

# OPEN FORUM

I think I've read *Circuit Rider* since its inception (I believe it started just as I finished seminary) and the Jan.-Feb. issue was one of the most sparkling and inspiring in a long while. Congratulations and thank you! I loved your encouraging and uplifting editorial, "You Make A Difference" and found Rueben Job's article very solid and practical, too. Fabulous choice for the lead author! I'm sure I echo a lot of folks in considering him one of our contemporary spiritual giants. And I have one little request. (You knew it would be coming, right?) In the Open Forum section, could you give us back the "content" headings above each group of letters on a given subject? I'm very happy you published four pages of feedback, but I don't have the patience to read through almost 20 letters to see which ones I'm interested in. A tip-off to the subject or article they refer to helps me scan and zoom in on topics that may interest me.

Keep up your excellent Christ-centered ministry!

**Steve Butler**  
Albany, NY

A letter to *Circuit Rider* (March-April issue) stated "I have difficulty with statements James Heidinger II makes..." Evidently I missed Heidinger's article, though I doubt that Heidinger indicated he was "100% correct" in matters of opinion, as Ms. Senyk implied. But I confess that "I have difficulty" with some of Ms. Senyk's statements.

First, she says "Jesus did not preach about doctrine." (Note the dictionary's definition of the word "doctrine"). According to the New Testament, Jesus taught "I and the Father are one," "He

that hath seen me hath seen the Father." "Take my yoke upon you... and you will find rest unto your souls," and "The Son of man shall be betrayed into the hands of men. And they shall kill him and the third day he shall be raised again." These statements are assertions related to the question of whom he was, and to his relation to humanity and to the Heavenly Father. And they all relate to the doctrine of Jesus Christ. (All of the above quotes are just a few from the first 20 chapters of Matthew's gospel.)

And what of Jesus' words, quoted by John (14:6), "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but by me." THIS IS DOCTRINE!

The Christian faith teaches us that without a definite relationship to God, which comes only through a saving faith in Jesus Christ as Savior, we will die in our sins! And this is "doctrine," mind you.

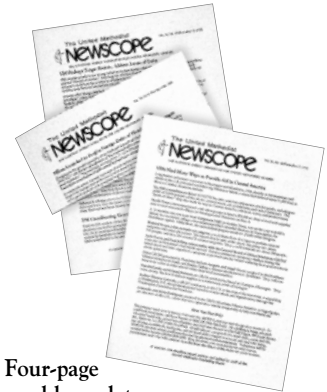
We dare to say that nearly all of Jesus' teachings—directly, indirectly, or by implication, were doctrines that guide us as to how we can love other people!

**J. Ray Neiser**  
Centralia, WA

[As noted on page 9 of the March/April issue,] in the proposed budget for the next quadrennium episcopal costs increase 27.5%. We now have 13% fewer members than in 1985.

**Ed Robertson**  
Leawood, KS

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Look for the July/August 2004  
*Circuit Rider*

### Correction

Russell Montfort (Jan/Feb 04) is a retired elder in the Western North Carolina Conference and not the Tennessee Conference. *CR* regrets the error.