

Read this carefully and slowly, because it is all important to us.

UNIVERSITY OF CORPUS CHRISTI

A BAPTIST INSTITUTION

CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS

June 19, 1951
6:00 P.M.

Dear Betty,

I'm in the living room of the parsonage, where I can write to you, and sit in the breeze of their cooling fan at the same time. I'm rather tired and weak. When we got in from Reapton today at noon, I just collapsed on the bed, and went to sleep without my ^{lunch} coffee. Now, I'm awake but my stomach is very unhappy.

There were 43 children in Bible school this morning. We all had our hands full. I'm teaching the Intermediates, with some big old boys that could scare run over their teacher, especially the ones 16 & 17. But, they respect me, because I know how to talk baseball and basketball to them. God uses everything to His glory.

We've had much fun in these 2 1/2 weeks. In a way, they're funny and in a way they have proved very steady. I'm very tired now. I suppose, though, that it is because of the unplanned upsets in my week-end. I'll sleep a bit tonight, and by tomorrow I should be O.K.

2 Betty, I got your Sunday letter this morning, after we came from Realitos. It was so sweet, and so full of love of a woman for someone who does not deserve such love.

Betty, we've always been honest and frank with each other, so I feel that you'll understand my saying what I do now. It'll be jumbled up and mixed up and some of it may hurt you deeply, but please be patient with me as I am is also hurt deeply, and very, very confused.

Every time, in the last 7 months, that any girl has had ideas, or seemed to me to have any ideas about me, I have immediately told you about it, and you have understood perfectly. And each time I have immediately felt relieved, and the girls could have now more place in my thoughts, and never bothered me again. But, Betty, Roberta Curtis has been different. This is probably a shock to you, for me to write like this, and I would never do it, except I know you love and understand me. She is the only one who has been so pure and clean in her appeal to me. You know how I was affected by Julia ^{and others} because I told you one night. But, with Roberta, only a pure, sweet, Christ-like innocence has been shown. Although she is only as old as sis, she is very grown-up like sis, and is almost, if not, as attractive ~~to~~ sis. So, Betty,

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I'm confused and hurt because this time it has not been easy to push another girl out of my thoughts, except casual thoughts. She is the only one in many months, except you, to be ^{that} impassive to me. That is saying a lot, and you know it. That is why I'm confused. I can't understand it, and I'm just taunting God to straighten me out with knowledge of His will. I wanted to tell you about all of this, so your love and patience would be able to help me. Now, this is the last and probably the hardest and most confusing thing to me. — I started not wanting to run from Roberta, & find that I want to be around her, because her company is pleasant to me. That has never happened to me before, even before I started going with you, because if a girl showed that she even seemed to have ideas, I just naturally got scared. But, this time, Betty, I didn't come so badly as usual. In fact, I've caught myself looking forward to seeing her again. Now, I scared because I don't know what to do. We've

4
been so close for so long, and nothing has bothered us till now. I'm scared because I don't want to make any mistakes anywhere. I wanted to tell you all of this, so you would know what I'm going through, and can pray for me. Betty, I find that I want you, but Roberta is still on my mind. It's probably an bad case of post-adolescence infatuation, and if it is, it'll leave in a few days. But such things are there that are happening to my poor old mind one sometimes adult, too, so we've got to be careful and prayerful these next few days. I know that you'll understand all this, because you understand me. So, I'll not fret about what you are thinking or feeling, because I know your heart and mind are stayed on God and His perfect will. What, too, is all I can depend on in this thing that has come up. I'll write every day, and may talk to you about it. If I don't, just be patient. I know it will be hard to do, perhaps, but I can see right now that this has to be worked out definitely. So, I leave it in God's hands, and all open to you. I feel condemned like a criminal, but I have no excuse, except that I'm weak in some way, and must have strength to work out my problems.

Bye, for now. I pray for you, and want your prayers. I'm to speak at Prayer Meeting Wednesday, so pray that I'll just preach freely.

I love you, and cannot deny that.

Yours in God, David.

Dr. J. H. Ellis
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