

DON'T HONK If You Love Jesus

Charles C. Ryrie

HONKING PROVES VERY LITTLE ABOUT ONE'S LOVE FOR JESUS.

That popular bumper sticker, "Honk if you love Jesus," really ought to be phrased in the negative. Anybody can honk, and honking proves very little about one's love for Jesus.

If you get stuck behind a slow-driving elderly person who won't move over and who probably should not be driving anyway, *don't* honk if you love Jesus. You may be elderly some day. You will realize then how important it is to drive super-cautiously to avoid anything that might cause you to lose that precious driver's license. That license is the elderly person's lifeline to the grocery store, to the doctor, to friends, to living itself.

The great love chapter of the Bible, 1 Corinthians 13, reminds us that love is patient, love is kind, and love does not act unbecomingly. Don't honk, then, if you want to show love.

The light turns green but the car in front of you does not move. Don't honk if you love Jesus.

The car ahead of you slows down. What is (s)he going to do? He veers a little to the left. Better watch out! He's going to turn left. No, wait a second. Imagine that! He turns right into that driveway. And he didn't even have the courtesy to illuminate his turn signals. Don't honk if you love Jesus.

Shouldn't being a Christian affect one's driving?

Or consider that irksome fifty-five-mile-an-hour speed limit. But it is the law, and Christians are commanded to obey the law (1 Peter 2:13-14). Even if it means slower delivery

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time and therefore greater costs. Even if almost everyone else passes you on the highway. Please, display no bumper stickers that would even hint that you are a Christian if you are going to break the law.

Consider the Sixth Commandment, "Thou shalt not kill" (Exodus 20:13). Does it not apply to how carefully a Christian handles a potentially lethal weapon like an automobile? The unnecessary slaughter on our highways is a disgrace to our civi-

lized society. Approximately fifty thousand people are killed in automobile accidents every year. Some are victims of unquestioned accidents. But some would not have died if others drove more responsibly. About twenty-seven thousand of those deaths involved drivers who were intoxicated. Drive defensively if you love Jesus.

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Lord, You know the old saying, "You can't take it with you." That really bothers me. Oh, don't get me wrong—most of the things here on earth I'll be glad to leave behind. But there are some things I'd like to take along when I've "shuffled off this mortal coil."

I'd like to take love and friendship with me more than anything else. I'd like to take the fantastic beauty of this old world with me. Oh, I've heard that heaven is heavenly but my imagination just can't conjure up anything as fabulous as what You cooked up right here on earth.

And what about music? How can anything surpass the music of Beethoven, Brahms and the other masters? Maybe they're still writing music for the Galactic Philharmonic and the Seraphic Choir but it's hard to believe they could have improved on what they did on earth.

Who knows—maybe we *can* take some things with us. Or better still, maybe they're already there.

—Jack Wilson