**In Common**

**There is no longer Jew or Greek,   
there is no longer slave or free,   
there is no longer male and female;   
for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. *(Galatians 3:28)***

**We differ from apes in only one percent of our genetic makeup. *(Jim Collins, in Old Farmer’s Almanac)***

**It may come as a shock to learn that nearly all the atoms in your body and in the earth were once part of a star that exploded and disintegrated, and that probably those same atoms were once the debris of still an earlier star. *(Kenneth F. Weaver, in Reader’s Digest)***

**Claim is almost every nation in the world has one or more brass bands and almost every brass band in the world plays “The Beer Barrel Polka.” *(L. M. Boyd)***

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**Take a deep breath; most likely you just breathed the same molecule of air inhaled by Jesus. *(Tracy Stephen Burroughs, in Bizarro Facts & Radical Earthlings, p. 92)***

**Sooner or later every one of us breathes an atom that has been breathed before by anyone you can think of who has lived before us -- Michelangelo or George Washington or Moses. *(Jacob Bronowski)***

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**In Spanish, “butterfly” is “mariposa.” Am told there’s no language without a word for butterfly. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**The torturer within: Almost everyone is capable of committing the kind of atrocities discovered at Abu Ghraib, new research concludes. After reviewing more than 25,000 psychological studies, involving 8 million participants, Princeton University psychologists found consistent evidence that people need not be psychopaths or sadists to commit shocking acts of cruelty. All that’s needed is strong peer pressure, the influence of authority figures, and the portrayal of the people to be victimized as less-than-human outsiders. Members of the 800th Military Police Brigade, which guarded inmates at Iraq’s Abu Ghraib prison, were subjected to all these conditions. Not surprisingly, they responded the same way as subjects in thousands of laboratory cruelty experiments. “Could an average 18-year-old have tortured these prisoners?” study author Susan Fiske asks in New Scientist. “I would have to answer yes, just about anyone could have." (The Week magazine, December 17, 2004)**

**Still deeper connections between ourselves and the galaxies are being discerned. Astrophysicists studying the chemical composition of stars, and biologists investigating the chemical composition of our bodies, have found that we are made up of much the same allotment of elements as is our galaxy: The metals found in trace elements in our bodies appear to have been formed in the explosions of stars that died before the sun was born, seeding space with the metal-rich dust and gas from which our solar system and, eventually, ourselves were formed. *(Timothy Ferris, in Reader’s Digest)***

**Everyone gets their rough day. No one gets a free ride. Today so far, I had a good day. I got a dial tone. *(Rodney Dangerfield, comedian)***

**There’s never been a tribe of people who didn’t in some way decorate their bodies. With clothes, mostly. Or with stain. Or both. Or stones and bones. So reports an anthropologist. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Short of money, wondering how to make ends meet? You're not alone. Even the Vatican predicted a $25.6-million deficit for 1982. (Ripley's Believe It or Not!: Book of Chance, p. 110)**

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**A study of humans, chimpanzees and gorillas has found that their DNA makeup is so close that a leading Australian geneticist says apes should be regarded as a human species. Geneticist Simon Easteal of the Australian National University said the study, which involved 10 mammal species, suggests that contrary to the popular belief that humans evolved from chimpanzees, they might have had a common ancestor. He said there was only 1.6% difference in the rate of DNA development between humans and chimpanzees and 2.2% difference between humans and gorillas. *(Rocky Mountain News)***

**Darwin was once criticized for suggesting that humans evolved from monkeys. But when scientists today compare our actual DNA sequences, letter for letter, with those of a chimpanzee, the family likeness is amazing. The DNA appears to be more than 99% the same. *(Lowell Ponte, in Reader's Digest)***

**Perhaps the last remaining excuse is that we are just different altogether from every other living thing. At a mechanical, bio-chemical level, this can’t be true. Under our hoods is the same DNA engine that powers most life forms. We may have neat flame decals and a clever dashboard GPS system, but we’re essentially the same type of vehicle weaving through traffic (and occasionally driving right over it) on the road of life. (Rafe Sagarin, in Learning From the Octopus, as it appeared in The Week magazine, March 23, 2012)**

**Three decades ago biologists discovered that these tiny powerhouses (mitochondria) contain DNA that is very much like that of ancient bacteria. *(Lowell Ponte, in Reader's Digest)***

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**What countries besides the United States have used the eagle as the national symbol? Ancient Rome, Austrian Empire and Nazi Germany. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**More than half of America’s families eat dinner together at least four days a week. (*NATIONAL EAT DINNER TOGETHER WEEK, as it appeared in Catholic Digest, November, 2004)***

**If you once took violin lessons and hated them you have that much in common with Albert Einstein. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**There is one mind common to all individual men. *(Ralph Waldo Emerson)***

**The same sense of perspective will help o keep our feelings of guilt in line. All human beings do thoughtless, impulsive things which bring them a miserable train of circumstance. Everyone misses golden opportunities through stupidity or inability to understand the other fellow. Everyone is occasionally selfish, thoughtless and unkind. We can’t help being full of despair about the results. But we needn’t feel as though we are exiled from the human race because we have done wrong. *(Ardis Whitman, in Reader’s Digest)***

**My friend, a wallpaper hanger, usually worked while homeowners were at their jobs. But one day, hanging paper in an office, he forgot he wasn't alone. When a piece of paper failed to stick, he let go a string of expletives. Embarrassed, he turned and noticed the computer operator, whose office he was papering. “Sorry,” he muttered. “That's paper-hanging talk.” “Don’t worry about it,” she replied. “It’s computer talk too.” *(Patricia Wyatt, in Reader's Digest)***

**Every year, scientists have to alter the flu vaccine, guessing which strains of the rapidly mutating virus will be prevalent many months in the future. But researchers have found a better way, engineering the vaccine to attack a portion of the virus that is largely the same in every strain, says ScienceNow.com. Researchers at the Dana Farber Cancer Institute discovered that all flu viruses have in common a partially hidden section of protein. They developed a vaccine that targets that protein, and in tests on mice they found that it successfully blocked infection for about three weeks, long enough for the body to manufacture antibodies on its own. Even more exciting is the fact that the vaccine helped mice infected with the deadly avian flu survive, indicating that it could be a treatment for people who already have the flu as well as a preventive measure. *(The Week magazine, March 13, 2009)***

**I have not been able to see any difference between the Sermon on the Mount and the Bhagavad Gita. What the Sermon describes in a graphic manner, the Gita reduces to a scientific formula. It may not be a scientific book in the accepted sense of the term, but it has argued out the law of love -- the law of abandon as I would call it -- in a scientific manner. *(Mahatma Gandhi)***

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**Here’s to the 2 percent of our genes that make us different from chimpanzees. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Purring and meowing, the friendly pet that rubs against your leg appears to be 100-percent cat. But scientists have discovered that in its genes your pet is also a little bit rat and a little bit baboon! Within its feline DNA, the genetic chemicals that spell out the blueprint for cat, researchers have found sequences of “foreign” genes, DNA that somehow “jumped” in from rats and baboons. Scientists have found many other examples of “jumping” genes. Pigs have inherited DNA sequences that came originally from rodents. Skunks in North America are born with DNA that came from the South American squirrel monkey. Trout carry genes somehow acquired from birds. *(Lowell Ponte, in Reader’s Digest)***

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**Am told you speak every language known in the Western world when you say “Hallelujah.” *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Working at a college with a preponderance of non-English-speaking students, my sister sometimes had difficulty in communicating with the newly arrived. Once as she was enrolling a young man, she reached a standstill at the question of birth date. No matter what words or motions she used, the young man remained puzzled. Finally, a Chinese student standing nearby asked my sister, “What do you need to know?” After my sister explained, the Chinese woman turned to the young man and hummed the first few bars of “Happy Birthday to You.” His eyes lit up in recognition as he exclaimed, “May 12, 1955.” The helpful student shrugged and said, “Same song, every country.” *(Susan R. Berringer, in Reader's Digest)***

**Nobody, as long as he moves about among the chaotic currents of life, is without trouble. *(Carl Jung)***

**For in the final analysis, our most basic common link, is that we all inhabit this small planet, we all breathe the same air, we all cherish our children’s futures, and we are all mortal. *(John F. Kennedy)***

**Realize that the same lifeblood is circulating in the veins of all races. We are Americans or Hindus, or other nationalities, for just a few years, but we are God’s children forever. *(Paramahansa Yogananda)***

**What do Catherine the Great, Attila the Hun and Jabba the Hutt have in common? The same middle name. *(Roger L. Welsch, in Natural History)***

**“I’m sorry if our hammering disturbed you. We were hanging a picture.” “Oh, that’s perfectly all right,” said the neighbor. “I just came over to ask if it was okay if we hung a picture on the other end of the nail." *(Dr. Delia Sellers, in Abundant Living newsletter)***

**In one Turkish village any letter addressed to Mustafa Baysal – a name shared by 42 of the 342 villagers – is read aloud in the square before being turned over to its proper recipient. The local headman, himself a Mustafa Baysal, says the problem of telephone calls has not yet been solved. When a call for one Mustafa Baysal comes in, all Mustafas line up at the phone to see which of them the call is for. *(Cyprus Mail, Nicosia)***

**What makes “OK” one of those universal expressions is that it’s pronounceable in every language. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**The five rings of the Olympics represent the five significant continents and linked to symbolize the friendship to be gained from these international competitions. The ring colors -- blue, yellow, black, green, and red - were chosen because at least one of the colors appears on the flag of every country in the world. (Charlotte Lowe, in Fact-O-Pedia, p. 181)**

**No matter how many things divide us, we're all on the same side of the North Pole. *(Ashleigh Brilliant, in Pot-Shots)***

**I don’t know a soul who’s not been battered. Don’t know a friend who feels at ease. Don’t know a dream that’s not been shattered or driven to its knees. *(Paul Simon, in American Tune)***

**Grandma: “It’s hard to believe another year has gone by.” Grandpa, as he pets the dog, says: “So what? I don’t pay much attention to the passage of time anymore. I guess Roscoe and I are alike that way. Dogs and old men just live for the moment, don’t we, old boy?” Grandma: “And you both smell kind of funny, too.” *(Brian Crane, in Pickles comic strip)***

**First day on record when all-to-contiguous states had snow on the ground at the same time was January 31, 1977. (L. M. Boyd)**

**Meteorites hit the earth constantly but they may be so small we don’t notice them. Since the bombardment has been going on for millions of years, it is safe to say a good part of the earth’s soil is made up of particles from outer space. Thus, a significant fraction of the atoms in our bodies originally came from “way out there.” Shake you up a little?” *(Bernie Smith, in The Joy of Trivia, p. 8)***

**Humans come in a wide variety of bodies, but one size soul fits all. *(Ashleigh Brilliant, in Pot-Shots)***

**Gorillas and chimpanzees should be reclassified into the same species group as humans because of the closeness of their DNA, a team of Australian and New Zealand scientists says. “If you compare other mammal groups, like genus ratus (rat) there is much more divergence in DNA than there is between humans and chimpanzees,” said Australian scientist Simon Easteal of the John Curtin School of Medical Research in Canberra, Australia. “There is only 1.6% difference between our nuclear DNA and that of a chimpanzee, and only 1.7% difference from a gorilla,” Easteal said. “The coding DNA is closer still, and some DNA shows absolutely no differences at all.” *(Rocky Mountain News)***

**My little granddaughter Vanina, who was nearly 2, was visiting me one day. We were watching squirrels eating corn in the feeder. A bushy-tailed squirrel was chewing corn off a cob, and Vanina said, “He has eyes, and I have eyes. He has a nose, and I have a nose. He has ears, and I have ears.” Then Vanina got quiet for a minute and tried to look at her backside. “Where’s my tail, Grandma?” she asked. *(Wands West, in Country magazine)***

**We are all in the same storm. But we are not all in the same boats. *(Dr. Bonnie Henry, Canadian health official)***

**A new executive went to his first high-level meeting. At the end of the conference table sat a fellow who, whenever a tough problem came up, would say something like, “Well, it never rains, but it pours” or “It's a long road that has no turning” or “If life gives you lemons, then make lemonade.” “Exactly what does that guy do?” the new exec asked a colleague after the meeting. “He gives us our spirit of unity,” was the reply. “We'd all like to strangle him.” *(Joan Auer Kelly, in Reader's Digest)*  
Are any written symbols common to all modern cultures? Can think of 10, for sure: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 0. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Good week for: Switching teams, after Donald Trump’s former golfing buddy Tom Brady presented President Biden with a number 46 Tampa Bay Buccaneers jersey at a White House ceremony and joked that though he led the team to a Super Bowl victory, “I think about 40 percent of the people still don’t think I won.” *(The Week magazine, July 30, 2021)***

**The day will come when everyone will be famous for 15 minutes. *(Andy Warhol)***

**Every atom belonging to me as good belongs to you. *(Walt Whitman)***

**Good week for: Woodrow Wilson, whose name will be kept on a major school at Princeton University, despite demands that the former U.S. President be removed because of his segregationist views. All historical figures have "flaws and deficiencies," said university president *Christopher Eisgruber, in The Week magazine, April 15, 2016)***

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**A Gallup Poll found that nine out of ten people interviewed were immersed in problems they didn’t know how to solve, thus proving once again that every normal human being is a prey to anxiety, fear, worry or a sense of guilt. Yet, in the presence of this universal discomfort, one often fears the remark, “Stop worrying; relax and forget it” – as though our struggle to deal with our difficulties were an unnatural thing. The contrary is true. How can we help being anxious when we are in danger of losing our job? Or when we love someone who doesn’t love us? Or when illness descends, or debts, or we face an insecure old age? *(Ardis Whitman, in Reader’s Digest)***

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