

**THE SOWER**  
**ARTHUR (IL) CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
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**Have you visited our web site lately? ([www.Arthurcoc.com](http://www.Arthurcoc.com))**

**OPEN TO QUESTIONS**

Our Lord wasn't like the modern-day cult leaders. He did not isolate His disciples from other influences in order to program their minds to accept His teachings. Neither did He attempt to conceal His teachings from "outsiders. What He taught the disciples was not in contradiction to what He taught the multitudes. In fact, Jesus affirmed as He stood before the high priest at the close of His ministry, "I spake openly to the world: I ever taught in the synagogue, and in the temple, whither the Jews always resort: and in secret have I said nothing" (John 18:20).

Everything was open and aboveboard with Jesus. It will be that way with us if we are true disciples. As we read the first four books of our New Testaments, which give an account of the life and teachings of our Lord, we realize that as Jesus was often questioned, his answers were always forthright. The word of God requires the same of us as His disciples. Truth does not hide in a dark corner. Truth does not fear scrutiny.

In the first place, true disciples will be open to truth, even if it conflicts with previous opinions and traditions. Jesus summoned disciples with the plea, "Take my yoke upon you and learn of me" (Matthew 11:29a). Denominational and sectarian creedism imposes human judgments as being on a par with divine revelation. It is a grievous error that all should avoid. As the noble Bereans, are we willing to receive with "readiness of mind," while at the same time to "(search) the scriptures...to see whether those things (are) so"? (Acts 17:11) Paul also urged, "Prove all things; hold fast that which is good" (1 Thessalonians 5:21).

If we have tested what we believe by the divinely inspired scriptures (1 Timothy 3:16-17), we should likewise invite questions, and encourage others to investigate for themselves. We must speak the truth openly, as Peter urged: "Be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason for the hope that is in you with meekness and fear" (1 Peter 3:15). If what we teach and practice will not stand the test of investigation in the light of the Bible, it does not deserve to be accepted.  
-Ron

**THINK ABOUT IT—**

Why is it that our children can't read the Bible at school, but they can in prison?

**(Please excuse the lack of columns on this second page, but the computer refuses to cooperate in making columns for this page without making columns for the first one as well.)**

#### A WIFE'S NOTE

Does your wife leave you notes? Mine does. I walked into the kitchen and found a note on the table. "Please turn the dryer on. Thanks." Dutifully, I did exactly what I was told. Sometime later I heard the buzzer go off, so I proceeded back to the dryer to take the clothes out. When I opened the door I noticed something strange—there were no clothes inside!

If she wants me to do something the way she wants it done she should make the request clear and plain. In my opinion the note should have said, "Take the clothes out of the washing machine, place them in the dryer and turn the dryer on." After all of these years I am still in the process of training her.

Okay, it's a small thing. "No harm, no foul."

That little incident did stir in my mind a line from an almost forgotten spiritual song: "Make the message clear and plain." For the life of me I couldn't recall the song—only that single line. It bugged me all day. Finally, I made contact with a song leader to solve my problem. Immediately he replies, "*Sinners Jesus Will Receive.*" Be bugged no longer.

While a note about the dryer is inconsequential, the message of salvation is not. "Make the message clear and plain: Christ receiveth sinful men."

The apostle Paul was so serious about this matter he wrote the Corinthians, saying,

*“For we write you nothing but what you can read and understand: I hope you will understand fully.”* And again: *“We have renounced disgraceful and underhanded ways: we refuse to practice cunning or to tamper with God’s word, but by the open statement of the truth we would commend ourselves to every man’s conscience in the sight of God.”*

***“Make the message clear and plain: Christ receiveth sinful men.”***

--John Gipson, Little Rock, Ark.

***“The LORD is my light and my salvation: whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life: of whom shall I be afraid?” (Psalms 27:1)***

## WHAT IS LOVE?

*It is...*

*Silence when your words would hurt,  
...patience when your neighbor’s curt,  
...deafness when the scandal flows,  
...thoughtful for another’s woes,  
...helpful when one is in need,  
...abundant in kind word and deed,  
...promptness when stern duty calls,  
...courage when misfortune falls*

--Bulletin Gold