into an old heathen temple and strip it of its diamonds.

I was wondering if I should get games like that or not. Thank you for your answer.
Signed: A Computer Fan

TURN THE PAGE TO FIND OUT WHAT AUNT BEA SAYS TO THIS QUESTION!

Dear Computer Fan:

By all means you should not be getting games like that. They are loaded with spirits!
Signed: Aunt Bea

Dear Aunt Bea:

I would like to know about how many Christ Gospel Churches are there in the world?
Signed: Just Curious

Dear Curious:

In the United States there are 72 churches. There are many Bible studies held in homes where there are churches also. We have several hundred churches throughout Mexico. We have churches and/or Bible studies in Equador, Nigeria, India, Sweden, Iceland, Faroe Islands, New Zealand, South Africa, Jamaica, Haiti, Germany, England and Japan.
Signed: Aunt Bea

Just a thought

Study the Bible to be wise.
Believe it to be safe.
Practice it to be holy.

(Sent in by Geoffrey Francis of South Africa)

How Important
Is School?

by Greta Lindgren

Do you think of school as a chore? Do you just get by in school? When you live your life looking to the second coming of the LORD, it is easy to get the attitude that school doesn't matter because the rapture will take place by the time you're out of school anyway.

Though we sometimes tend to think like that, that is not a true Christ-like attitude. We are taught in the Bible to put effort into all that we do. We should not be half-hearted about our education. It will take a good education in order for us to have good jobs, support a family and be a good example in the community. If we cannot study in school, more than likely we will not have good study habits in our Bible studies either.

We should really plan our lives as if the LORD is not coming in our lifetime, but live our lives as if He is coming today.

Be the best that you can be for Jesus in all things—including school!

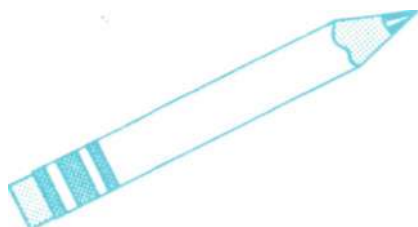
SCRIPTURE
MEMORIZATION

Are you memorizing the Scriptures that are in each issue of the Newsletter? I hope so. When you memorize you will have a sword with you at all times to fight spirits that are loose on the earth today that can be fought with no other weapon but the Word.

Rev. LeRoy Beatty, who lives in Jeffersonville, Indiana, has memorized Scriptures for many years. Many times when Sister Hicks is preaching she will stop and ask him to quote a scripture—without any previous warning! He always stands up and shouts the Scripture out loud, word for word. Can you imagine how nice it would be to be able to do that?

Do you know how Bro. Beatty does it? He writes a Scripture on a 3 x 5 index card and then carries it with him in his pocket everywhere he goes. If he is at a stop light, on a bus, waiting somewhere, etc., he pulls out that Scripture card and looks at the Scripture.

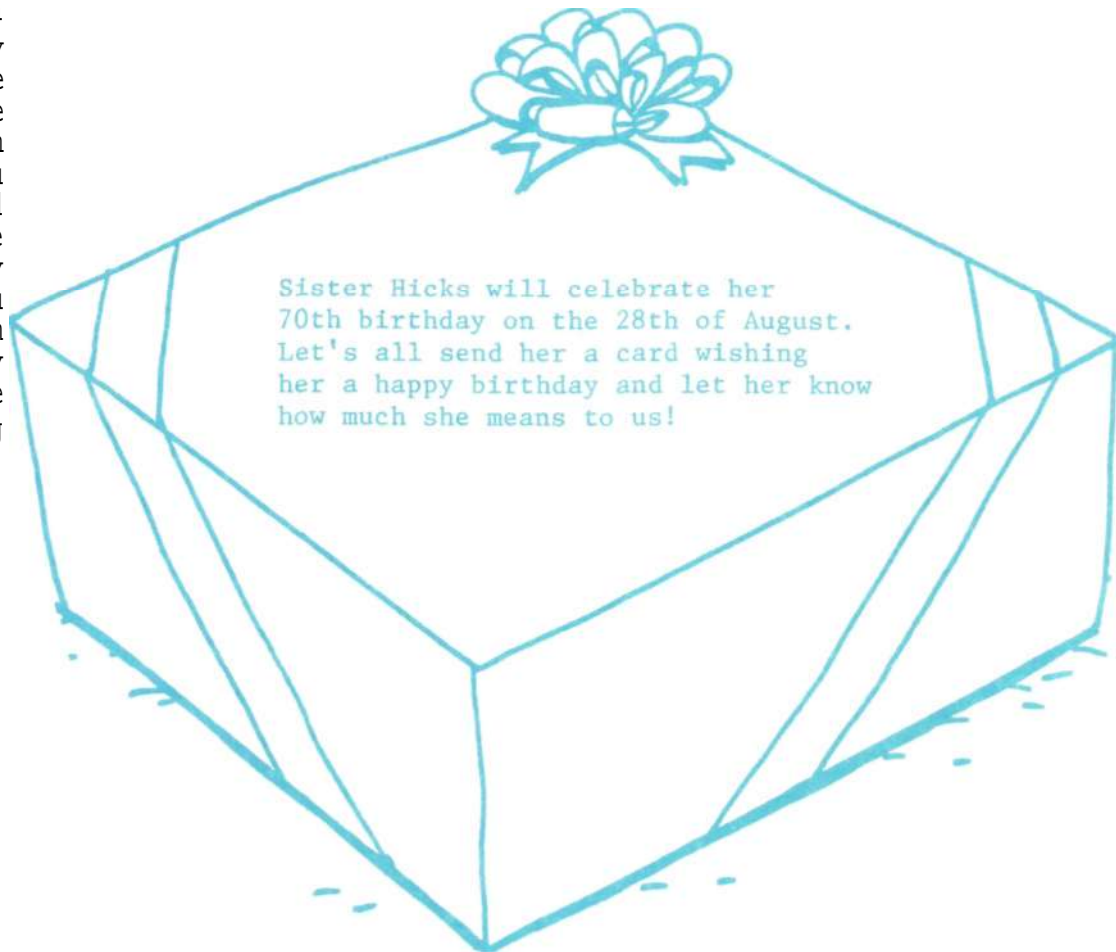
**DO YOUR BEST IN
SCHOOL AND
EXPECT GREAT
THINGS WITH
THE LORD
THIS YEAR!**



Doing it that way it doesn't take long to memorize the Scripture. Then you have the card to put with other cards so you can pull them out and review them from time to time to be sure you still have them memorized.

Let's memorize Scriptures. What if you are faced with someone at school sometime asking you why you are so happy and don't have the problems they have? Would you be able to witness to them and quote a Scripture, perhaps say in the middle of the school cafeteria where there is no Bible in sight? Or would you just stumble around and hope they would change the subject quickly before they realize you can't really confirm what you believe by Scriptures? Be prepared by knowing your Bible.

Birthday



Find your way along the
rocky road to the gates
of the New City



by Anders
Lindgren

A good grooming tip

BRUSH YOUR TEETH

