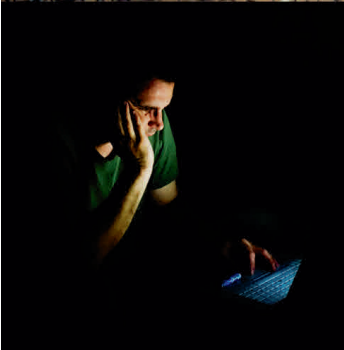


FREE



iPlay
iText
iTalk
iGo
iEat
iDrink
iSleep
iAwake
iDrive
iThink
iLonely
iCry

iCulture



MANIFESTO

HAVE YOU HEARD ABOUT THE RADICAL NEW MOVEMENT that's going on? People of different backgrounds and races from all over the world are leaving everything behind to form tight-knit communities. The work is shared, the money is shared, and possessions are shared, all for the sake of the movement. In this environment there is healing. Lives that seemed damaged beyond repair are being restored in each aspect of their souls: mind, will, and emotions. This movement is a full-time life. It's not some fly-by-night organization. In fact, it's been building for over 45 years, gaining momentum. It is a new, emerging culture built on an ancient spiritual foundation.

The manifesto is this: God is real and is serious about making a radical change on Planet Earth. But He needs devoted people who are willing to abandon everything for His cause. We who write this paper have done just that. We are peaceful, yet powerfully united, but not without a struggle. Together we are working to undermine the evil spiritual attack on the souls of mankind. Spiritual enemies such as selfishness and greed lead to conditions like loneliness, fear, and spiritual death. The movement is aimed at reversing these effects and bringing healing to mankind. Our Creator has the power to reach deep within our souls and change us, but not without our wholehearted participation in His ultimate purpose.

The power to change comes from *Yahshua*, the one called *Jesus* in most English Bibles. To join the movement means following Him. It's life for life. He died and endured the agonies of death for us. In death He received the full wages that our sins deserved. To follow Him means we must give everything for Him, not once or twice a week, but 24/7 for the rest of our lives.

Yahshua didn't come to establish some milk-toast religion. He caused a spiritual earthquake that shook the status quo. Those who loved their own selfish pursuits more than the truth were threatened by Him. But those who loved the truth found the hope they were looking for, a hope that does not disappoint. This same hope is on the earth again today.

Humanity is currently being swept downstream. It's heading for over the waterfall. The moral foundations that support a good society are rapidly being destroyed. Most people seem strangely unaware of the consequences that result from such breakdowns. Mindlessly they follow along, mesmerized by the siren song of prosperity, ease, and pleasure. Don't be lulled to sleep! Don't be fooled by the politically correct propaganda that is flooding society. The destruction of the moral foundations in peoples' lives is destroying society, the earth, and God's very image in mankind. Something must be done.

We who write this paper have found the way out. If you dare to read on, be warned that this paper may cause deep thoughts that could change your life! Our addresses are on the back. Come and see for yourself what's going on! ❁

iCulture

The man sat on the bench and greeted someone who was sitting at the bus stop, and he grunted "Hello" back. In an effort to be social, the first man continued to talk. However the other man had his *iPod* on, and, pointing to the buds in his ears, shook his head, expressing no desire to continue the conversation. Seems as if the *iPod* man was not up for being social. Was he *iSolated*? You see people walking down the street, all plugged into something. Connected, yes, but to what? Some digital drum and bass? Cyberspace? The human race?

Man was created to be a social creature. According to Webster's Dictionary, *social* means "living together in community." Are we still social creatures, or are we evolving from human beings into something else? *iBeings* maybe? A new culture is emerging: *iCulture*.

The Internet has exploded and is used by over one third of the earth's population. Many go home at night to empty homes and get online to connect with "friends" out in Cyberspace. The computer room becomes



a safe hideaway, or even a stage where they get to be the "virtual" *iStar* they always wanted to be. Blogs are used to talk about things that people are too ashamed or embarrassed to talk about in real life, or just to say,

"Look at me! Aren't *iGreat*?"

Never before has it been possible to communicate instantly with people anywhere on the globe, yet never before have people been so alienated from one another. So-called "Social Networking" merely fosters virtual relationships devoid of accountability, true love, and human warmth. And it's so easy for parents to put a *PlayStation* into the hands of their children rather than turning their hearts and eyes to fill their children's hungry souls.

We who write this paper are learning that people need people — heart-to-heart contact, lasting friendships, and true forgiveness. We are finding that the more time we spend together, the more fulfilled we become! Sound like fantasy? Read on and learn about our new *weCulture*.✿



A NEW SOCIAL ORDER

We are members of a new society. It is a different kind of society, one in which no one is despised or unimportant, no one lonely or unwanted. The strong are not exalted and the weak are not exploited. There are no rich or poor. Love lives here.

We are learning a new way of relating to other human beings — without fear, without hostility, without suspicion. We are becoming like little children. We live in an atmosphere of trust. Love rules here.

This is a society of an entirely different order. It is a new social order. The peace that reigns in our midst is not due to laws and law enforcement. We do not do things out of obligation, but because we choose to. In this life of love, no one has a right to be cold to his neighbor. Malice, put-downs, and paybacks are foreign to our way of life. Love restrains us from striving to get ahead of each other, from taking advantage of one another, from turning our backs on one another when times get hard.

Everyone knows what the old social order is like. Each person is responsible for his own life and the lives of his family, if he has one. Once people have food, clothing, and shelter, they may try to be kind to their fellow human beings. But there is a limit and there are barriers — racial, religious, economic. No matter how many laws are passed in this crazy world, the walls between people still remain.

Even within the same family there are barriers. One brother has his set of friends, the other has a different set, the sister has still another, and they can't even sit down and have a meal together. Most social barriers are like weeds.

They have deep roots. No matter what you do to cut them off at the surface, they keep springing back up.

The new society we live in is not this way. We have been given a radical solution that enables us to love. The chains of fear and guilt that hold mankind in bondage have been broken for us.

Who can love when the barrier of guilt rises up? It is the painful weight, the sudden memory that comes when you are with someone you have hurt, or someone who has hurt you. Who can give when they are afraid of losing their possessions, their time, even their own life?

Our Master Yahshua,¹ the Messiah, has washed away our guilt with His own innocent blood. He has given us the power to forgive others the way that He forgave us. We have received His Spirit, the same Spirit that raised Him from the dead, so we can dare to suffer loss in loving others. Fear and guilt no longer have any power over those who trust in Him.

The new social order we are talking about is not ideal. It is real. Ideal societies are the territory of dreamers and intellectuals. No human being has ever thought up an ideal society that actually worked in reality.

Even Sir Thomas More, who coined the word *Utopia* for the title of his

No matter how many laws are passed in this crazy world, the walls between people still remain.

¹ *Yahshua* is the original Hebrew name of the one called *Jesus* in most English translations of the Bible. See "The Name Above All Names" on page 17 for more about this name.

famous book, realized this limitation. The word *utopia* literally means “no place.” There is no location on earth where you can observe an ideal society at work. Man-made societies are based on laws, and laws can only restrain evil, not create virtue.

So it is not because of rules, regulations, or even religious principles that we in this new social order live together and share our property and possessions. Bible verses do not have the power to cause people to love and respect each other. The Bible by itself can't even make people agree on what it says. The 45,000 Christian denominations are ample proof of this.

Man-made societies are based on laws, and laws can only restrain evil, not create virtue.

The old adage, “birds of a feather flock together,” aptly describes every social institution of the world, including Christianity. Unless forced to do otherwise, people naturally gravitate toward others who have basically the same interests.

So you have the white church, the black church, the rich church, the poor church, the conservative church, the liberal church, and even the “gay” church. There is a denomination for every inclination.

The saying holds true even for communal living, both religious and otherwise. Whatever “intentional community” a person joins depends on his intentions. Some rally around a social cause, others a political agenda, and still others a doctrine or philosophy. But the deeply-rooted barriers of guilt and fear spring up even there. Ultimately self-preservation outweighs all other considerations, and even birds of the same feather find it difficult to nest together for very long.

Yet, despite these overwhelming obstacles, the prophet Ezekiel, over 2500 years ago, recorded a vision of something new and different. In his vision God Himself took a tender shoot and planted it so that it would grow up to become a mighty tree: *“Under it every kind of bird will live; in the shade of its branches will nest winged creatures of every kind.”*² This prophecy might seem obscure or insignificant if Yahshua had not echoed its words some 500 years



later:

What is the kingdom of God like? And to what shall I compare it? It is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in the garden. It grew and became a tree, and all the birds of the air made nests in its branches. (Luke 13:18-19)

This new kingdom is a social order ruled by the God of love. He is the “someone” who planted that tree. It is His doing. It is not because of man’s ideals or man’s laws that we are able to live this life of love, but because of His Spirit.

All the prophets since ancient times have spoken of this new social order in which all things are restored — the relationship between humanity and God, between men and women, between parents and children, between one race and another. The Prophet Daniel, also writing around 2500 years ago, saw that this new social order would be established without human hands and bring to an end the old order:

In the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that shall never be destroyed, nor shall this kingdom be left to another people. It shall crush all these kingdoms and bring them to an end, and it shall stand forever. (Daniel 2:44)

Daniel did not envision a political revolution. What he foresaw was the rule of love over the hearts of men. It is, however, a revolution — against apathy, indifference, and self-centeredness. It is a thorough cleansing of the corruption in our own hearts. For to make this new social order a reality, the people of this kingdom must become like their King: self-controlled, patient, generous, loyal, always available to meet the needs of others.

To truly be a part of this kingdom means to follow Messiah with total abandonment, to love as He loved. And love that is complete empties itself, voluntarily embracing poverty, for it cannot keep for itself what another needs. The result is that each one does for all what he would do for himself. No one hoards for his own future; no one’s heart grows cold over his own economic survival. But this equality is not compulsory. No one is violated or forced, but rather led and drawn by the warmth of love.

Some will not be able to see the difference between what we are describing here and a dozen utopian ideals and philosophies. Some will feel

To make this new social order a reality, the people of this kingdom must become like their King: self-controlled, patient, generous, loyal, always available to meet the needs of others.

² Ezekiel 17:23

that it is too good to be true. But those who are ready to do the will of their Creator will know whether this is actually God's kingdom we are talking about or just something we made up.

To gain this life costs you everything, but as our Master said: Those who wish to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for My sake will find it.

This new social order is not yet perfect. We who were raised under the old order are faulty in our love. The desires of the self tug at us, and we are often in need of forgiveness. But our Master Yahshua gave His life to pay for our failures so that we could forgive one another and press on towards the goal — that this new order would one day fill the whole earth.

To gain this life costs you everything, but as our Master said, "Those who wish to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for My sake will find it."³ All who really believe that He died as a payment for their sins will no longer live for themselves but for Him — giving all their possessions, time, and energy to see His people flourish and His justice prevail.

If you are looking for a nice community where you can do your own thing, you would certainly be wasting your time to come here. But if you desire to live a life of self-sacrificing love, to experience the deep soul satisfaction of doing what you were created for, we invite you to be a part of this new social order. ✨



³ Luke 9:24



Euphoria — A strong feeling of great well-being or elation. An excited state of joy, intensely pleasurable. A feeling or activity characterized by its extreme intensity. Elevated mood. Euphoria is a desirable and natural occurrence when it results from happy or exciting events. An excessive degree of euphoria that is not linked to socially acceptable behavior is characteristic of an abnormal mental state. It can be associated with mood swings sometimes caused by intense religious experience, sexual pleasure, or drugs, etc, in which somebody is so dominated by an emotion that self-control and sometimes consciousness is lost.

Some of your earliest impressions as a child never leave you. Never...

Our next-door neighbor, Mr. Stephens, just about broke our door down when he came screaming into our house telling us that he had found his daughter dead on the living room floor. In between the garbled communication and scurry I kept hearing the word, "overdose." Nothing could console the man. He was beside himself in hysteria. My mother ran to the phone. Shortly afterwards the ambulance came, and I was surprised to see that Mr. Stephens was also taken. I kept looking at my mother and watching her reactions, "What's an overdose, Mom? Why are they taking Mr. Stephens away? What are they going to do with him?" A sharp "Shhh..." was all I heard, and quickly I was scuttled away to another room to sit with my older sister, who kept telling me, "Stop asking so many questions."

Later that evening I got out of bed and went down the stairs. Stopping halfway down, I overheard my parents talking privately in the kitchen below. I couldn't get everything they said as they were whispering very quietly, but then my father said something I never forgot: "She wasn't hooked on dope, Emily, she was hooked on the feelings of euphoria it gave her." That seemed so strange to me as a nine-year-old child. I dared not come into the kitchen

to ask anything at that point. (I found out later from my sister what *euphoria* meant.) I had known Mr. Stephens' pretty eighteen-year-old daughter, and she had always been very kind to me. How could Stephanie's *feelings* kill her, I wondered? I couldn't understand. She hadn't looked sick to me.

Everyone in my family was very quiet for the following week. There was a cloud of something heavy, almost foreboding, that seemed to creep inside our own house, but I couldn't figure out what it was. Eventually, life went on, and I heard Mr. Stephens was living somewhere else now. He didn't want to come back to his house.



Emotions Are Powerful

You would never think that “feelin’ good” would create such a nightmare. But it did, and it does. For Mr. Stephens’ daughter, Stephanie, the role these emotions played in her life led first to addiction, then overdose, and ultimately death.

In many cases these intense, emotional sensations of euphoria can influence very positive experiences. But more often than you would think, it results in very damaging, immoral, or even deadly consequences. Depending on the stimulus, once something is introduced to the emotions, the personality and character of a person can radically change — for the rest of his life. This is especially true if it pertains to an acquired perversion. A lot of children have such experiences with “the new kid in the neighborhood” — experiences that can take a lifetime to heal.

For some people, even drinking a *Coca-Cola*, a cup of coffee, a beer, or a glass of wine can stimulate a sense of euphoria. They get a “buzz” from such stimulants. The caffeine or alcohol content within the bloodstream, interacting with the brain’s nervous system, triggers the release of chemicals to produce that feeling of euphoria. But the dark “magic” behind this induced euphoria is that it can over-stimulate a person’s emotional responses, triggering desires that take him far beyond his normal inclinations.

Thoughts and experiences, or an association to someone or something, can also generate these intense feelings of pleasure, as well as such things as fine clothing, chocolate, exotic food, sports, drugs, antiques, expensive cars, sexual images, money, and comforts of every sort. Movies can trigger emotional responses vicariously, stimulating the brain to release chemicals that

produce an overwhelming urge or passion to have or do something. Yet whatever the stimulus, we are not helpless in the face of our desires. We are equipped with a will by which we can choose what to give ourselves to.

From Euphoria to Idolatry

From our earliest impressions as babies to old age, the appeasing of these feelings of euphoria often guide our path in life. They potentially mold and shape our character and our future. Very strong emotions tend to dominate or preoccupy our attention and time. The gratifying of desires becomes the underpinning for many decisions we make in life, including our occupations, relationships, sexuality, pursuits, and ambitions.

People get “hooked” on certain things because of the pleasurable feelings of euphoria. Normal pleasures no longer satisfy in comparison to the “high” that comes from their over-stimulated brain. Although you may never have thought of it in this way, anything that pushes you past the objections of your conscience is idolatry in the eyes of God. Ultimately, it leads to the destruction of the characters and lives of everyone involved.

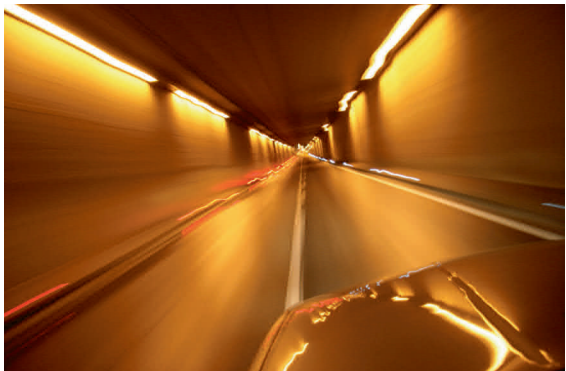
The ability to experience euphoria is part of the human makeup, but it was only meant to come from one source — fulfilling your created purpose. Substances, occupations, worship, and human relationships that are approved by our Creator fulfill both body and soul and foster healthy and happy families and societies. All other stimulation is idolatry.

It isn't the alcohol itself, but it's the dependence upon the feelings induced by the alcohol that characterizes idolatry. You are overcome emotionally and become obsessive in behavior. This is what led Stephanie to her untimely death with drugs. Anything that arouses your mind, emotions, and will to a spiritual, emotional, or physical state of devotion is idolatry — unless the stimulant is love for your spouse and/or your Creator.

The Induction Process

“By what a person is overcome, by this he is also enslaved.”¹

When you nurture unrighteous desires, your personality and character can be completely transformed. You go from a state of natural righteousness to degrees of unrighteousness and depravity. The more you



¹ 2 Peter 2:18-22

² James 1:14-15

reject your conscience, the more you will be tempted with other fallen desires. Thus, you derive pleasure from doing what is evil.² Your ability to analyze situations objectively becomes more and more impaired. It is overpowered by your passions and desires.

Generally, the more you yield to the lower inclinations of your nature, which are never fully satisfied, the more enslaved you become to your fallen appetites and desires. Like a ship whose rudder is no longer fully functional and which will soon shipwreck, someone who no longer functions according to the natural law in his conscience (doing what is right) will lose his ability to judge matters objectively and will go way off course. He is no longer responsive to the instinctive law within him and is therefore given over to doing what is unnatural.³ A person in this state has corrupted his own soul, which is made up of the intellect, emotions, and will. He lifts up his soul in worship to another god. He will pay in his own personality the due penalty for the error of his ways.⁴ Idolatry stimulates this kind of emotional response that glorifies another god.

Such a person tends to lean more and more compulsively towards an addictive state of being, in which he is controlled by his base appetites. His god is his "belly" (appetites, physical or otherwise) which always demands to be filled. That which is empty always seeks to be filled.

But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death. (James 1:14-15)

Nothing Seems to Satisfy

"Do not be deceived; bad company corrupts good morals."⁵

Sometimes, people are introduced to certain practices or exposed to certain perversions by means of *induction*.⁶ A perversion results from deviating from a natural point of reference, which is replaced by one that is abnormal. This process of spiritual or moral induction usually comes through the influence of another person, often by either physical touching or other sexual advance.



³ Romans 1:26-28

⁴ Romans 1:27 ⁵ 1 Corinthians 15:33

⁶ Induction: 1) To introduce or orient someone towards a particular thing, an understanding or belief; 2) The act or process of inducing somebody into a state of being, feeling, or idea.

Usually, it is something that captivates or stimulates your emotions.

You are opened up to or made aware of something you had never known or experienced before. From that point on, begin to feed that newly acquired compulsion. Through the induction process, an aberration⁷ or perversion begins to form within your emotional and mental make-up, causing you to deviate from the truth. Normal, healthy emotional or sexual behavior now fails to trigger those feelings of euphoria. In its place is an aberration — now only evil desires or perversions lead to euphoria.

When selfishness prevails, relationships begin to break down. If it reaches the point that you are no longer willing to bear the personal cost of loving your friend or wife or husband, the basis for true relationship is gone. If this is the case in a marriage relationship, you will become vulnerable to other morally corrupting influences, leading to jealousy, adultery, and divorce. Such emotionally based choices in disregard of conscience reveal the fundamental principle of idolatry at work.⁸ Whatever is emotionally satisfying becomes an object of worship.

There is an inherent, natural desire in every person to be dedicated and devoted to something. This desire was meant to be satisfied by God alone. We are not truly whole apart from devotion to our Creator. As human beings we bear the image of our Creator, but when we are not devoted to the one true Source of our life, that image becomes distorted, deformed, warped, and twisted out of shape. If we continue in this way, we eventually forfeit our very humanity. How vital it is that our souls come under the authority of our supreme Creator! Otherwise, idolatry is inescapable.✠

You shall have no other gods before Me. You shall not bow down to them nor worship them. For I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me, but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments. (Exodus 20:3-6)

Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord? And who shall stand in his holy place? He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who has not lifted up his soul to an idol, nor sworn deceitfully. (Psalms 24:4-5)

⁷ Aberration: 1) A departure from what is normal or desirable; 2) The act of wandering; deviation, especially from truth or moral rectitude, from the natural state.

⁸ Matthew 5:27-28



porcupines



he porcupines all lived in the evergreen forest, contentedly munching away day after day at the bark of various trees. It was pleasant in the evergreen forest, and none of the porcupines had any complaints. They all went their own way filling their soft bellies with whatever they could find to gnaw on.

Then one day they scented winter on the air. Gone were the musty smells of autumn. Instead, a sharp, barren wind began to rustle the needles of the trees. Temperatures dropped, snow began to fall, and the porcupines began to shiver. Instinctively they began to search for one another. Their beady eyes looked to and fro as they waddled around the forest floor. Their blunt noses sniffed the stinging air.

They gathered to one another, desperate for warmth, crowding into a small cave. But as they snuggled closer to one another, they began to utter little porcupine cries of pain. Dismayed, they all retreated to the perimeter of the cave, unable to understand what had happened. But it was so cold that before long they were sidling warily back together again. No sooner had they gotten close enough to enjoy the warmth than they began to cry out in pain and retreat from one another again.

Time after time they repeated this process, tossed to and fro by the pain of being alone and cold, as well as by the offensive quills that pricked and stabbed them when they got too close. After much experience they arrived at a solution: They all decided to draw as near as they could under the circumstances, yet keep a safe distance to avoid getting hurt.

So it is with human society. Man comes together to form a social order, seeking to escape the emptiness and monotony that comes from a completely self-centered existence. But before long, their repulsive qualities, faults, and unbearable mistakes cause them to recoil from one another. And so they develop manners, refinements, and codes of conduct that keep them from getting too close, but allow them to experience a little comfort from one another's presence.

In the sixties, however, many saw through the sterile, hypocritical customs of the former generation. Why be bound up and hung up? Why try to live by a bunch of outdated values and customs? Why not love? Why not live together? Why not be warm and kind and close? But it didn't take long to find the answers.

There was a reason that past generations built so many walls around themselves: they were limited in their power to love sacrificially. And what about our generation?

We've learned to "accept" everyone, to settle for "unity in diversity," to be "open," but to "keep our own space." But isn't that just an informal version of the customs the past?

And who is the bigger hypocrite, the one who pretends to be normal, or the one who pretends to love? ❁





Forgiveness

"That's not enough!" said the woman to the bus driver. He was late. Circumstances beyond his control had caused the delay, and he said "I'm sorry" at least six times. But it was *not enough*. No matter what he said or how he said it, she could not forgive him for keeping her waiting.

Has that ever happened to you? That no matter how sorry you were, it was *not enough*? Or perhaps the shoe was on the other foot, and you simply could not forgive. Bitterness creeps in, doesn't it? Bitterness makes you sick. It holds you back from enjoying life.

On the other hand, forgiveness releases you, or the one who hurt you, from a debt. Actually, it sets free both the one hurt and the one who caused the hurt.

It's easy to remember hurts, and hard to forget them. Why is it so hard to forgive and forget?

Only those who have known forgiveness can forgive. To forgive is to look hopefully into the future and not bitterly into the past.

Forgiveness is not free. It costs you something to forgive. You have to give up your demand for justice. You have to put to death the offense that is lodged in your heart. That opens up the future, both for the one who is forgiven and the one who forgives.

Can you imagine being released from all guilt and bitterness?

No longer being weighed down with regret? Greeting each new day with hope? That's what eternal life is like — living continually in a guiltless state, set free to love.

How can you love someone whom you can't forgive, or who can't forgive you? But how can you forgive, and how can you be forgiven?

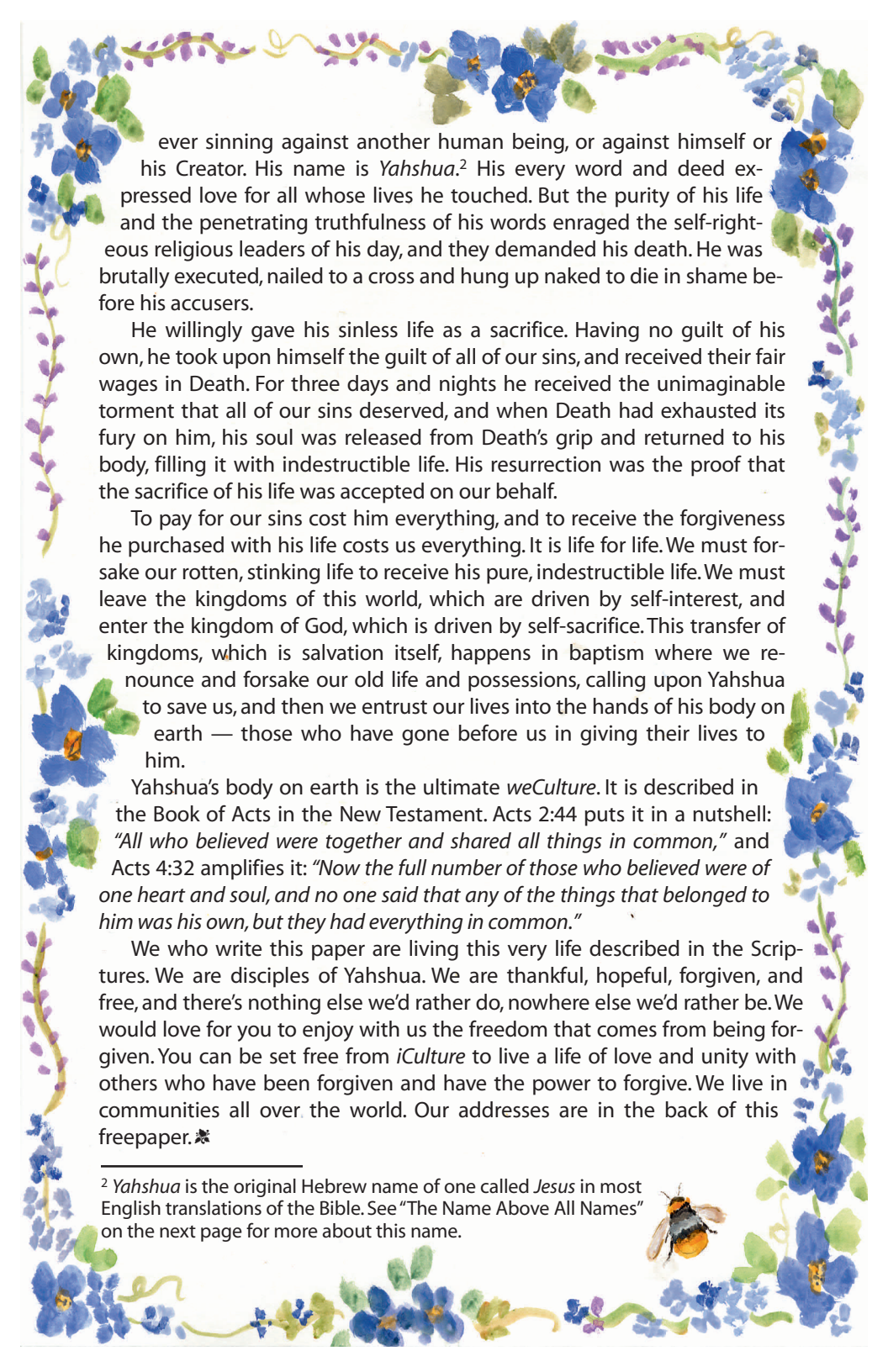
We are all guilty of hurting others, of doing things against our conscience, or failing to do what we ought to do. This is called *sin*, which incurs *guilt*. Guilt is not just a bad feeling; it is a debt that must be paid. If you die with guilt, then you must pay that debt in death.

Death is not peaceful oblivion. It is a place of *torment*¹ where your soul must face the guilt of all the hurt you have caused in your life and fully accept the responsibility for it, reaching repentance. You must come to the end of all of your excuses. Some people will never cease justifying themselves, therefore their torment will never end.

But it is possible to be released from your debt of guilt in this life. This is because there was a man who lived his entire life without

¹ Luke 16:28





ever sinning against another human being, or against himself or his Creator. His name is *Yahshua*.² His every word and deed expressed love for all whose lives he touched. But the purity of his life and the penetrating truthfulness of his words enraged the self-righteous religious leaders of his day, and they demanded his death. He was brutally executed, nailed to a cross and hung up naked to die in shame before his accusers.

He willingly gave his sinless life as a sacrifice. Having no guilt of his own, he took upon himself the guilt of all of our sins, and received their fair wages in Death. For three days and nights he received the unimaginable torment that all of our sins deserved, and when Death had exhausted its fury on him, his soul was released from Death's grip and returned to his body, filling it with indestructible life. His resurrection was the proof that the sacrifice of his life was accepted on our behalf.

To pay for our sins cost him everything, and to receive the forgiveness he purchased with his life costs us everything. It is life for life. We must forsake our rotten, stinking life to receive his pure, indestructible life. We must leave the kingdoms of this world, which are driven by self-interest, and enter the kingdom of God, which is driven by self-sacrifice. This transfer of kingdoms, which is salvation itself, happens in baptism where we renounce and forsake our old life and possessions, calling upon *Yahshua* to save us, and then we entrust our lives into the hands of his body on earth — those who have gone before us in giving their lives to him.

Yahshua's body on earth is the ultimate *weCulture*. It is described in the Book of Acts in the New Testament. Acts 2:44 puts it in a nutshell: *"All who believed were together and shared all things in common,"* and Acts 4:32 amplifies it: *"Now the full number of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one said that any of the things that belonged to him was his own, but they had everything in common."*

We who write this paper are living this very life described in the Scriptures. We are disciples of *Yahshua*. We are thankful, hopeful, forgiven, and free, and there's nothing else we'd rather do, nowhere else we'd rather be. We would love for you to enjoy with us the freedom that comes from being forgiven. You can be set free from *iCulture* to live a life of love and unity with others who have been forgiven and have the power to forgive. We live in communities all over the world. Our addresses are in the back of this freepaper. ✨

² *Yahshua* is the original Hebrew name of one called *Jesus* in most English translations of the Bible. See "The Name Above All Names" on the next page for more about this name.



THE NAME ABOVE

ALL NAMES

In the days of John the Baptist and the Son of God, the preserved language of the devout Jews was Hebrew. So, when the angel Gabriel brought the good news to the Hebrew virgin, Miriam (or *Mary* in English), that she would give birth to the Savior of the world, and told her what His name would be, what language do you suppose he spoke? Hebrew, of course! And certainly Miriam and Yoceph (or *Joseph* in English) named the child just as the angel had commanded them — *Yahshua*.

In Matthew 1:21, your Bible probably reads, "...and you shall call His name *Jesus*, for He will save His people from their sins." But the name *Jesus* is a modern English adaptation of the Greek name, *Iesous*, which is itself a corruption of the original Hebrew name *Yahshua*. The name *Jesus* or *Iesous* has no meaning of its own, but the Hebrew name *Yahshua* literally means *Yahweh's Salvation*,¹ which makes sense out of what the angel said in Matthew 1:21, "...you shall call His name *Yahshua* [*Yahweh's Salvation*], for He shall save His people from their sins."

יהושע

If you look in a pre-1769 King James Bible, you will find the name

Jesus in these two passages:

*Which also our fathers that came after brought in with **Jesus** into the possession of the Gentiles, whom God drave out before the face of our fathers, unto the days of David... (Acts 7:45, 1611 KJV)*

*For if **Jesus** had given them rest, then would he not afterward have spoken of another day. (Hebrews 4:8, 1611 KJV)*

However, if you look in any modern translation of the Bible, including the New King James, you will find that in place of the name *Jesus* they use the name *Joshua*, for in the context it is clear that it is speaking there of Moses' successor and not the Son of God. But in the Greek manuscript the name in both of these verses is *Iesous*.

You see, *Joshua* is the popular English transliteration of the Hebrew name of Moses' successor, which meant, "He will save." This name looks forward to the name of the Son of God, for *Joshua* was the prophetic forerunner of the Messiah, bringing

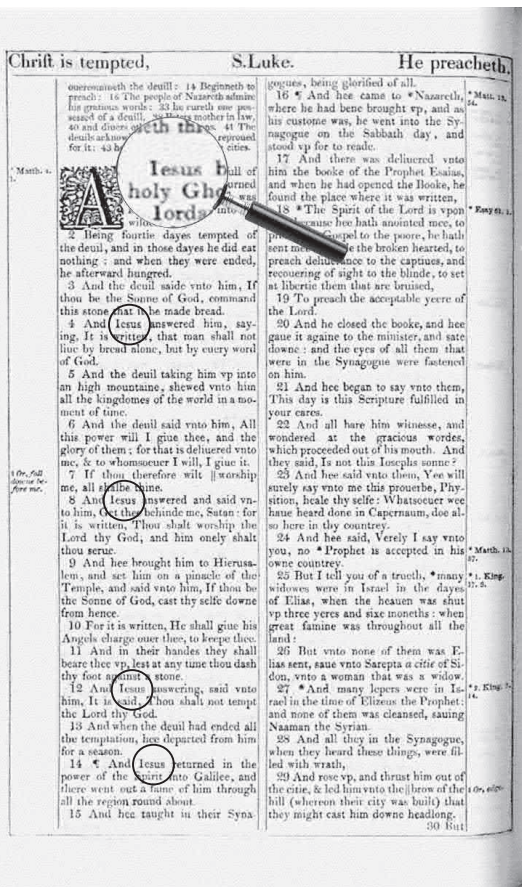
¹ *Yah* is the personal name of God, and *shua* is from a Hebrew root word that means "to save." God identified Himself to Moses as *YAH* (meaning "I AM") in Exodus 3:14, as in Psalm 68:4 ("whose name is *Yah*"), and as most familiar in the word *Halleluyah* ("Praise *Yah*"). And in John 5:43 and 17:11, *Yahshua* says that He came in His Father's name, "the name which You have given Me" (NASB), so it is not surprising that the Father's name would be incorporated into the Son's name, *Yahshua*.

Israel into the Promised Land and leading them to victory over their enemies. But since the translators obviously know this fact, why do they only translate *lesous* as *Joshua* in these two verses, and as *Jesus* everywhere else?

The NIV New Testament even has a footnote supporting this fact under Matthew 1:21: "*Jesus* is the Greek form of *Joshua*."

But the fact is, the name of God's Son was not even written or pronounced as "Jesus" in English until the 1600s, simply because there was no "J" sound or letter in English before then.² The modern letter "J" evolved from the letter "I" which began to be written with a "tail" when it appeared as the first letter in a word. So in old English the name now written as *Jesus* was actually written and pronounced much like the original Greek *lesous*. Eventually the hard "J" sound crept into the English language to accompany the different way of writing the initial "I" in the name.

You may also find it interesting that in Acts 26:14-15, it says that the



A page from the 1611 Authorized Version (King James Bible). Note the lack of a "J" in the Savior's name.

apostle Paul heard the name of the Son of God pronounced "in the Hebrew tongue" by the Son of God Himself, so he certainly didn't hear the Greek name *lesous* or the English name *Jesus*, but rather the Hebrew name, the name above all names, *Yahshua*.³

² Compact Edition of the Oxford English Dictionary (Oxford University Press, 1971), pp. 1496,1507 ³ Philippians 2:9; Acts 4:12

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THERE IS A PEOPLE who woke up this morning with one thing on their minds: to love their Creator with all their heart, soul, and strength, and to love one another just as He loved them. Being ordinary human beings, we are far from perfect in our love, yet, in hope, we persevere. Our goal? That the Kingdom of God would come on earth as it is in heaven, so that love and justice can rule on the earth. Sound impossible? It would be, were it not that Yahshua, the Messiah, came to redeem mankind, to set us free from the curse of sin, and to enable us to love. Because we have come to see His worth and our own desperate need, we have surrendered everything in order to follow Him. Our hearts and our homes are open night and day to any who are interested in our life or are weary of their sin and want to know the purpose for which they were created. ✨