

THE GREENWOOD BULLETIN

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How Deep Is Your Love?

By Steve Niemeier

Years ago a pop group called the Bee Gees recorded a song by this name. In the pop world it was a classic and can still be heard on the radio today.

While this article is not about the Bee Gees or the song they sung by the same name – it is about the question the title of the song is asking.

John 21:15-19

records one of the most dramatic challenges to a man Jesus could give. After His resurrection and just before His ascension he fixes a “barbeque” breakfast for His disciples.

After they had eaten Jesus asks Peter if Peter loved Jesus. Not once but three times. Now we could get into the meanings of the words used here for love but

that is not the point of this article either.

The question that rings through my mine is “How deep was Peter’s love for Jesus?” That is really the point I believe Jesus is getting to in this conversation. After all, He had heard Peter make some bold statements before about his commitment to Jesus only to see Peter fail in living up to those commitments. Now Jesus is asking “do you love me?”

Peter answers the question each time but in verse 17 we are told that Peter was grieved. Of course he was grieved – could we be so naïve to think that Peter had forgotten how he denied Christ three times in a time Jesus needed a friend? I would have been grieved too – wouldn’t you have been also?

When we as Christians come to Jesus and meet Him in the watery grave

of baptism we are basically stating we are going to live for Him – no matter what comes or goes in our lives.

Yet, we lose our enthusiasm – or our boldness to stand for Him – or something happens in our lives that changes our focus. Certainly this happened with Peter – it was fear of his enemies – it was a period of time that he became blind to the blessings found in Jesus.

So, the question was presented to Peter three times about love.

How deep is my love for Jesus? Is it deep enough to move forward like Peter did in where he died for the cause of Jesus?

Twenty-one books of the New Testament are directed toward those who have obeyed the gospel of Jesus Christ to remain faithful to Him. Why? It seems the Lord knew that the love we state we have for Him is not as deep as it should be.

Jesus told Peter to follow Him in verse 19. Isn't that just short of amazing? Jesus has faith in Peter – even after experiencing Peter denying Him! What a statement of love from a Savior who is the product and

example of true and unperverted love!

Jesus has proven His deep love for God and for man – no one could question His love or the deepness of His love. Yet, He has earned the right to question us with “How deep is our love for Him?”

AIN'T IT FUNNY.

**Anonymous
Edited by SJN**

Ain't it funny... how we set our clocks to arise at 5:30 AM to be at the job by 7:00 AM; yet, when Sunday comes we can't get to church for the 9:30 AM service to praise the one who gave us the jobs!

Ain't it funny...how we can go ten years without being late for work, and in the same ten years have not been to Bible study on time.

Ain't it funny... how we call God our Father and Jesus our brother; but find it hard to introduce them to our family.

Ain't it funny... how small "our" sins seem, but how big "their" sins are.

Ain't it funny... how we demand justice for others; but expect mercy from God.

Ain't it funny... how much difficulty we have learning the

gospel well enough to tell others; but how simple it is to understand and explain the latest gossip about them.

Ain't it funny... how we are so quick to take directions from a total stranger when we are lost; but are hesitant to take God's direction for our lives.

Ain't it funny... how it is okay to blame God for evil and suffering in the world; but it is not necessary to thank Him for what is good and pleasant.

Ain't it funny... how when something goes wrong we cry, "Lord, why me?"; but when something goes right, we think, "Hey! it must be me!"

Oh wait... maybe all of this just isn't so "funny" after all.

Baptism and the Blood

By T. Doy Moyer

The blood of Jesus saves us from our sins: the blood was "*shed for many for the remission of sins*" (**Matthew 26:28**). What does baptism have to do with the blood?

Peter preached, "*Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins,*

and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost" (**Acts 2:38**). Note that the expression "*for remission of sins*" is the same as in **Matthew 26:28**. Jesus shed His blood for the remission of sins. How can both be true?

The answer is in **Romans 6:3-4**: "*Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.*" This tells us that when we are baptized into Christ we are baptized into His death. We contact Christ's blood when we obey the gospel and are baptized into Christ.

What saves us? The blood of Jesus. How do we avail ourselves of the blood? Through baptism into Christ. Is baptism a work of our own merit? No. We simply must submit to the will of God. Now, how can anyone deny the necessity of baptism?

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What DOES Alcohol Do For You?

Author Unknown

Have you ever known:

- * A man to lose his job because he didn't drink any kind of liquor?
- * A doctor to tell his patients, "Your chances would have been much better if you had imbibed more beer, wine or whiskey"?
- * An employer who sought a man for a very responsible position to say, "Give me a boozier every time"?
- * A wife to explain, "My husband would be the best man in the world if he just drank more liquor"?
- * A husband to say his wife would be a better mother to the children if she spent more time at cocktail bars"?
- * An insurance company to offer reduced premiums to those who drink alcoholic beverages?
- * The value of a business to go up when a tavern or bar opened next door?
- * A chief of police who advocated more liquor stores as a means of reducing crime?

"Am I Really Making a Difference?"

**Our Next Gospel Meeting
March 3-8, 2013 David
Lanius**

Invite Night – Next Week!