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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

