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## Some of these things are true

by Kenneth Tyndall

On a Sunday morning in late spring 1960, in a small town in Ireland, I sat on a hard low bench with my class in the cavernous Parochial Hall. The Sunday School teacher sat in a chair facing us. We looked up at him.

“I am going to tell you something today children, that’s very serious, very serious”.

These are not the exact words he used, nor are the ones that follow, but the message he gave us was clear. He went on, “A terrible thing happened not long ago children and it shows how powerful God is and why we must not take his name in vain. A rock and roll singer sang a song of blasphemy and took the Lord’s name in vain. He sang a song about heaven and how beautiful it was, but children, it was not the heaven we will all be going to, if we are saved and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ. This man’s heaven had nothing to do with God’s heaven. And God killed him. He killed him in a car crash, God doesn’t like it when people take his name in vain. So remember children, any time you think of taking the Lord’s name in vain, what God did to that rock and roll singer”.

I can’t remember if he mentioned the song’s title, but I knew what it was even though I had only heard it a few times;

“Now there are three steps to heaven

Just follow the rules and you will see”, the song began.

Even though there was no television set in our house and no radio one to hear the latest music from America. There was only Radio Luxembourg late at night with its terrible signal where I first heard the song:

“Step one, you find a girl to love,  
Step two, she falls in love with you,  
Step three, you kiss and hold her tightly,  
Well that sure sounds like heaven to me”.

I sang it with my friends, I sang it on my bicycle as I rode to school, I sang it in front of the mirror in my bedroom, my hair slicked back with water. I was not yet a teenager and I had fallen under the spell of Eddie Cochran and Little Richard.

And then I heard the news that Eddie Cochran had been killed in a road accident. That was all I knew at the time, I don't how I found out about it. I just knew I loved his music,

“Well I'm gonna raise a fuss and I'm going to raise a holler.

I've been working all summer just to try to earn a dollar”.....

His songs sang in my head and in my soul.

And then the Sunday School Teacher told us what had happened to Eddie Cochran. Today whenever I hear “Three steps to heaven”, or it comes into my head unannounced, before I see Eddie Cochran's beautiful face, I see the face of my Sunday School Teacher telling us the Truth.