

# Love Like A Big Girl



by Dawn Reed  
E. Ky. Columnist

A while back, our pastor preached a sermon entitled "What love is ... and what love ain't". I got tickled. Oh, how I

love that country boy! (He's also my husband.)

He directed us to I Corinthians 13. I've read that passage so many times I could probably say it from memory. I realize now that I've just glossed over its meaning. The older I get the more it speaks to me very, very clearly.

He started the chapter. That first verse is a kicker: If I speak in the languages of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only "a whole lot of noise" (my translation on that last part). I've known people like that! I thought to myself and continued to nod my head in agreement. Preach it, preacher!

Then he went down the checklist:

1. Love is patient, love is kind. (Well ... I always TRY to be patient and kind, so I'll check yes on that.)

2. Love does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. (I TRY not to envy and appreciate my blessings ... and TRY not worry so much about what other people are getting. And I TRY not to boast or be proud ... but SOMETIMES in my head ... I MIGHT think more of myself than I should and start counting my good deeds ... No check mark on that.)

3. Love is not rude, it is not self-seeking. (I'm practically NEVER rude, I think ... but the "self-seeking" part ... a few weeks ago, I realized that I mostly want MY way.)

4. ... love is not easily angered; it keeps no record of wrongs. (I TRY to bite my tongue ... is it still so bad if I just think it and get mad inside? And the part about keeping no record of wrongs! Not even SOME THINGS? This is

starting to get more difficult!)

He went on through the chapter. When he hit the last part ... it hit ME!

"When I was a child, I talked like a child, thought like a child ... and acted like a child. But when I became an adult, I put away those childish ways." Let me say it again: "When I was a child, I talked like a child, thought like a child, and acted like a child. But when I grew up ... I put away those childish ways ... and started ACTING LIKE AN ADULT!" I've read that sooo many times before, but THIS time it clicked.

At the end of the love chapter, there are a couple of lines about growing up and loving like an adult. It's been there all the time!

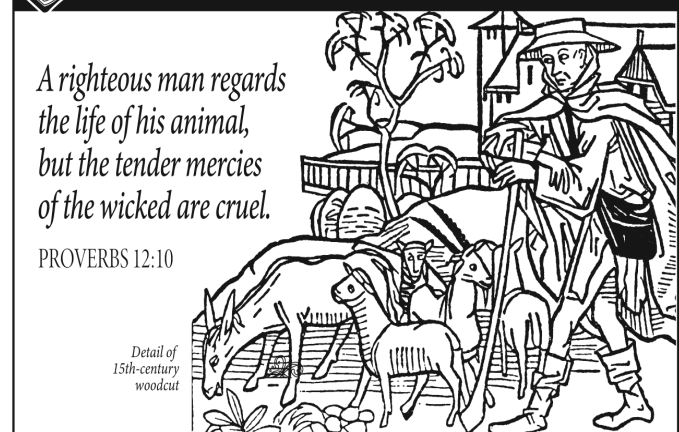
When we are followers of Christ, we are commanded-not encouraged- to love people

every day. We are in relationships, are married, have families and are in the work force. We go to the grocery store, Wal-Mart and a million other places. We see people everywhere we go. We can't afford-not have the option of loving like PRESCHOOLERS!

So ... that means we WILL be kind. We WILL be patient. We WILL NOT be rude. We WILL NOT be self-seeking. We WILL NOT be easily angered, and we WILL NOT keep a record of wrongs. We are going to put on our big girl panties or our Superman underoos and ACT like and LOVE like adults-even if we haven't had our naps!

God's Word is good medicine. It is "alive and active ... it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart," Hebrews 4:12. That's the gospel truth!

## THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE



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## BIBLE WORD SEARCH

by Elie's Spiritual Treasures

JOHN 8:12

When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION

T W O R L D K H H N  
H F C W E K O P S E  
G O I N E H W O S V  
I L L V Z J T P S E  
L L F J E A E V E R  
P O P S G O S I N X  
E W U A P A W C K L  
V S I L I F A S R I  
A N E D I N L C A F  
H G E O R R K P D E

Find the **bolded/underlined** words in the diagram. They run in all directions — forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

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## Seeds of Hope



There is nothing more precious than the "hug" of a child when it is given to us without our asking for it. It is so innocent and undefiled. It is given voluntarily with nothing expected in return. It is an expression of "thanks" for something we may have done that we can no longer remember. It is given freely, honestly, openly and joyfully because the child has no other way to express its feelings.

"Because he loves me," says the Lord, "I will rescue him." The word love in this verse carries with it the idea of being hugged. In other words, God not only loves us by what He says, but by what He does. So, says the Psalmist, "He

hugs us" - keeps us as close to Himself as He possibly can.

When God rescues us from sin and graciously and generously provides us with His salvation, we receive an eightfold blessing. After He rescues us, we have:

His protection: We are not exempt from difficulties but are assured of His presence and grace when they come.

He knows us by name: He recognizes us as unique individuals with a plan from Him for our lives.

He will hear us when we call upon Him and give us His solution for our problems.

He will be with us and deliver us when we are surrounded by life's troubles.

He will honor us when we honor Him.

He will satisfy our needs as long as we live and when our life is over join Him in heaven.

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## Resurrecting the Golden Calf

by BOB CASEY, preacher  
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In the Old Testament text of Exodus 32, there is one of the saddest days of the Children of Israel. What is the cause? Moses had ascended to the top of the mountains to meet with God to receive further instructions. While he was there, God made two tablets of stone and wrote his Commandments upon them with his own finger. Then Moses began his descent down from the mountain, picking up Joshua on his way down.

But, while he was meeting with God, a meeting of 40 days, the people grew impatient, wondering if perhaps something had happened to him. Then, they approached Moses' brother Aaron saying, "Up, make us gods, which shall go before us." Then, this man Aaron, a man who should have known better, gave in to their demands. Then, he instructed them to remove all their golden earrings and 'bring them unto me.' Then, they melted it all together in one block, and with a graving tool, and fashioned it after it was done, to look like the golden bull, the main god of the Egyptians from which they had come from.

But, this is not all, he also built an altar and offering, saying it is a feast unto the Lord. Then, right afterward, they sat down to eat and drink; and then rose up to play.

And the God of Heaven saw all this foolishness, saying, "They have turned aside quickly out of the way which I commanded them: they have made them a molten calf, and have worshipped it." Then, God decided to destroy them and start making from Moses a great nation to take their place.

Then, Moses with the Ten Commandments tablets, ascended from off the mountain with Joshua who was part way up. Getting closer, they heard a great commotion. After listening, they said it is not the sound of war but the noise of singing. Then, when Moses saw the golden calf and the people dancing

naked in a drunken state, he was so overcome with emotional anger that he threw down the tablets of stone that God gave unto him and "brake them."

Then, he took the golden calf, he "burnt it in the fire, and ground it to powder," mixed it in water and commanded them to drink it.

Then, he turned his attention to Aaron, saying, "What did this people unto thee, that thou hast brought so great a sin upon them?" First, he tried to blame the people. But! The people were not in charge, Aaron was! Then he offered this flimsy excuse, "I cast it into the fire, and there came out this calf."

Then, after some time, Moses asked, "Who is on the LORD'S side?" Then, all the sons of Levi of whom Aaron was in charge, girded their swords and went throughout the whole camp and begin to slay everyone of those who took part in the debauchery; about 3,000 men, but we can assume many women were in this group as well.

But God's mind was still aiming to slay them all. Now, this imposes a great question. Since there was nearly three million people in the camp, why did God decide to kill them all? I believe and assume it was because those who did believe in Moses and God, that they failed to rise up in defense of all this false worship.

When my mind allows me to have a perception of all this story, I also see the actions of many in our world today. The golden calf represents false worship. I see this nearly on every corner. I see the interactions of those people then, and I can also see many replicating their actions today. Loud musical concerts, dancing, dining, playing as worship; and I haven't mentioned the skimpy dress standards of men and women who are attending so-called religious meetings nearly naked. And so on we go. Paul in 2 Timothy 3 saw previous to the Lord's return, many would be lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God; plus, possessing only a form of godliness.

Dear Readers, we'd better wake up. The Lord is coming to judge us all!

We are always available for comments.  
Sincerely, Bob Casey, (1-859-369-4165), local

## BIBLE TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of Ecclesiastes in the Old or New Testament or neither?

2. Which book could be summarized, "God will hold us accountable for all our actions"? Daniel, Hosea, Zephaniah, Haggai

3. In Genesis 28, who had the vision of angels going up and down a ladder

reaching into Heaven? Joseph, Ahab, Ehud, Jacob

4. What does Paul say is the supreme gift of the spirit to believers? Faith, Love, Holiness, Eternity

5. In Genesis 19, where did Lot encounter an angel? Wilderness spring, City gate, New temple, Tent door

6. Where did Jesus turn water into wine? Bethany, Nazareth, Cana, Gethsemane

Answers on bottom of Page 12

"Test Your Bible Knowledge," with 1,206 multiple-choice questions by columnist Wilson Casey, is available in bookstores and online.

## Americanisms



"Common-looking people are the best in the world: that is the reason the Lord makes so many of them."  
— Abraham Lincoln

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"If that's my wife, then getting new glasses is a \_\_\_\_\_."

## SCRAMBLERS

Unscramble the letters within each rectangle to form four ordinary words. Then rearrange the boxed letters to form the mystery word, which will complete the gag!

Control

GAMENA

Groan

KECAR

Path

SAILE

Quilt

ANTRAT

TODAY'S WORD