

Loose Your Bowels

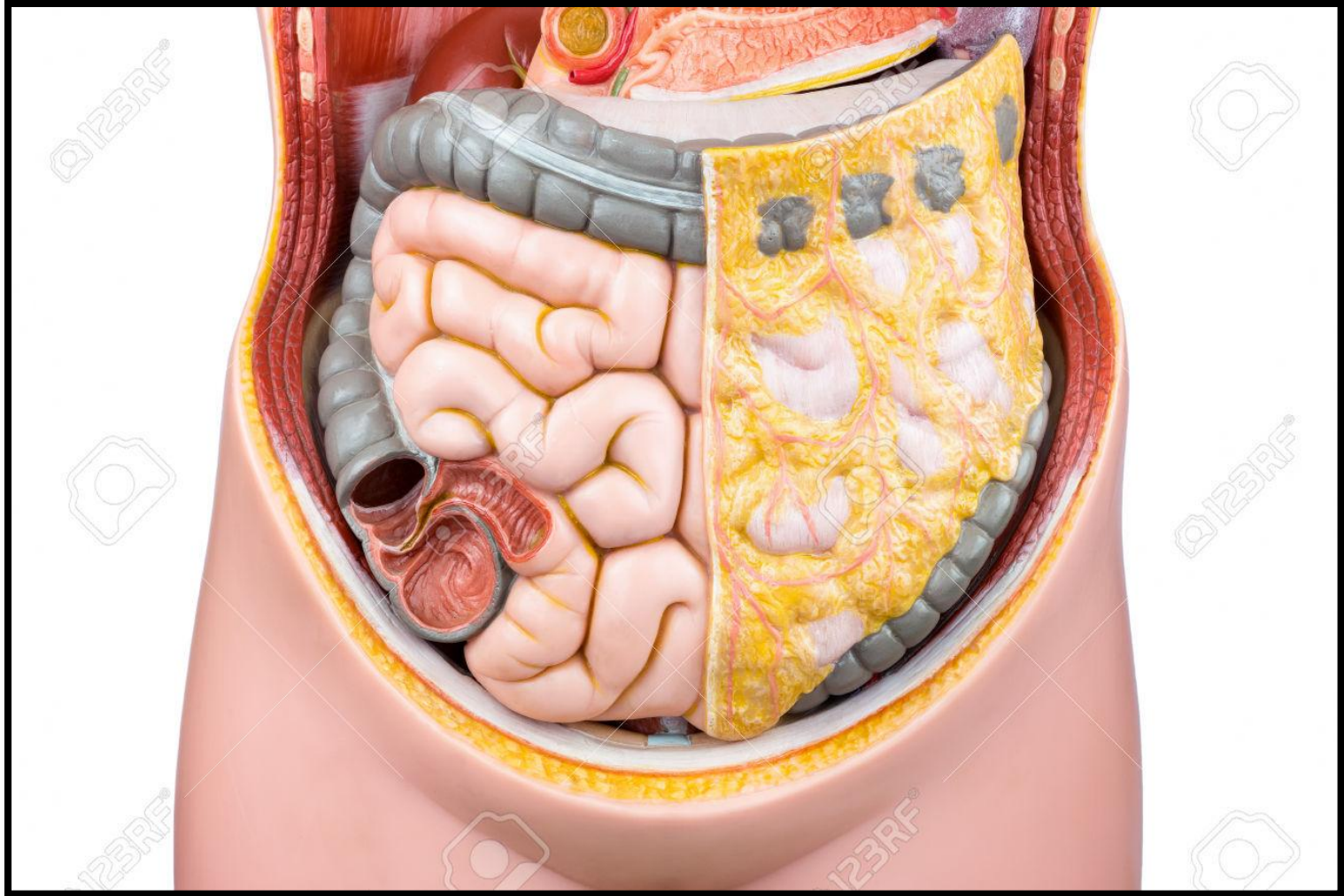
August 3, 2016

**The word “bowels”
occurs 39 times in our
King James Bibles.**

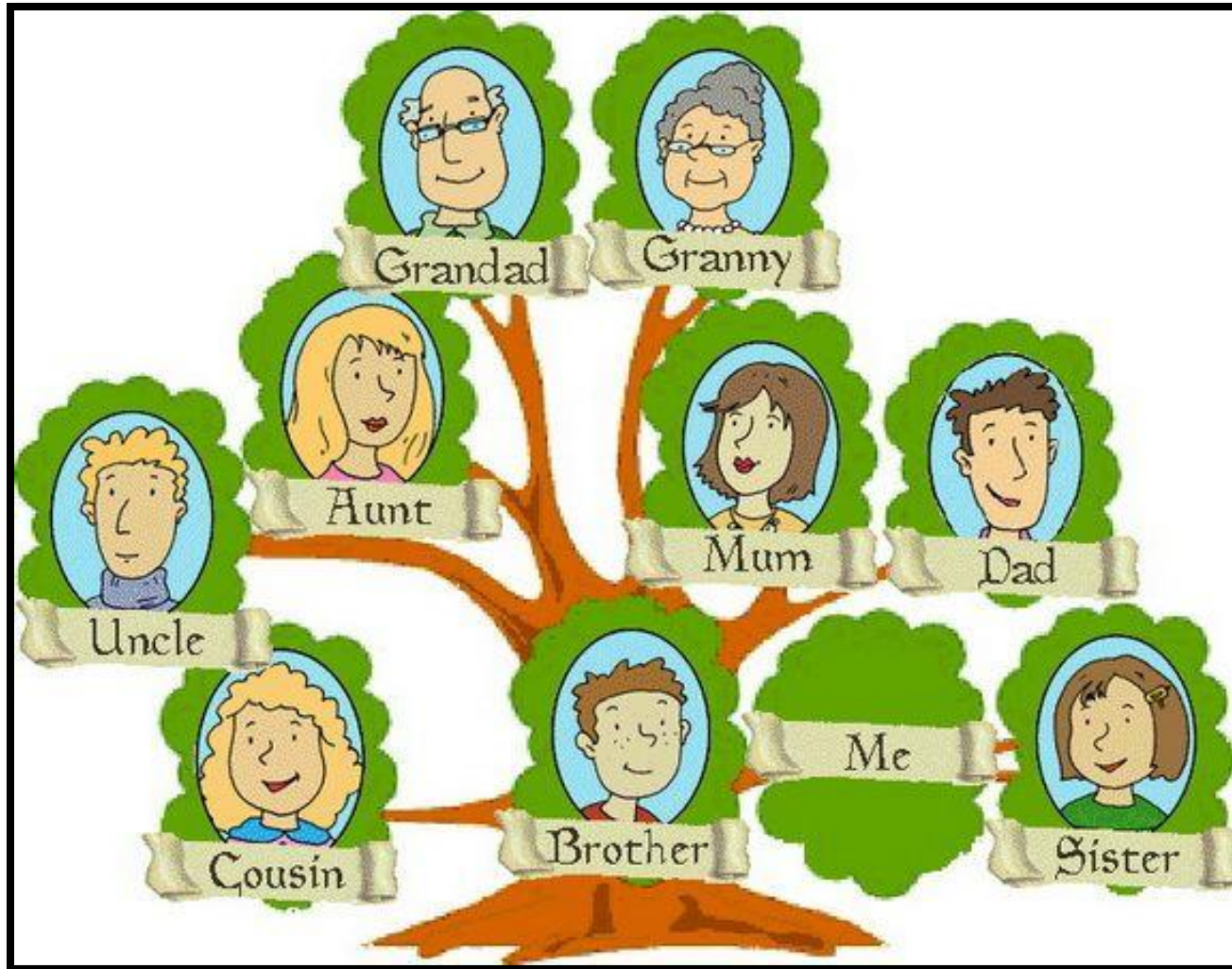
REALLY?

**But I thought bowels
were ... you know ...**

“Bowels” – *Literal* – 12 Times



“Bowels” – *Figurative* – 8 Times



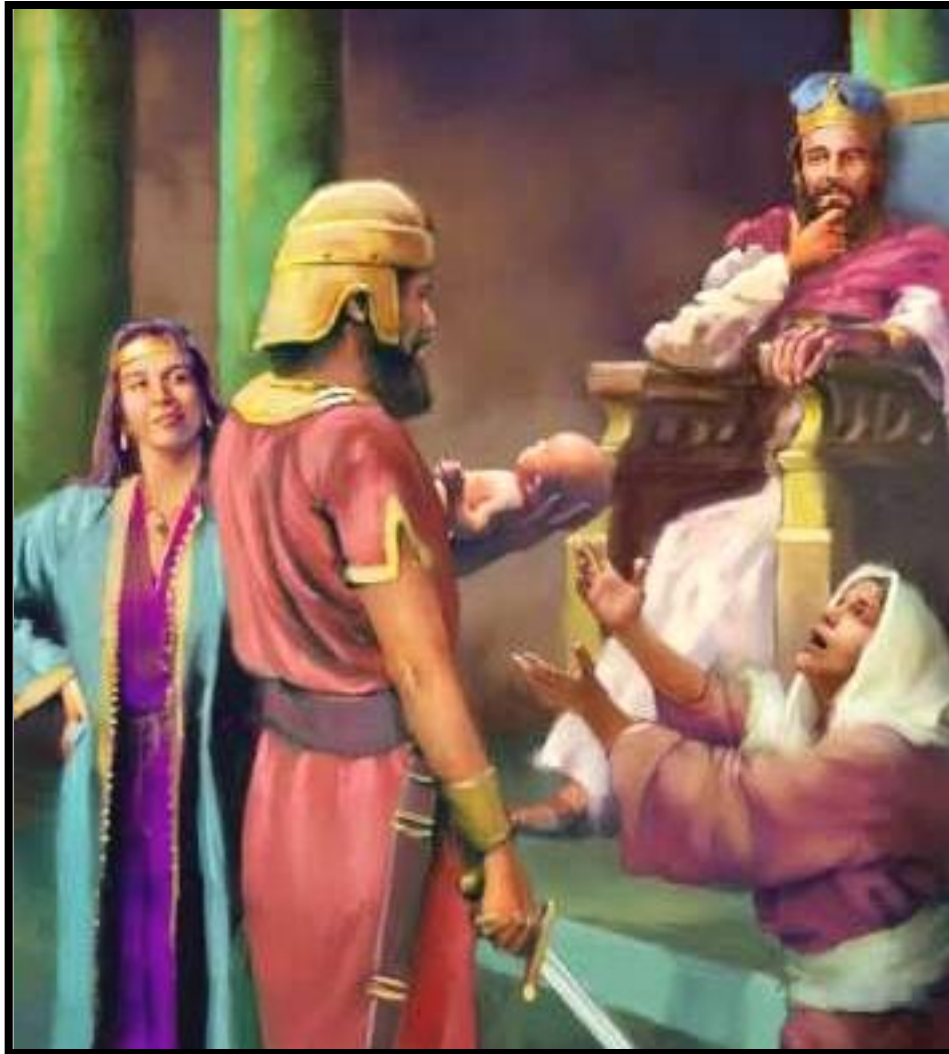
“Bowels” – *Emotional* – 19 Times



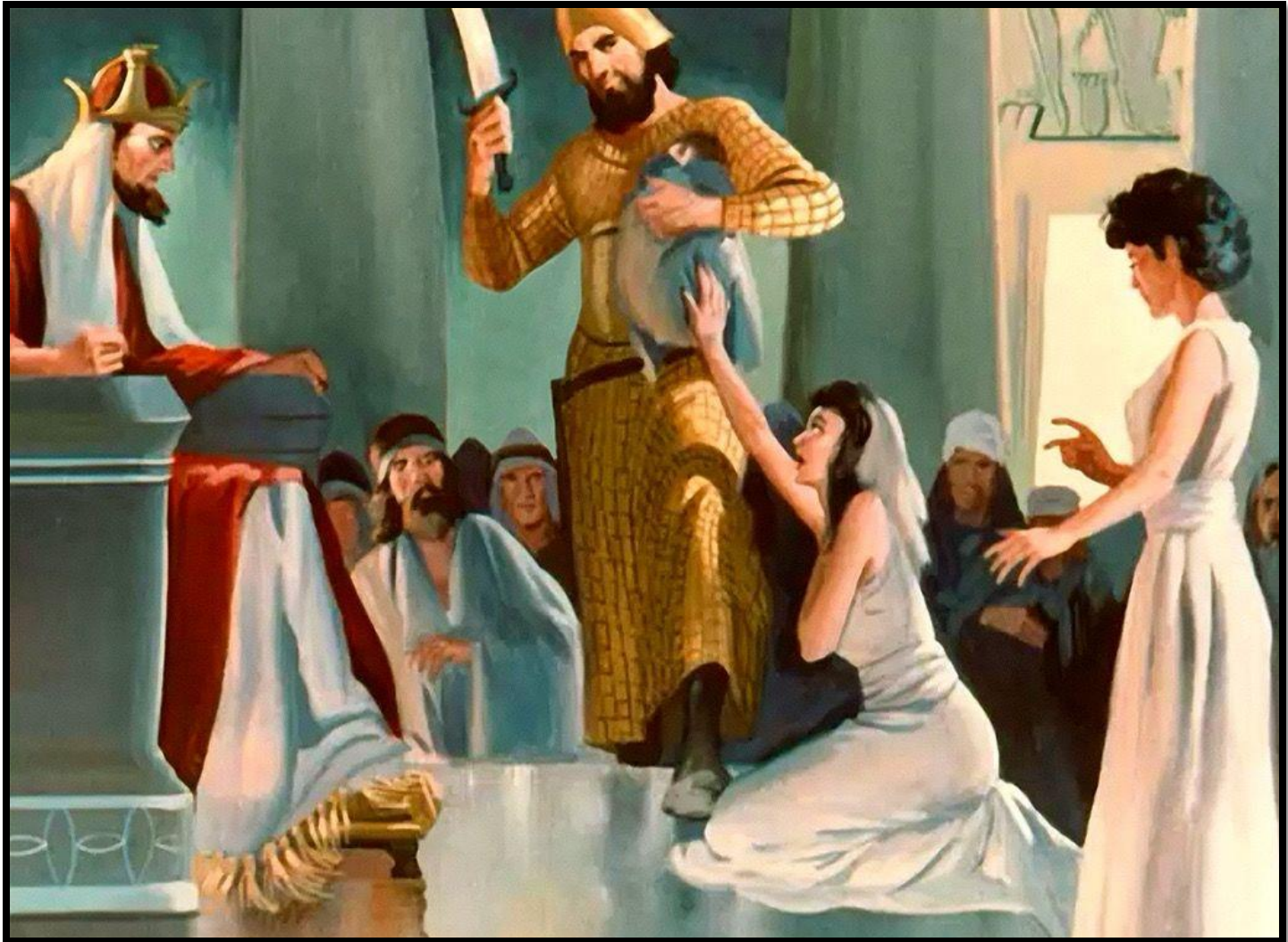
“Bowels” – *Emotional* – 19 Times



“Bowels” – *Emotional* – 19 Times



“Bowels” – *Emotional* – 19 Times



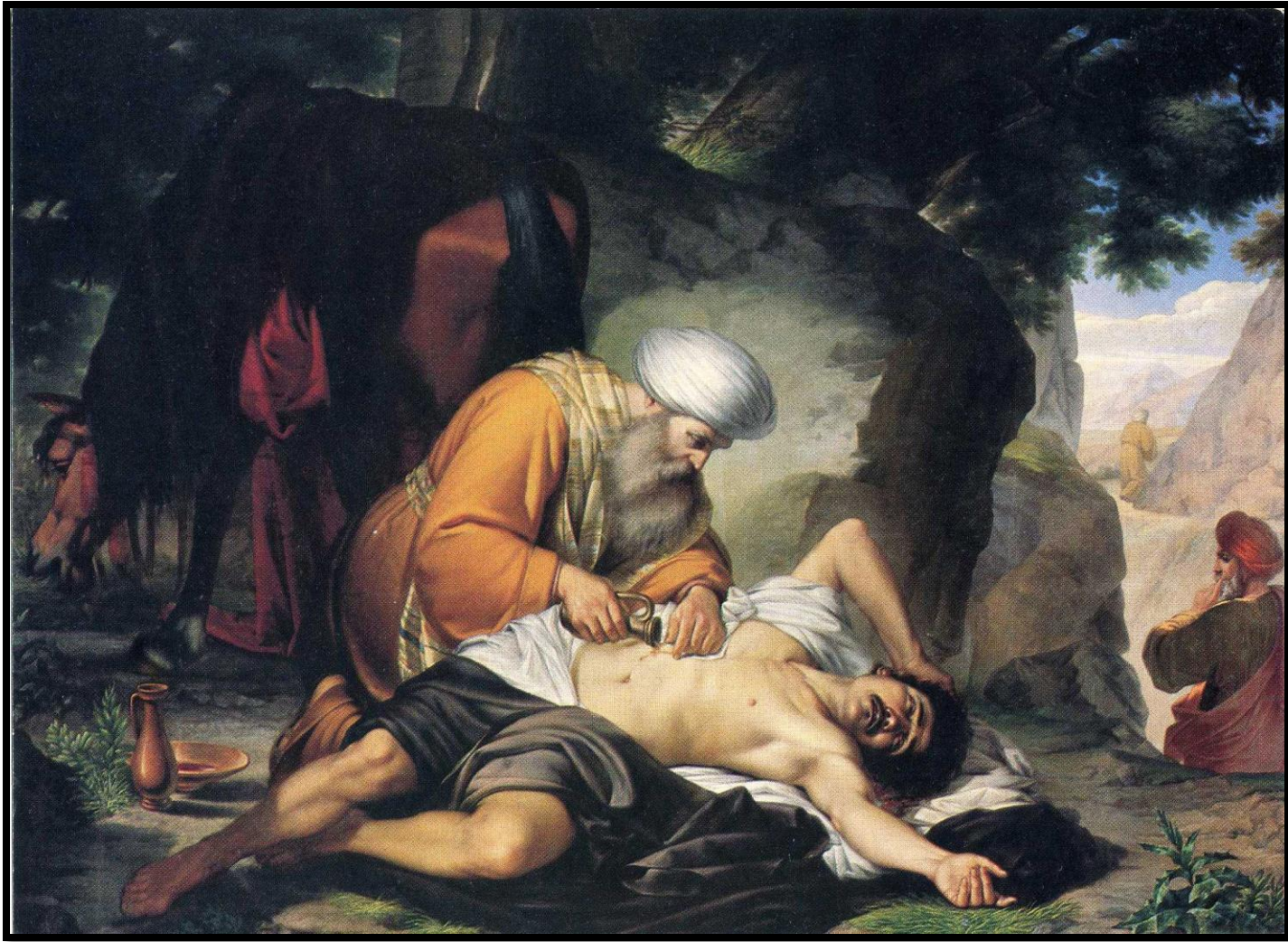
“Bowels” – *Emotional* – 19 Times



“Bowels” – *Emotional* – 19 Times



“Bowels” – *Emotional* – 19 Times



“Bowels” – *Emotional* – 19 Times



Bowels = Empathy

- The power of projecting one's personality (and so fully comprehending) the object of contemplation.
- Empathy is not a Bible word ... but a usable synonym.
- *“Remember them that are in bonds, as bound with them; and them which suffer adversity, as being yourselves also in the body”* (Heb 13:3).

Bowels = Sympathy

- The quality or state of being affected by the condition of another with a feeling similar or corresponding to that of the other; the fact or capacity of entering into or sharing the feelings of another or others; fellow-felling.
- Sympathy is not a Bible word ... but a usable synonym.
- *“But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him” (Luke 15:20).*

Bowels = Compassion

- Suffering together with another, participation in suffering; fellow-feeling, sympathy. The feeling or emotion, when a person is moved by the suffering or distress of another, and by the desire to relieve it; pity that inclines one to spare or to succour.
- It occurs 43 times in the Bible.
- Pharaoh's daughter for weeping Moses (Ex 2:6; Is 49:15)
- Good Samaritan for wounded Jew (Luke 10:33)

Bowels = Tenderhearted

- Having a tender heart; easily moved by fear, pity, sorrow, or love; timid; pitiful, compassionate; loving; impressionable.
- It is 2 times in the Bible, but *tender mercies* 13 times.
- “*And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ’s sake hath forgiven you*” (Eph 4:32).

Bowels = Pitiful


- Full of or characterized by pity; compassionate, merciful, tender.
- It is 38 times in the Bible.
- *“Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous”*
(1 Pet 3:8)

Bowels = Moved

- To affect with emotion; to rouse or excite feeling in (a person); to stir (the feelings, etc.); to trouble, disquiet, perturb in one's mind; to excite to (laughter, pity, tears, etc.). Often to affect with tender or compassionate emotion.
- *“My beloved put in his hand by the hole of the door, and my bowels were moved for him” (Song 5:4).*
- *“Then the lord of that servant was moved with compassion, and loosed him, and forgave him the debt” (Matt 18:27).*

Bowels = Heart

- The seat of the emotions generally; the emotional nature, as distinguished from the intellectual nature placed in the head. The feeling or sentiment which one has in regard to a thing. The seat of love or affection. Hence = Affection, love, devotion.
- *O ye Corinthians, our mouth is open unto you, our heart is enlarged. Ye are not straitened in us, but ye are straitened in your own bowels. Now for a recompence in the same, (I speak as unto my children,) be ye also enlarged” (II Cor 6:11-13).*



**What are some good
Bible examples of
bowels?**



God Himself!

“Look down from heaven, and behold from the habitation of thy holiness and of thy glory: where is thy zeal and thy strength, the sounding of thy bowels and of thy mercies toward me? are they restrained?”

Isaiah 63:15

“Is Ephraim my dear son? is he a pleasant child? for since I spake against him, I do earnestly remember him still: therefore my bowels are troubled for him; I will surely have mercy upon him, saith the LORD.”

Jeremiah 31:20

“In all their affliction he was afflicted, and the angel of his presence saved them: in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; and he bare them, and carried them all the days of old.”

Isaiah 63:9

“Can a woman forget her sucking child, that she should not have compassion on the son of her womb? yea, they may forget, yet will I not forget thee.”

Isaiah 49:15

“Like as a father pitieth his children,
so the LORD pitieth them that fear
him. For he knoweth our frame; he
remembereth that we are dust.”

Psalm 103:13-14



Jesus our Lord!

“But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd.”

Matthew 9:36; 14:14; 15:32

“And Jesus, moved with compassion,
put forth his hand, and touched him,
and saith unto him, I will; be thou
clean.”

Mark 1:41

“Surely he hath borne our griefs,
and carried our sorrows: yet we did
esteem him stricken, smitten of God,
and afflicted.”

Isaiah 53:4 cp Matt 8:14-17

“For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.”

Hebrews 4:15

“Jesus wept.”

John 11:35

Jesus our Lord

- He crossed Galilee in a storm for one Gadarene!
- He stopped a funeral at Nain to comfort a widow.
- He observed and praised a ½-talent widow for giving.
- Appeared first to Mary and specifically named Peter.
- Wept over the city of Jerusalem before its ruin.
- Stood up for Stephen to see him at his stoning.

If God and Jesus
have bowels as a
chief trait ...

What does it say
about you ...
if you have
little or none?

Does knowledge
of doctrine make
up for it?

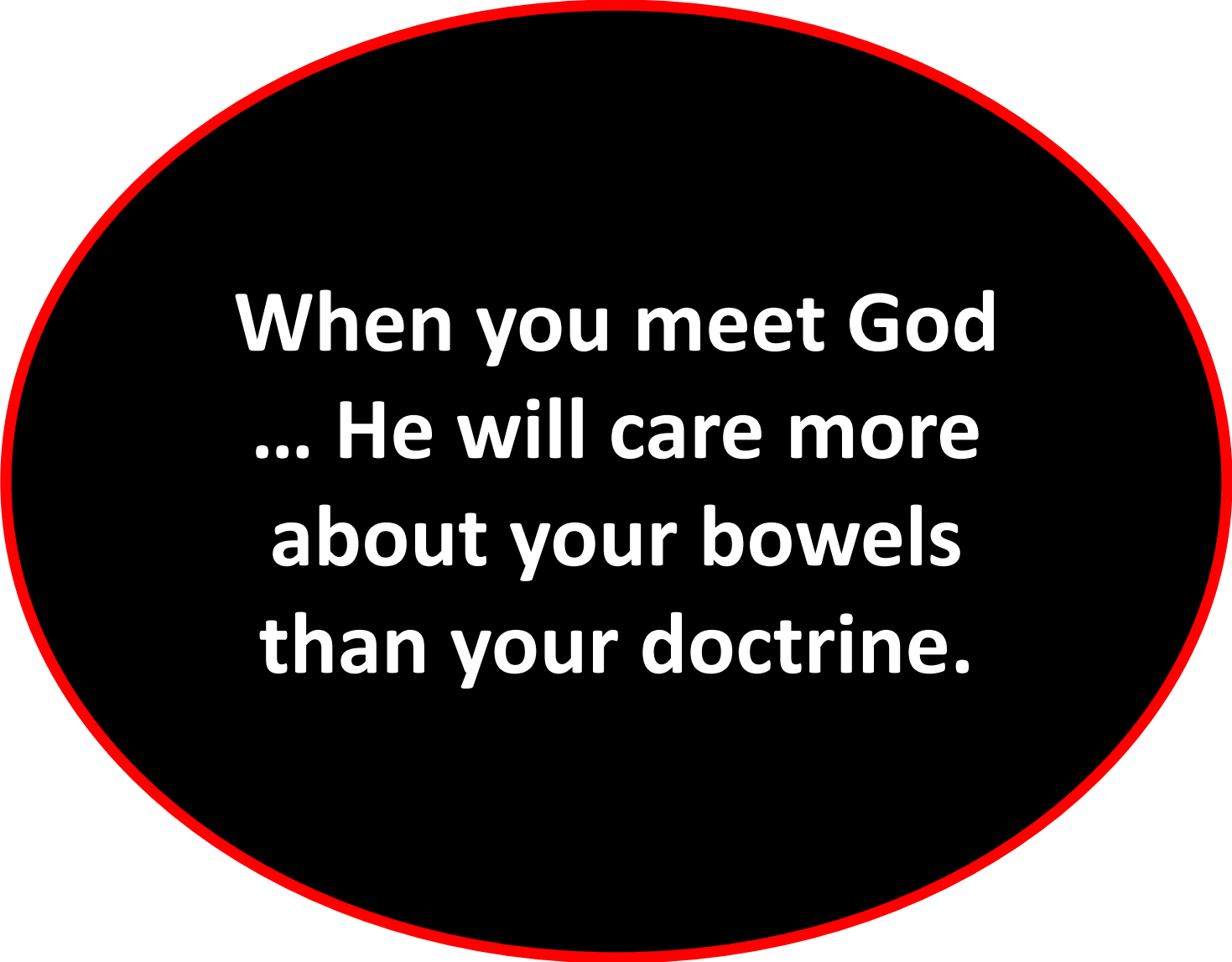
Does sober
strictness make
up for it?

Does minding
your own
business sound
like a saved man?

Does being
content with your
relationships
count?

Is being stoic and
disciplined the
real marks of a
Christian?

Or is there
something more
important to God
than sacrifice?



**When you meet God
... He will care more
about your bowels
than your doctrine.**



**The devils have
perfect doctrine but
shall never see light.**

A black oval with a red border is centered on a white background. Inside the oval, the text "Do you doubt the comparison?" is written in white, bold, sans-serif font, arranged in two lines.

**Do you doubt the
comparison?**

Matthew 25:31-46
Romans 12:10,15
I Corinthians 12:23-27
Ephesians 4:31-32
Philippians 2:1-5
Colossians 3:12-15
I Thessalonians 1:2-4
I Timothy 6:17-19
Hebrews 6:10
James 2:8,19
II Peter 1:5-8
Rev 2:5; 3:16

Bowel Health - 1

- We are moved by our brothers and sisters lives.
- We are moved to compassionate action for them.
- We are moved to do more than pray or pay for them.
- We are moved to consider, inquire, love, and serve.
- We are moved to forgive, heal, encourage, perfect.
- We are moved to empty ourselves to embrace others.

Bowel Health - 2

- Paul was moved to cherish like a nurse (I Thess 2:7-12).
- Stephanas was moved to addiction to serve (I Cor 16:15).
- Paul's bowels were very large (II Cor 6:11-13; 12:13-15).
- Be moved to rejoice or weep accordingly (Rom 12:15).
- Be moved to forgive anyone, anything, now, forever.
- Be moved to give and love with nothing in return.

Bowel Health - 3

- It is not circumstances ... it is a choice.
- It is not convenience ... it is a choice.
- It is not chemistry ... it is a choice.
- It is not comfortable ... it is a choice.
- It is not compensatory ... it is a choice.
- It is not coincidental ... it is a choice.

**Bowels are
a choice!**

“Look down from heaven, and behold from the habitation of thy holiness and of thy glory: where is thy zeal and thy strength, the sounding of thy bowels and of thy mercies toward me? are they restrained?”


Isaiah 63:15

“O ye Corinthians, our mouth is open unto you, our heart is enlarged. Ye are not straitened in us, but ye are straitened in your own bowels. Now for a recompence in the same, (I speak as unto my children,) be ye also enlarged.”

II Corinthians 6:11-13

“But whoso hath this world’s good,
and seeth his brother have need,
and shutteth up his bowels of
compassion from him, how dwelleth
the love of God in him?

I John 3:17



Restrained Bowels
Straitened Bowels
Shut Up Bowels

**Bowels are
a
command!**

“Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering;”

Colossians 3:12

“If there be therefore any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any bowels and mercies, Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind.”

Philippians 2:1-2

“Finally, be ye all of one mind,
having compassion one of another,
love as brethren, be pitiful, be
courteous:”

1 Peter 3:8

Loose your bowels!

**Fulfill the gospel of
Jesus Christ to benefit
those around you.**

Bowel Diseases!

**Selfish
Hatred!**

“For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, and hating one another.”

Titus 3:3

“But whoso hath this world’s good,
and seeth his brother have need,
and shutteth up his bowels of
compassion from him, how dwelleth
the love of God in him?

I John 3:17

“But when thou makest a feast, call the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind: And thou shalt be blessed; for they cannot recompense thee: for thou shalt be recompensed at the resurrection of the just.”

Luke 14:13-14


**Proud
Disrespect!**

“O ye Corinthians, our mouth is open unto you, our heart is enlarged. Ye are not straitened in us, but ye are straitened in your own bowels. Now for a recompence in the same, (I speak as unto my children,) be ye also enlarged.”

II Corinthians 6:11-13



**Lost
Bowels!**

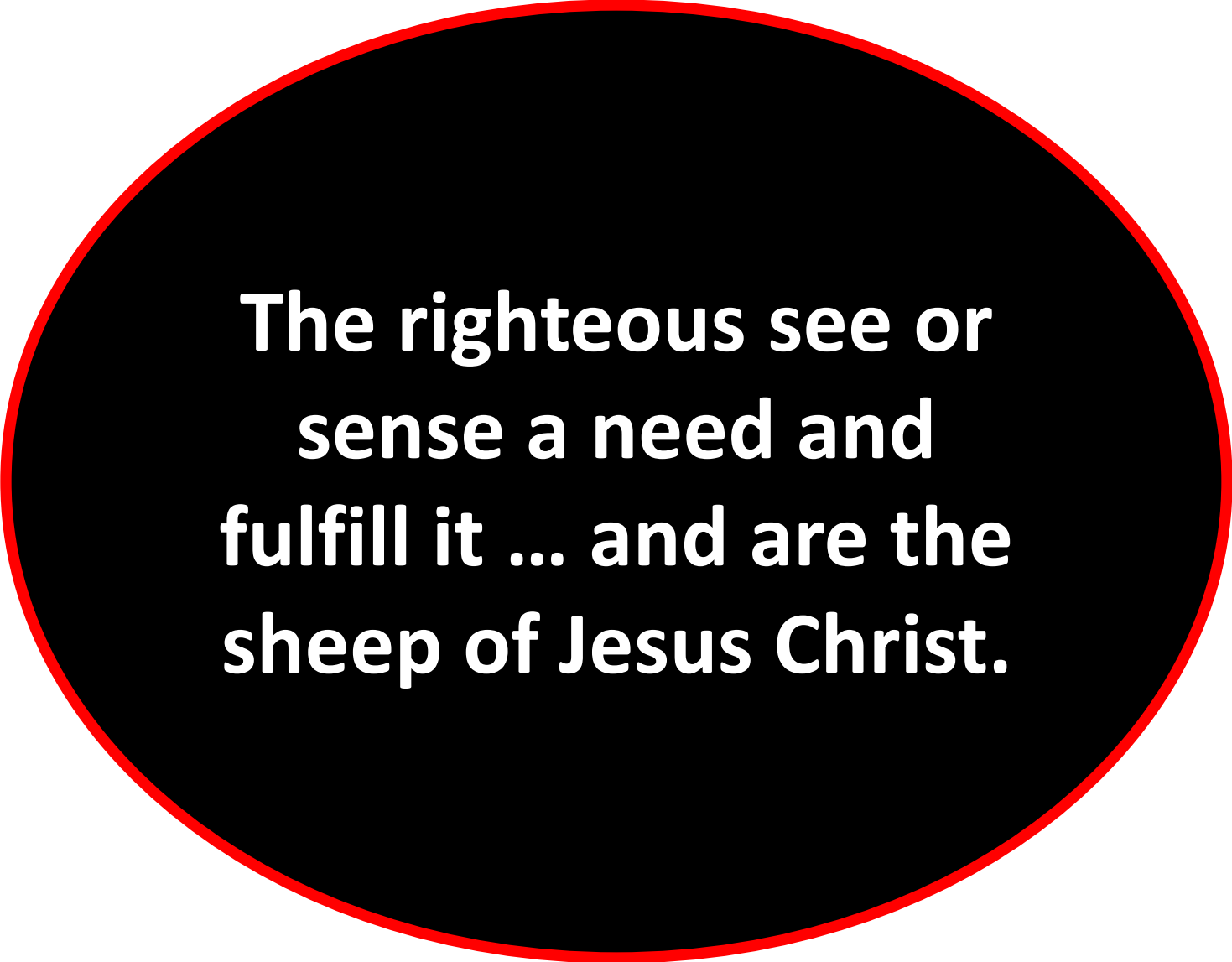


Restrained Bowels
Straitened Bowels
Shut Up Bowels

Loose your bowels!

**Fulfill the gospel of
Jesus Christ to benefit
those around you.**

**Bowels are
a choice!**



**The righteous see or
sense a need and
fulfill it ... and are the
sheep of Jesus Christ.**

Bowel Diseases!

Bitterness

Envy

Selfishness

Pride

Laziness

Carnality

Self-righteousness

Cliquishness

Spirit of thunder

Zeruiah syndrome

Sober insensitivity

Reserved reticence

Efficient seriousness

Self-protection

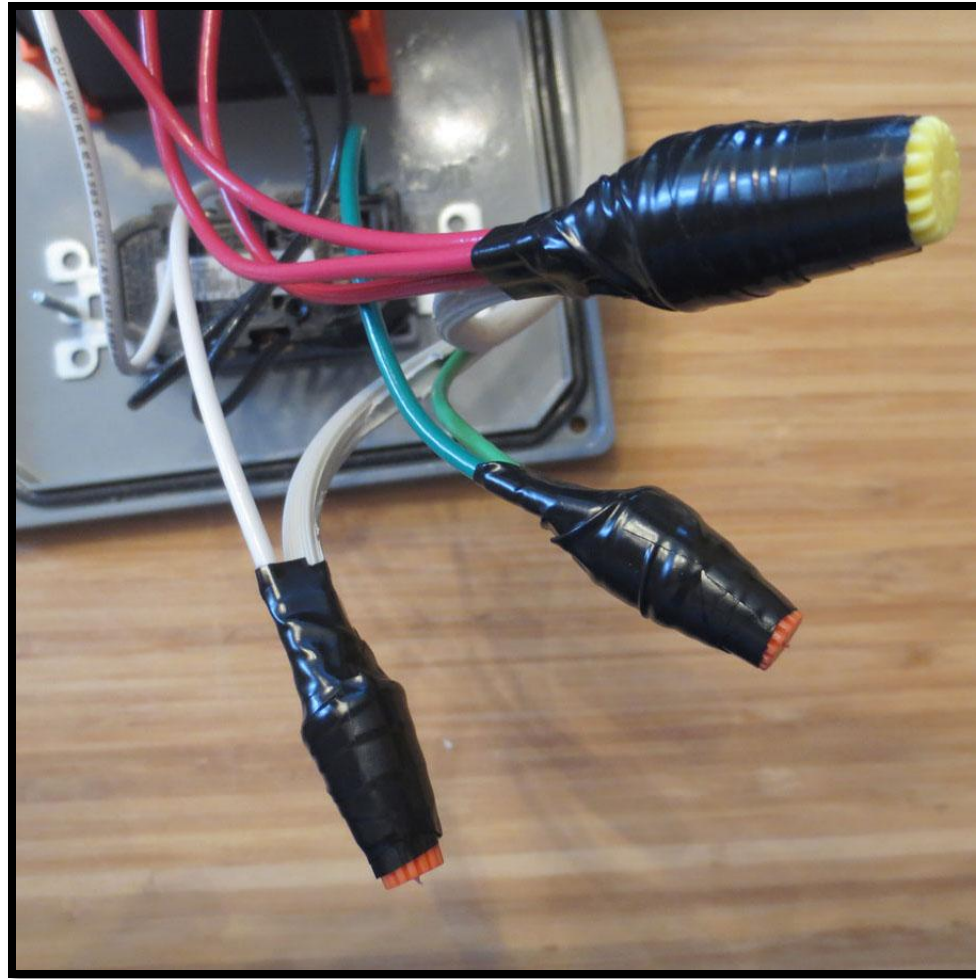
Loner mentality

Too busy, tired

**How do you rank in
the church for bowels
of compassion shown?**

**Top Quartile (75%)?
Bottom Quartile (25%)?**

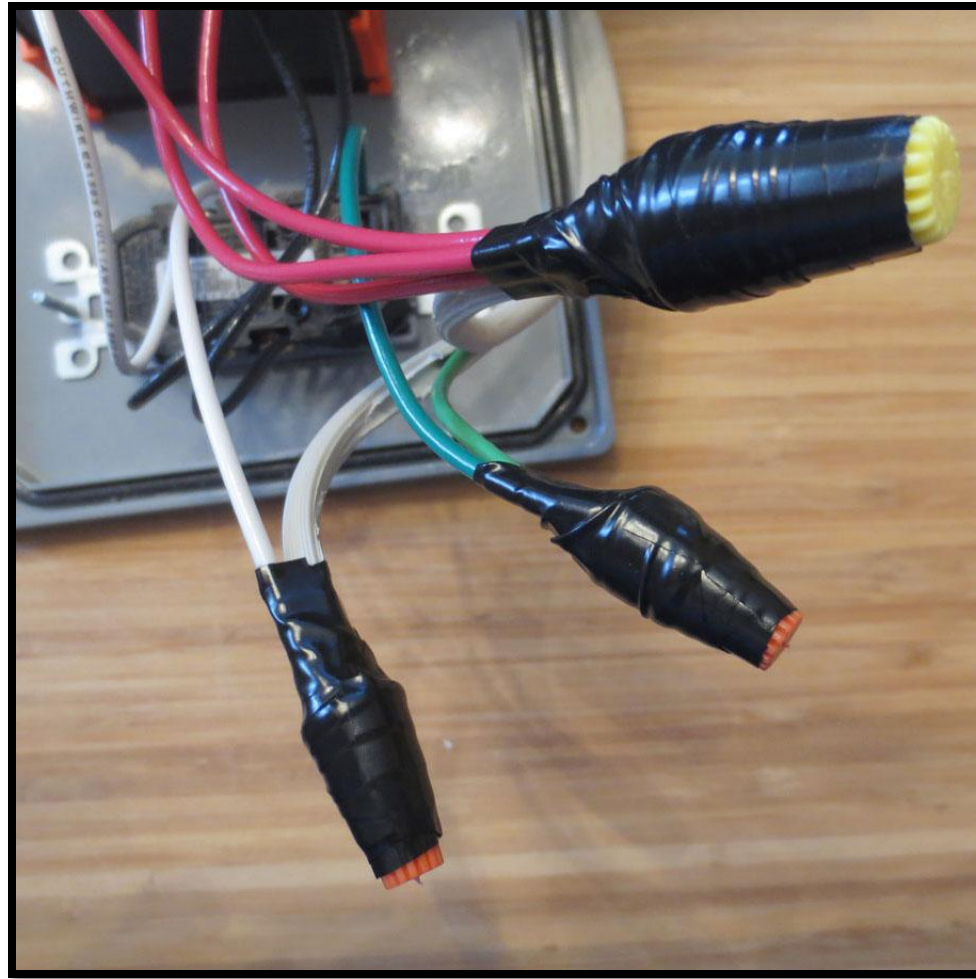
Most Are Not Wired Right



Most Are Not Wired Right

- We know God rewires men ... sinners in Romans 1.
- We know God rewires men ... Saul of Tarsus to saint.
- Has He rewired you? ... it only shows by labor of love!
- Your old man is wired to have bowels only for you.
- Your parents formed false bowels by word and deed.
- Every impulse from self, world, Satan is for self-love.

Most Are Not Wired Right



Wired for self

For family

For children

For job

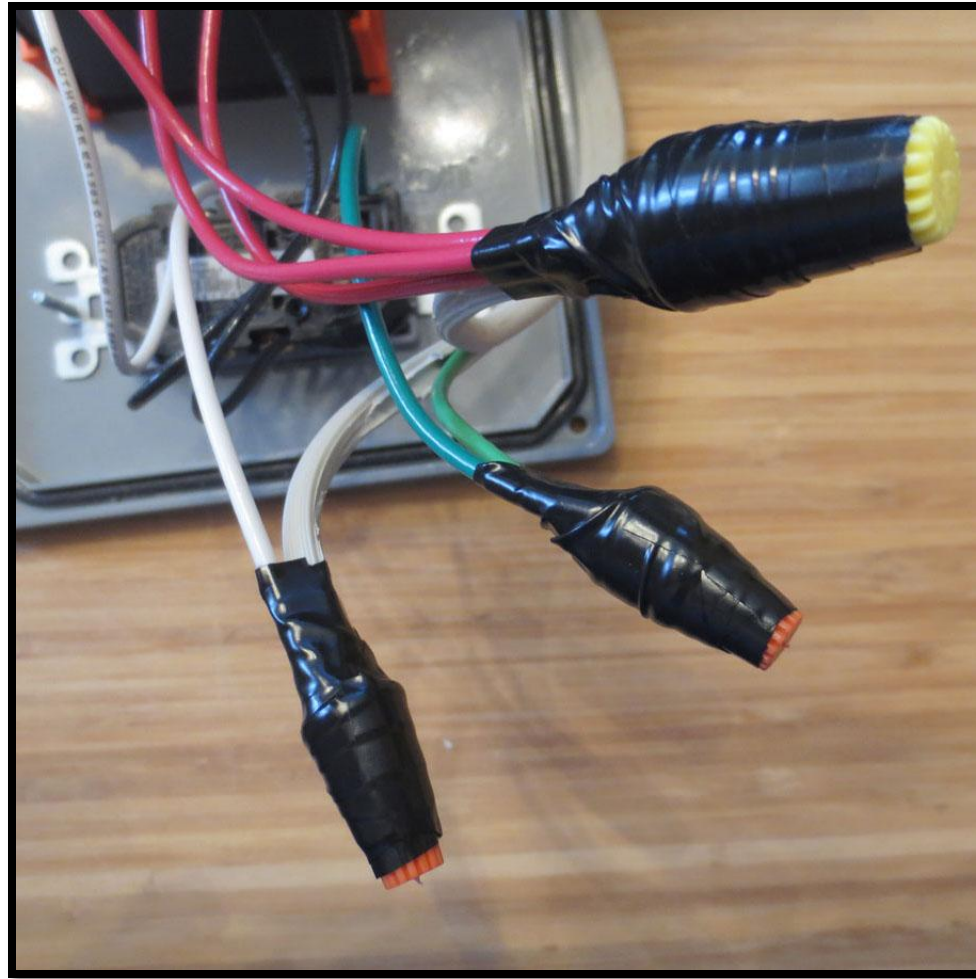
For house

For hobbies

For efficiency

For pleasure

Most Are Not Wired Right



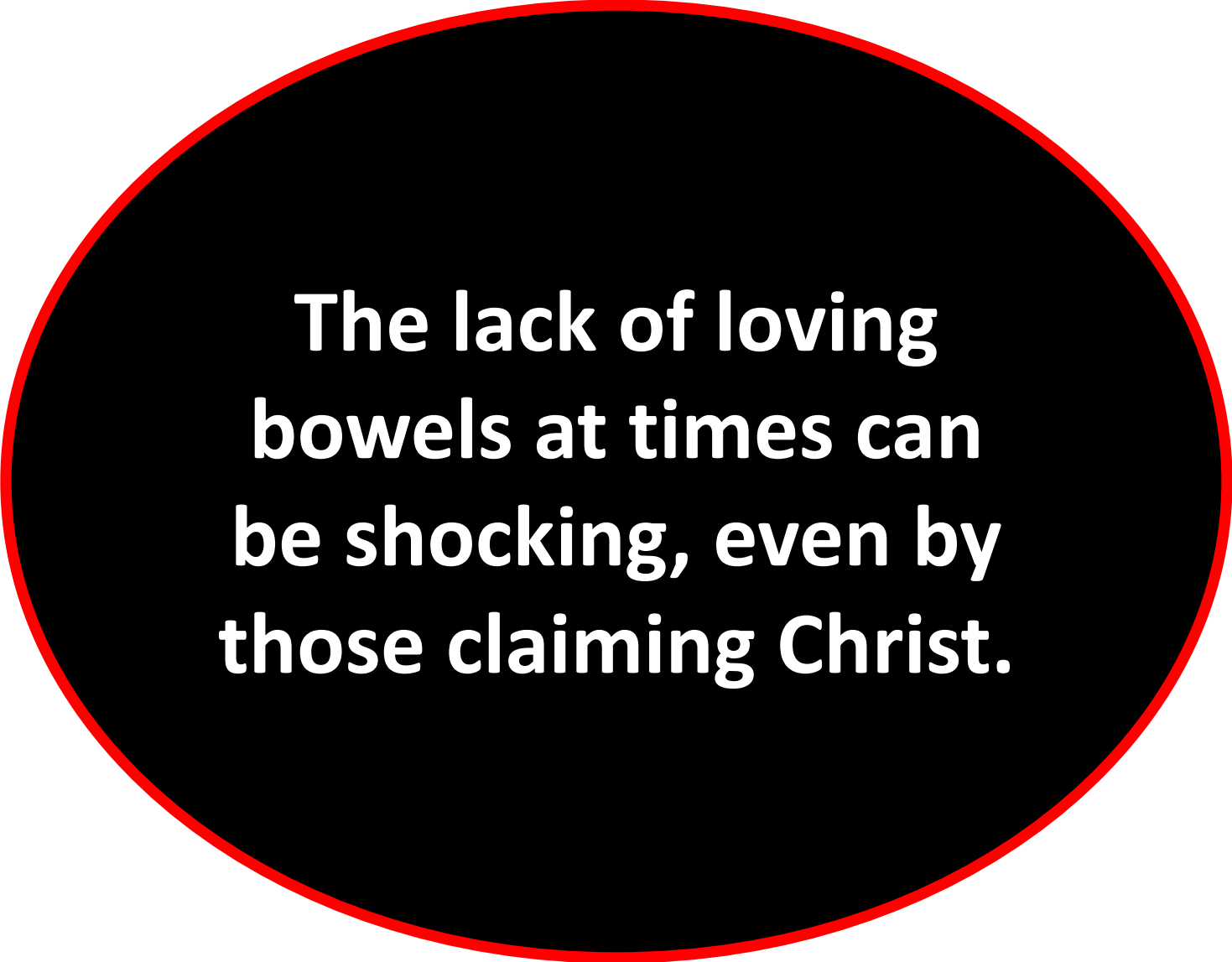
A large black oval with a red border is centered on a white background. Inside the oval, the text "What is perfect wiring?" is written in a bold, white, sans-serif font.

What is perfect wiring?

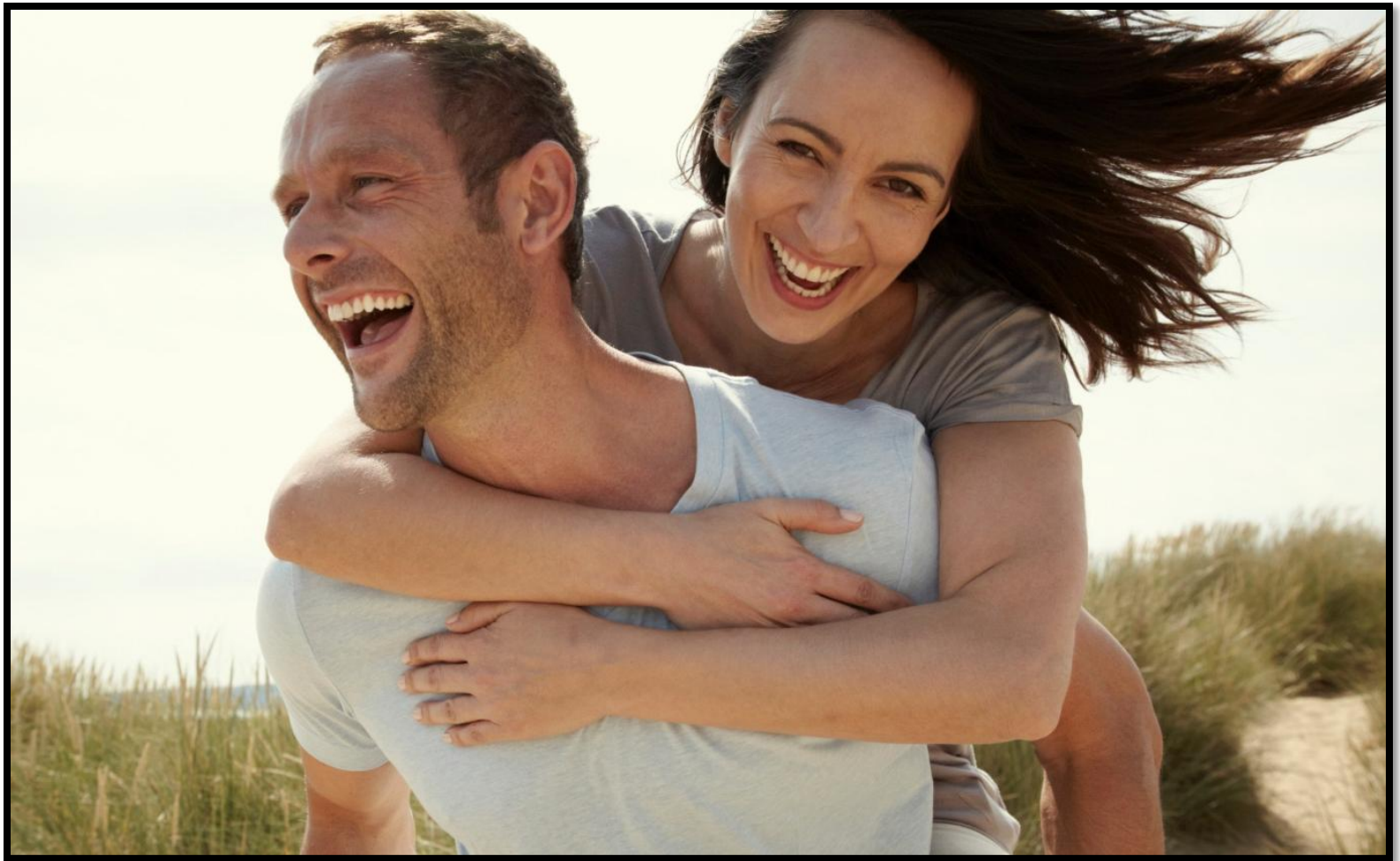
**Bowels toward God
like David!**

**Bowels toward others
like Paul!**

**Who has God put in
your life right now ...
that you could show
bowels to tonight?**



**The lack of loving
bowels at times can
be shocking, even by
those claiming Christ.**







“My beloved put in his hand by the
hole of the door, and my bowels
were moved for him.”

Song of Solomon 5:4

Marriage Bowels

- You had them ... for sure! ... why did you straiten them?
- Men, you are warned love cannot be with bitterness.
- The fastest way to restore mutual bowels is giving.
- Why would you live another day without bowels?
- God expects this and it will affect your spiritual life.
- What gift of kindness can you give your spouse today?

Many Are Not Wired Right

- **Spouse!** Forget what you want ... give what they want!
- **Stop!** Consider ... analyze ... ask ... guess ... give a gift!
- **Switch!** Trade in your criticisms for commendations!
- Are you one of those with a twisted view of kindness?
- Are you one of those with a half a spouse by neglect?
- Are you losing romance now and God's approval later?

Who Are Bowels For?

- Your spouse and family first ... with real compassion!
- The God-given brothers and sisters of this church!
- The visitors and contacts God has given this church!
- The people ... the neighbors ... God has led you to!
- Those among these, in this order, suffering the most!
- Aging parents, enemies, sick, unemployed, weak, etc.

Better Bowels - 1

- Simple ... remember and consider others (Heb 13:3; 10:24).
- Each day is lived by two commands and “I am third.”
- Church is a body, a community, a family, an organism.
- Church is not a place, not an organization, not a job.
- Membership is a function and role, not just a status.
- Anyone ... can do something ... for another ... if desired.

Better Bowels - 2

- Our faith is to serve others ... like nurses are trained.
- We lower ourselves and exalt others for their profit.
- We consciously reject self in the exchange for others.
- We purge any bitterness to choose bowels of mercy.
- They are who matters ... so listen far more than talk.
- Grieving with a hurting person is better than singing.

Better Bowels - 3

- Sometimes just a kind word as a friend works (Pr 12:25).
- Never look for a return but what you give (II Cor 12:15).
- Texts, food, hospitality, jobs, dates, cars, counsel, etc.
- Think of **rejoice** (honor) or **weep** (suffer) for all others.
- Be consumed with benefitting one another for Christ.
- Be convicted about what you do with 168 hrs weekly.

Better Bowels - 4

- Will you care and worry about others ... not just live?
- Will you grieve and hurt for any lack in another?
- Will you flush the idea that **hard** is good or better?
- Will you think of Moses, Jesus, and Paul as nurses?
- Will you make efforts to perfect every joint and part?
- Will you strive to be as compassionate as our Lord?

**Let us never return
bile for bowels like
the servant forgiven
10,000 talents.**

**Are the bowels of God
... and Jesus
... and Paul
in you?**



Prove yourself!

**Will you help your
wife and children
express their bowels
to family and others?**

Why Bowels Are Important

- God and Jesus Christ had them ... are you His Son?
- They are a commandment for the people of God.
- They are the greatest grace and vitality of a church.
- They are special ... both you and your objects benefit.
- Our church is larger, so one another duties are larger.
- SEALs leave none behind; we cannot let any slip away.

Who Are Bowels For?

- Your spouse and family first ... with real compassion!
- The God-given brothers and sisters of this church!
- The visitors and contacts God has given this church!
- The people ... the neighbors ... God has led you to!
- Those among these, in this order, suffering the most!
- Aging parents, enemies, sick, unemployed, weak, etc.

God's ways are simple!

**He will show you the
bowels you show
others.**

“Bowels” – 39 Bible Occurrences

<u>LITERAL</u>	<u>FIGURATIVE</u>	<u>EMOTIONAL</u>
Num 5:22	Gen 15:4; 25:23	Gen 43:30
II Sam 20:10	II Sam 7:12; 16:11	I Kings 3:26
II Chron 21:15 (2)	II Chron 32:21	Song 5:4
II Chron 21:18-19	Psalms 71:6	Isaiah 16:11; 63:15
Job 20:14	Isaiah 48:19; 49:1	Jer 4:19 (2); 31:20
Psalms 22:14; 109:18		Lam 1:20; 2:11
Ezek 3:3; 7:19		II Cor 6:12
Acts 1:18		Phil 1:8; 2:1
		Col 3:12
		Phile 1:7,12,20
		I John 3:17

For Further Study

Love Is the Greatest ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/love-is-the-greatest.pdf>.

Bowels of Compassion ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/bowels-of-compassion.pdf>.

Tenderhearted ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/tender-hearted.pdf>.

Selfish or Selfless ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/selfish-or-selfless.pdf>.

Bitterness ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/bitterness-will-destroy-you.pdf>.

Righteous Relationships ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/righteous-relationships.pdf>.

Sons of Zeruiah ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/sons-of-zeruiah.pdf>.

David or Joab ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/david-or-joab.pdf>.

One Another Duties ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/bible/church/one-another/sermon.php>.

Proverbs 12:10 ... http://www.letgodbetrue.com/proverbs/commentaries/12_10.php.

www.LetGodBeTrue.com