



Gary Wadding

GOD'S HIGHWAY

When I first met my Sweetie Pie she had never been on a motorcycle in her entire life. Her daddy told her those things will kill you, and so she dutifully avoided being killed. It took a small miracle to get her on the back of my beautiful blue 1974 Suzuki GT380 for a ride around the block. (Two-stroke street bikes ruled in those days) Eventually she was riding her own 1975 Suzuki GT250. (Another two-stroke) She was taught by yours truly, and although she didn't ride very much, we had fun when we did.

Eventually, I decided to enroll her in the Motorcycle Safety Foundation's beginning rider course. She was a little nervous, so I signed up to take it with her. I knew how to ride very well with over 100,000 miles under my belt by that time, but I would make the sacrifice if it would make her feel better, although it would be boring to an expert like me.

At several points in the course, my instructor/friend, Jim would ask me to demonstrate something for the class. He knew that I had the experience, so why not use me as an example? At one point he told me to drive straight at him, and hit the brakes only when he gave the word, to show that a motorcycle could stop faster than most people realized. I went to the far end of the parking lot and headed for him. I kept coming and coming, waiting for his signal. It seemed to take forever, and I was much closer than I wanted to be when he finally dropped the flag. The novice riders were amazed as they saw this man stand directly in front of me, trusting his life into my hands. I hit the brakes with all I had! The tires began to skid on the concrete, and the bike turned slightly sideways. Jim's eyes were getting bigger every second, and mine were too. The front tire slid right between his legs and stopped just as the headlight touched his belt buckle. Wow! His hands were on my handlebars and our noses were almost touching when the whole thing ended. He whispered to me something like, "You might need to work on using the front brake a bit more, not just the rear one."

I had been around the block a few thousand times and thought I knew enough about riding. Little did I know just how little I really did know. I'm embarrassed to tell you how much I learned in that beginner's course. From that moment on, I listened much closer to what I was being taught, and I read that manual with a bit more interest. I found that I had developed a lot of bad habits since I originally taught myself how to ride. I was obviously getting by on the highway, but I was just one step from disaster too. On top of that, I had begun to teach my Sweetie Pie the same mistakes. I'm really glad that I went

along with her to that course. I needed to learn from a real expert instead of thinking I already knew as much as I needed to know.

Let me draw an analogy. Almost every rider has some idea about what God expects from them in life. They figure their outlook on life must be as good as anybody else's since they made it this far. Most think God just wants them to do the best they can, and not be quite as bad as the other guy. They don't think about Him often, but really hope He will be there when they need Him. Some people decide to ignore God because He would probably want them to sell their bike and go to Africa as missionaries. They don't know that for sure, but why take the chance and actually listen to Him or read the Bible? These people each developed their own picture of God as they made their way along life's highway, learning as they went. They never humbled themselves enough to submit to a qualified teacher or pastor, somebody who actually knew God and had some ability to teach others. They never looked into the manual (Bible) to get the facts straight. They just figured they were enough of an expert to get by, the way I did about my riding skills.

Let me invite you to acknowledge your need to learn more about God. Rather than wanting to ruin your ride, He wants to make it even better. He loves you so much that He sent Jesus Christ to take your place on the cross so you could be forgiven your proud, self-sufficient ways. He wants to teach you the right way to live/ride so you won't end up as a wreck in Eternity. He will correct your bad habits and build good ones if you're humble enough to listen. It took me almost hitting my instructor/friend before I realized my need. What will it take for you to realize your need of Christ? Don't wait. Sign up today and ask Jesus to become your instructor/friend/Savior/Lord too.

