

## **The Cobra Paper Airplane Gospel**

May I show you how to fold the Cobra paper airplane. It was designed by Alex Schultz and you can see it on his web site, [paperairplanes.co.uk](http://paperairplanes.co.uk).

It begins with a very precise fold down the middle of the length of the page. This needs to be creased very firmly both ways; like the most important decision you will ever make. That decision is to acknowledge that there is a Creator God who created and sustains all things. He placed Adam and Eve in a beautiful garden. He told them that they could eat from all the trees except one for if they ate of that fruit they would die. But the serpent told them the first lie, "You won't die." They chose to disobey God's instruction and try it for themselves.

The two corners represent Adam and Eve. Very carefully fold each of the two corners to the midline. They come up against each other and, since we all want to have our own way demanding our rights, conflict and strife is a way of life for us. We abuse one another with harsh words and even physical blows that sometimes kill. Such is our nature and we are doomed to eternal loss. But God sent his Son to die for us and save us from our selfish way of life.

This is represented by folding the tip to the two corners. He became one of us. This fold needs to be very sharply creased both ways because Jesus came as a human baby and was tempted and tried just as we are but he never responded in a selfish way.

We now extend that crease all the way to the edge of the paper to emphasize that He was both human and divine. He was really human and was really tempted but He never sinned.

Next we make a collapsed fold that buries the tip. This is symbolic of Jesus' crucifixion, death and burial. He died the death that we deserve so that we can have the life that He deserved. But the grave could not hold him for on the third day He was resurrected. So now we fold the paper to recover a rectangular shape.

Now these two corners represent you and me. When we are convinced of our need of a Savior we come to Jesus at the foot of the cross. With sincere repentance we confess our selfish ways and accept Jesus' gift of forgiveness and life. This is the second most important decision you will ever make. To represent this we very carefully fold each of these corners to the intersection of the midline with the previous fold. It is often painful to take this step and come to Jesus. Because of our pride we don't like to accept anything that suggests we can't take care of our selves. So this crease must be sharply folded both ways.

Now open the last two folds and collapse the corners in under the first collapsed fold. This symbolizes our being covered with the blood of Jesus, our dying to self and burial with Him in baptism by immersion. But since we died with Jesus, just as he rose from the grave, we also rise to a new life. This is represented by the wings being folded to a vertical position.

We fold the wings down along the lower edge of the body to give our plane the capacity to fly. And as God gives us a new life we discover that He empowers us to love him above everyone and everything else and to love our neighbors as ourselves.

If you have never made a public confession of Faith in Jesus' sacrifice for you now is the time. Just raise your hand indicating that you want to do that by being baptized. We will help you prepare for that.

Are you experiencing Jesus' resurrection power? Is there quarrelling in your home? Are you enslaved to addictions? You can experience freedom as a gift from Jesus when you give him first place in your life. Join a weekly small group for Bible study and prayer. We will be glad to help you find such a group.

### **How do you show your love for God?**

1. No one else will take first place in your life. Not your favorite movie or sports star or any one else.
2. Nothing else will take first place in your life. Not your car, house, or big screen. Nothing!!
3. Your conversation will reveal great respect for God who is always present.
4. You will reserve the Sabbath for Him - meeting with Him on the day of His choosing.

### **How do you show your love for your neighbors?**

5. You will respect and care for your parents.
6. You will respect life that is uniquely human doing nothing that will reduce the quality of life of others or yourself.
7. You will respect the sanctity of sexual relationships even in your thoughts.
8. You will respect the ownership rights of others.
9. You will respect the right of others to trust you – in both verbal and non-verbal communications.
10. You will respect God's promise to provide for you just what you need so that envy, greed and covetousness will not mar your relationships with your neighbors.