

1 

## 2 Public confession

- I have a major problem.
- While I have gotten better, I still have a big issue in my life.
- In fact, I have embarrassed myself repeatedly.
- This is it . . . but, please don't tell anyone!
  - I must be one of the world's worst speller.
  - If it wasn't for Sally and spellcheckers, I would be doomed.

## 3 reasons

- Done a lot of soul searching.
- I've even looked at the following possibilities:
  - Kentucky Educational System.
  - My Genes.
  - Brain Damage.
  - Lack of good Study Skills.

## 4 Mnemonics

- It wasn't until late in life that I learned those aides to memory called mnemonics.
- "I before e except after c."
  - "ie" words such as friend, thief, and yield
  - "ei" words such as ceiling, receive and deceit.

## 5 Mnemonics

- The first time we find the "i before e except after c" rule is in 1886.
- But before long it became known as the "short form" of the rule.
- Why? the many exceptions . . .
- So in 1888, Spelling Manuals were altered to the following.
  - "I before e except after c or when sounded like a as in neighbor and weigh."

## 6 Mnemonics

- However, even with this new rule . . . we still have exceptions.
- Such words as height, leisure, ancient, efficient, protein and species.
- And what about words like seize and siege.
- So how do we become a good speller when there are so many exceptions to the spelling rules?
- I'm paralyzed by the complexity.

## 7 Spelling bee

## 8 Mnemonics

- A few months ago, the British government issued a document for primary schools titled Support for Spelling.

- It contains 124 pages of ideas for teachers on how to make spelling lessons interesting and engaging.
- One piece of advice is to stop teaching the “i before e except after c” convention because it’s confusing.
- The bottom line is that being a good speller doesn’t come easy—especially if you’re trying to use the English language.
- Nevertheless, is the Christian faith any easier?

## 9 How do you spell love?

## 10 Can Paul spell?

- Look at the ways the Apostle Paul spells love in 1st Corinthians 13?
  - Love is patient.
  - Love is kind.
  - Love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude.
  - Love does not insist on its own way.
  - Love is not irritable or resentful.
  - Love does not rejoice when people fail but rejoices when the truth is honored.
  - Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, and endures all things.

## 11 Mnemonic Rule

- Did the Apostle Paul have a mnemonic rule?
- If he did would “I” come before anything?
- Concerning love it would seem “U” would always comes before “I?”
- However, aren’t being in agreement and living it out two different things?

## 12 NOVA

- Several years ago, the Nova TV series advertised that it was going to air an intimate portrait of two groups whose members labored exclusively for the good of the community.
- Who were these groups?
  - Undiscovered tribe in the African jungle?
  - Some isolated clan living in the interior of South America?
  - Some unique cohort in the far, frozen North?
  - No. It was ants and cockroaches.
- To find individuals that are by nature selfless, Nova had to look outside our own species.

### 13 Putting

U before I

does not come naturally.

### 14 Mother's day gifts

- Sociologists have also discovered an interesting phenomena about Mother's Day.
  - Man who spends \$6,000 on removing his tattoo as a Mother's Day gift, but really did it for himself.
  - The daughter who buys a cell phone for herself on Mother's Day, so her dear Mother can keep in touch.
  - The son who makes his own Mother's Day card with crayons, all because he is too lazy to go to the store and get a real gift with his own money.
- Unselfishness is a lot of times based upon selfishness.

### 15 How does the apostle Paul spell Love?

### 16 The word agape

- The Apostle uses the Greek word agape to spell love.
- Interestingly enough, Paul didn't use the more common Greek word for love, phileo.
- Because agape refers to attitudes and actions while phileo refers to feelings.
- This is why all of the descriptions of love in 1st Cor. 13, mainly refer to actions not feelings.
- So when the Bible says, "God so loved the world," what did He do? He gave!
- When Jesus tells us to love our enemies, He not asking us to be hypocrites, but to do good to those in whom we don't have feelings for.

### 17 Spiritual Rules

- Paul gave his "rules" for how to spell because he wanted to have concrete examples—so that we would know how to put "U" before "I."
- But can we really learn to behave differently, in a way that goes against our nature?

### 18 Can we learn to spell differently?

### 19 Scientific study

- Richard Davidson, neuroscience professor at the University of Wisconsin in Madison, has been wiring up Buddhist monks to a brain scanner (EEG).
- Asked to meditate on being compassionate.
- Registered powerful gamma activity. (30x)
- Conclusion: Our level of being compassionate is like a muscle. The more we use it the more it develops.

### 20 Communion

