

Crimson & White Connection

A ministry of prayer and encouragement to "High School, College, & Singles" (& others, too)
Values & Character + Spiritual Life + Relationships + Fun stuff

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Crisis, emergency, or to "just talk about something",
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 Rich or Marie Dymmel
 (336/674-7564 or 336/908-3652)

Crimson & White? What's this?

... This letter is part of a ministry primarily to students and singles. It started with college students. Now about 60% of the mailing list are college students, 20% middle and high school, and 10% are age 22 to 30, and we'll just leave ages unsaid for the last 10% since, well, they're old.. Articles are on character, values, spiritual life, relationships and more ... and some fun.

The theology position is "conservative," i.e. Jesus is God's Son, eternal, part of the single triune God, born of a virgin, sinless, crucified and risen, and is the *only* way to eternal life. We are free to choose Him. He has told us to be holy and that includes behaviors such as: sex outside of marriage is wrong.

This letter and post cards are sent about twice a month. We're trying to say that you are important enough for us to put this in your mailbox. We care about you and want to encourage your character growth and your spiritual walk.

A second part of the ministry is prayer. We pray for each person on our mailing list as the mail is prepared. When you get mail from us, you know someone prayed for you.

A college student reader chose the name **Crimson and White Connection** based on Isaiah 1:18 in the Bible "Come now, let us reason together," says the LORD. "Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool." The cleansing of our nature and our sins is a universal need. If you base your trust for entrance into Heaven in Jesus, God's Son, and His death and resurrection on your behalf, then your crimson stains are made white as wool. Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life. There is no other way. If you admit that you can not reach God's standard, are repentant and sorry for your short fall (sin) and have asked Him to forgive you, then He has forgiven you. If you are truly repentant, then there will be evidence of that in your actions, your life. -- If the "religion police" were to arrest you, would you be turned loose for "lack of evidence"? Or would the evidence of your actions convict you of being a Christian?

If you have chosen to accept Jesus as Lord of your life, either the first time or again, we would like to know so that we can pray for you and encourage you. Write or call us.

You WILL BE and ARE a slave! But you can CHOOSE your master! CHOOSE God today.

John 3:16 is true. Accept no substitute!

March 26, 2005

A Return

© 6/00, 3/05 Dr. Richard R. Dymmel, BS, MA, MA, EdD

The bible says that in many ways we are like sheep. Sheep are followers. I heard that if sheep are going through an opening in a fence and there is a bar that they have to jump over, that after the first few have jumped the bar, you can remove the bar and the rest will also jump over the bar, even though it isn't there any more.

An experiment was done where instructions were given to a group of teenagers to select the longest line on a card held up to the group. All but one had been told earlier that they were to always select the *second longest* line. The test was whether the *one* person would submit to peer pressure and agree, even when the group was wrong. In *every case*, with dozens of teenagers, the one went along with the group even though the group was wrong.

If a shepherd counts and finds a sheep missing, he'll go looking for it. When he finds it, he returns it to the safety of the sheepfold and celebrates. That's the picture of "the good shepherd" in the Bible (Matt 18:12-14). That's one picture of Jesus and us.

But there's another side of the relationship, too. We aren't sheep; we're people. Sheep are dumb animals. They can't reason and do get lost. You and I *can* think, reason, and we make *choices* ... and we "get lost."

In the story in Luke 15:11-32, when the one son *decided* to leave home (the sheep didn't decide, it just got lost or trapped), the father *let* him go. He waited, watching the road, hoping, day after day, that the son would *decide* to return. We know he was watching 'cause the story says he saw him coming a long way off. -- When the son *decided* to return, the father RAN down the road to meet him before he had even reached home. He threw a party to celebrate his return. For the father to "run" it meant picking up his long robe and in very undignified manner in that culture, RUN to meet the child that was returning. There's a song that talks about how "God ran" to meet him.

As a person with the freedom to choose, you and I choose every day, multiple times a day whether to stay with Jesus or to leave. Whether to follow the group; and which group. Whether to take a drink or not; to smoke pot or not. How far to go sexually. Whether to pick up that magazine. Whether to go to Sunday School or stay home. Whether to pay attention to the preacher. Whether to sneak out of the house when we're grounded. Whether to have an abortion. To keep the excess change. Whether to

If we chose to leave Jesus and His standard for our life, we can choose to return. If we return, He is waiting, watching, eager for our return. He won't come get us and drag us back. We have to decide to come to Him.

I picture a farm house back in Michigan called the Octagon House, built in 1860. It had been part of the "underground railway" for slaves. It was a two-story octagon (unusual rooms) with a center spiraling staircase that went up three stories to a glassed in landing where they could look out across the fields and see for a mile or so, watching for anyone coming. I imagine Jesus watching out those upper windows for anyone coming across the field. When he sees one of us returning, He comes



running down the stairs, *SHOUTING*, "Out of my way! They're coming back! They're coming! I'm going to meet them!" Angels scatter to get out of His way as He runs out the door, the screen door slams open hitting the wall as He bursts through, across the porch and out into the field to meet us as we return. -- If you decided to leave, even for a little while, He eagerly awaits your return.

In Christ, Rich

Do you have a relationship with God where you know He has accepted you just as you are? A relationship like with a loving father? If not, call me at 336-674-7564. Or call 1-888-NEED-HIM. -- With God, you have never gone too far to return. --



From the mailbox (Letters may be slightly edited to remove some personal content and identifying stuff. We won't blab your name or email address.) Your letters and notes encourage us, too. Rich
[As with a lot of "forwarded email" the original source gets lost. So for some of these the original source is unknown, so I can't give proper credits for those.]

Subject: Re: Hi
Date: 2/10/2005
From: s_____@yahoo.com

Hi Rich! I am doing pretty well now. I ended up taking an entire year at home to have 5 different surgeries and recover. I'm still not feeling quite 100%, but I am doing a lot better. I am back at _____ now. I just got here about 2 weeks ago. And my mailbox number has changed since last time. It's been great reading while I've been recovering! I'm glad to be back at school and getting back into things, Thanks for your concern! And thank you for keeping on sending me the mail! ... **I'll give you my [new] school address** at the bottom of this. I hope things are well with you!!

S_____
[new school address]

PLEASE help us by sending address update information. Some Post Offices are not very dependable in sending us the forwarding address. And if you no longer want the C&WC sent, just say so and save us the printing and paper and postage.

Subject: C&WC
Date: 2/18/2005 5:16:40 PM Eastern Standard Time
From: _____@_____.edu
To: RDymmel@aol.com

Hi Rich,
I was wondering if I could get a friend's name on your mailing list for the C&W C. I think he'd really like it. Here's his info:
[friend's name and address - we added him to a "sample" list to get the next three issues.]
Thanks and enjoy your weekend!
Courtney

I will sing of the Lord's great love forever; with my mouth I will make your faithfulness known through all generations. -Psalm 89:1

Subject: [FaithatWork] Monday, February 14, 2005: Choose Love!
Date: 2/14/2005
From: _____@wfu.edu

Hi, Rich! Thank you for continuing to send the C&W to me!
I thought you might enjoy this -
Lynn

Subj: yay!!!! **From:** one_____@_____.com
To: Rdymmel@aol.com
you're the best, rich! thanks for so willingly allowing God to use you.

Thanks for the encouraging word.

Subject: Re: Moved?

Date: 1/6/2005
From: _____@_____.edu
To: Rdymmel@aol.com

Hi Rich,
Yes, my parents moved. The new address is: [_____, _____, NY _____] I am not officially changing my address to New York. I graduate in May and ... I'll be living here after college. The semester starts tomorrow. Thanks for checking. I keep forgetting to email you.

I'll let you know when I know what my new address will be when graduation gets here. I am staying here after graduation. I have a job with a local accounting firm. ... I believe all of the partners are Christians so it should be an awesome environment. I do not have a fiancé or boyfriend which is probably for the best since I still have to study for the CPA exam after I graduate. I've been praying for God to send the guy He has in mind in His timing.

PRAYER REQUEST - I do have a prayer request

though. My ex-boyfriend (he is a Christian) went to a secular school and got involved in stuff that he shouldn't have. He joined the rugby team there and got involved in drinking. I really feel like this is a result of peer pressure because when he went to school he said he couldn't believe how everyone threw their lives away drinking all the time. We broke up about a year and a half ago because of the drinking. (He knew I didn't want him getting drunk all the time.) We stopped talking a year ago and he started dating a girl (for sex, I think) as well as taking an "all-natural" steroid. We have started talking a little bit again. All this to say, it's been heavy on my heart since we broke up. I strongly doubt that he's the guy God intends for me, but I still care about him. I also figured you'd be a good one to talk to since your son is involved with rugby. So if you could please pray for this situation I'd appreciate it.

PA

>>> <Rdymmel@aol.com> 01/07/05 6:36 AM >>>

I will put this on my personal prayer list.

There is a lot of good 'stuff' in your email. Would you mind if I change your name and call you PA to hide your identity, and edit it just a tiny bit, and include it in the C&WC? - It talks about having priorities, concern for someone else, be careful what you let yourself get involved in, ... all that kind of stuff.

Rich

Sure thing. I appreciate your prayers!

Subject: Hello!
Date: 2/28/2005 10:15:42 AM Eastern Standard Time
From: g_____@_____.com

Rich,
I read the update in the C&WC. I think it is great that someone else got married New Year's. I am so thrilled that our anniversary will be so special.

Thanks for the encouragement about the job situation. Joseph and I are both looking forward to the time when "Mommy" can stay home, ..., so I am just trying to earn as much as possible so we can get out of debt as quickly as possible. ... But I am happier than I have ever been before in my life, and that is more important than all the money in the world. ... Please do call if you ever come to the mountains, although I don't expect that will be anytime soon! The mountains can't compete with grandchildren. G.

=====
 Daily Encounter ~ Thursday, March 17, 2005
 Know God: http://www.Got-God.net/know_god1.htm
www.ACTSweb.org Store: www.actscm.com/store
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By Richard (Dick) Innes. Published and (c)
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Today's Daily Encounter

I Have a Problem

"But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, 'God, have mercy on me, a sinner'" (Luke 18:13, NIV).

A man went to visit a psychiatrist, or so the story goes, and said, "Doc, I've got two problems." The psychiatrist said, "Okay, tell me all about it." The man began, "Well, first of all, I think I am a Coca-Cola Machine."

The psychiatrist sat the man down and started therapy. For weeks, he gave it his best shot but nothing seemed to help. Finally, out of exasperation, the psychiatrist jumped up one day, took two quarters (25-cent pieces) out of his pocket, shoved them in the man's mouth, grabbed him by the ears and shook him till he swallowed them. Then he hollered, "Okay, now give me a Coke."

That's when the man said, "I can't, Doc. That's my second problem, I'm out of order."1

Jokes aside, the only people who have a problem that anyone can ever help, and the only ones that God can help are those who admit, "I have a problem. I need help. I'm out of order." As long as we blame anybody else for the way I react to situations, we will never overcome our problems. What others do to me is their issue. This is not to justify what they have done. However, how I respond is my responsibility. In other words, what bothers me is my problem and I need to resolve that.

Overcoming any problem means acknowledging that I have a problem, admitting what the problem is, seeking help to overcome it, and persistence to hang in until the problem is resolved.

Suggested prayer: "Dear God, whenever I have a problem, please give me the courage to admit it and then do something about overcoming it ... and lead me to the help I need so to do. Thank you for hearing and answering my prayer. Gratefully, in Jesus' name, amen."

1. Parables, Etc. Nov. '86, Submitted by Ed Rutherford, Cerritos Assembly, Cerritos, California.

<:))><>

2. For help to be sure you're a real Christian without having to be religious click on: <http://www.actsworld.org/articles/article.php?i=2&d=1&c=1&p=1> (or cut and paste the URL in your browser).

You can get an encouraging word (almost) every morning. I select from several daily devotionals, I have a strong tendency to pick a lot of "Faith@Work" like these two here, usually add a comment of my own and email it out. Others are Ravi Zacharias, an occasional Soul Journal, Chuck Colson, ACTS, and even some things forwarded to me by "ordinary people." To try our daily morning thoughts, just drop me an email at RDymmel@AOL.com and write "try the daily email please" and we'll send it for two weeks and then ask you if you want to continue or not.

God DOES answer prayers of His children. Sometimes He answers "Yes," sometimes "Not now," and sometimes "No." Sometimes He doesn't give us what we ask for because He knows better what we need.

Faith@Work March 8, 2005 God Answers Prayer

"Therefore, to keep me from being too elated, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me, to keep me from being too elated. Three times I appealed to the Lord about this, that it would leave me, but he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness." So, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me." 2 Corinthians 12:7-9

We pray. We pray. We pray, always asking. Asking. Asking. Do you ever really seek to know the answer from God. Sometimes it is easy. Sometimes it is hard, especially when we would like a different answer.

Bill had just received the message that he was going to lose his job. He immediately prayed to God, asking God to provide for him. Thirty minutes later the phone rang and Bill was offered a 6-month temporary position! Not a permanent job, but God was giving Bill time to search for it! God is good!

Janet and Steve had been praying, asking God to help them move toward a tithe in their financial giving. Not long after that Janet lost her job. They soon looked at the math and without Janet's income, the amount of money they were giving to the church was . . . a tithe! Even though this was not the way that they had desired God to help them move to a tithe, they saw this as God's answer to their prayer. They continued to give the same amount, this time as a tithe! When Janet eventually got a job they continued to give the 10% of the new increased income! God is good!

The Apostle Paul desired to bring to the world the power and presence of God in Jesus Christ. I am sure that he prayed that he could be a vessel in which the power of God was made manifest. His prayer was answered! Even better, Paul recognized the answer! God made Paul weak, so that the power of God's grace would shine through him to the world . . . and it did! God is good!

Bringing It Home:

1. Do you just ask and ask in your prayer life and never take the time to see God's answers to your prayers? What keeps you from seeing God's answers?
2. When was the last time God answered a prayer in a different way than you wanted? Have you been able to accept that answer and to thank God for God's faithfulness to you?

Prayer: Lord, I thank you that you always hear my prayers. No matter what, I know you hear me. Please forgive me for not truly being open to see the answers which you daily provide. Grant me faith to see and faith to be patient and accepting of your care for me. Amen.

John A. Holm
 Shepherd of the Lakes Church, Grayslake, IL
www.shepherdofthelakes.org

Please feel free to share this devotion with others.

Relationships, Love, and ... HAS character, or IS a character?

© 1998, 2002, 2005 Dr. Richard R. Dymmel, B.S., M.A., M.A., Ed.D.

This article is edited from when it originally appeared Aug. 18, 1998.

STUPID - The ultimate stupidity is withholding from yourself the respect you deserve. ... **To refuse to learn anything that could prove beneficial to yourself is a working definition of STUPID.** (From *Ten Stupid Things Women Do To Mess Up Their Lives*) **Smart people** always look and listen for advice from good friends and authorities. Notice the emphasis on "good." But the Bible doesn't give any advice on dating, does it? I mean dating was not the practiced then.

There were arranged marriages. Really! You probably would not have even met or seen your wife or husband before the wedding!! You probably didn't get much input into the selection process. I mean they did arranged marriages and the veil thing in that culture. And kissing and all that on a date at the local camel races? Never happen! And sex!?!?! Well, that was a capital offense even if she didn't get pregnant. And her father and brothers would execute BOTH of you without even a trial!!! - It still happens *today* in some of those countries that way. - In Song of Solomon, a pretty sexy book in the Bible, he pursues the Solomite woman. (I'm currently reading *A Marriage After God's Own Heart*, David Clark, ISBN: 1-57673-755-1, and as a marriage counselor he thinks it is a book about love and marriage and sex and not an allegory about Israel and God. The people who say that are afraid to talk about sex according to Clark.) What intrigued Solomon? In Hammond's book *The Secrets of an Irresistible Woman* she reveals what would attract the most powerful and wealthy man in the world. (For President Clinton it only required that they would have sex, by one of any definition.) Why did he pursue and desire her? It was *not* that she was a willing sex partner. Her brothers ask her, "Are you a gate or a wall?" (Do you let men in or keep them out - they're talking about having sex.) "If she are a gate then we will build panels of cedar around her." (Song of Solomon 8:8-9) Translated - if you're having sex, we will build a coffin - of cedar panels - around you and bury you. - These guys were serious about sex. She had to have *other* qualities to attract Solomon. That's the basis for Hammond's book.

Well the Bible doesn't say much about dating, but it has a lot to say about relationships and marriage and character. Let's see if we can sort this out.

Character - That's one thing that the Bible does talk about. What about the people you are dating, will date, or have a 'serious relationship with', or are even just friends with? Friends influence you. Are you picking your friends and dates by looking for people "with character" or are you running around with "characters"?

Everybody has character traits. Some good. Some bad. And nobody's perfect. There was only one perfect man - and he made enough people so angry that they killed him! Good people can really irritate your conscience if you're not doing what's right.

Have you taken the time to look at the character, and the time to learn about the character of the people or person you're dating? This person could be the person you marry! Will you be stuck with for life - or get divorced from and fight over custody with - someone who thinks nothing of lying, is deceitful by hiding life information from their parents, is suspicious of how you spend your time when away from them (not trusting nor trustworthy)? Do they have a casual attitude toward marriage vows and fidelity and purity? If they don't think purity is important now, they may not think it's important later either.

I had lunch with someone recently who told me they have tried to tell their friend that the guy she's dating is a rat. He slept with his old gf recently (he's not loyal); he's tried to hit on and sleep with her other friends (sleeps around); probably means she's sleeping with him since he's demonstrated that what he seeks out, and is exposing herself to all kinds of possible consequences (STDs, pregnancy, emotional ... - love is supposed

to value and protect the object of the love) and she won't accept that she could do sooo much better. He's her first real bf. She hasn't learned what is out there to choose from, - that she can do better, is worth more, and there are better guys out there. He's the first guy who's paid much attention to her and she's been "suckered" to accept the trade off of getting attention for sex, that's what she's worth, sex, being put at risk, ..., etc.

On a teen bulletin board a couple years ago I found a posting by a girl who had thought about what she'd like in a boyfriend. She had 114 characteristics listed of the ideal boyfriend. (Printed in 2/12/05 C&WC, p.4) They ranged from "#1 Must always respect me" to "#105 Doesn't have weird posters in his room." Others included "Has morals, Cares about his family, Talks to my parents, Has to be trustworthy, Is well-educated, Is romantic, Doesn't worship Satan," - and 100 more - you get the idea?

There is a great book by Neil Clark Warren on finding what YOU want (2 titles for two printings - *How to Know If Someone Is Worth Pursuing in Two Dates or Less*, 1999, and *Date or Soul Mate?*, 2002, 2nd ISBN: 0-7852-6539-2) His book goes into a lot more detail, but I wrote this first in 1988. - - On a piece of paper put this heading: "**Dating, Mating, and Character.**" Then draw a line down the middle. At the top of the left column write: "**Desirable Character Traits:**" and at the top of the right column write: "**Things to watch and to watch out for:**" Now think - "In picking someone I would want to spend the next 2, 25, or 50 years, the rest of my life with, what should I look for and what should I avoid?" If you pick wisely and carefully, you may very well be one of those people who stay married till, as the vows spoken before God in a church wedding say, stay married "till death do us part." Or you can easily be one of those couples that divorce after five years because of a number of character flaws that you will no longer put up with. Don't think of people (or the person). Think of character and behavior traits, like: gets along with their parents, never loses his temper even in bad traffic, is a solid Christian, polite and considerate of others, he opens doors for me, isn't too shy, has high moral standards, would never do anything to hurt me in any way. (Would sexual purity keep you from being hurt? Can "making love" "because we're in love" hurt your reputation, put you in danger of having a baby or supporting a child for the next 18 years, and having "a past" when you meet someone you care enough about that you want to marry them? Ask someone who has had an STD, incurable Herpes, AIDS, pregnant and aborted, pregnant and gave it up for adoption ... ask them if they were hurt. In an episode of *7th Heaven* they are counseling 3 pregnant teenagers. One says to her bf, "If you really loved me, you wouldn't have had sex with me and I wouldn't be in this mess now.")

AFTER you've made your lists, take a look at the suggestions in the lists I made.

In His love,

Rich

How to Know If Someone Is Worth Pursuing in Two Dates or Less, 1999, Neil Clark Warren [The chapter that first caught my eye was "Making the deal." What do you have to offer in the deal?]

Date or Soul Mate?, 2002, Neil Clark Warren, ISBN: 0-7852-6539-2
If Men Are Like Busses Then How Do I Catch One Hammond [Yea, it's written to gals, but the same principles apply and guys can read it too.] ISBN 0-7394-1324-4

The Secrets of an Irresistible Woman, Michelle McKinney Hammond, ISBN 1-56507-843-8 [This one is primarily a 'chick book.']

Boy Meets Girl, Harris
When God Writes Your Love Story, Eric & Leslie Ludy, 1999, ISBN 1-929125-00-3

What To Do Until Love Finds You, Michelle McKinney Hammond, , 1997, ISBN 1-56507-531-5

Wait For Me, Rediscovering the joy of purity in romance, Rebecca St. James, 2002, ISBN 0-7852-7129-9 Chap 6 is "Second Chance"

Relationships and Character - - -

Dating, Mating, and Character

(“Suggested Possible Lists”)

8/18/98 edited 9/00, 4/02, 3/05

Every date is a potential mate. You might marry them if you start dating them!
 You'll never marry someone you never date (we don't do arranged marriages here).
 Are you picking your dates and friends carefully?
 Do you look for and select your friends and dates by picking people with character — or are you running around with “characters”?

Desirable Character Traits

Respect for people, respects you
 Values you (won't put you in danger)
 Considerate, polite, courteous
 Honesty
 Honors and obeys parents
 Happy person, Joyful, Smiles,
 Sense of humor
 Gentle, Kind, Patient
 Helpful, Generous
 Positive attitude
 Open to new things, ideas
 Makes good decisions
 Makes good financial decisions
 Has goals and direction
 Is he family leadership material (or is a wimp)
 Faithfulness to obligations, duties (fidelity)
 Has values, ethics, and morals
 Similar life philosophies
 Attends church; Compatible religious values and behaviors
 Similar spiritual values
 Similar religious beliefs
 A “saved,” “born again” Christian
 Purity of mind
 Purity of body (alcohol, drugs, tobacco)
 Virgin or “secondary” virgin
 Trustworthy
 Loyalty; Honors commitments
 Doesn't have weird posters in their room
 Romantic
 Touches, holds hands, appropriate PDA
 Gives compliments
 Gives little thoughtful appropriate gifts
 Mature behavior and attitudes
 Educated (can think and communicate)
 Talks with my parents and other adults
 Is fun to be around
 Would never hit me
 Feel secure to be around – isn't ‘crazy’
 Honors, respects, protects you (I know, sounds very anti-feminist)
 Cherishes, values you (this grows as the relationship grows)

Settling
 on what's
 available is in
 no way
 making a
 noble
 choice.

“So-called sexual freedom is really just proclaiming oneself to be available for free, and therefore without value. To “choose” such freedom is tantamount to saying that one is worth nothing.”

“Subversive Virginity” by Sarah E. Hinlicky, age 22, published in FirstThings.

Things to watch and to watch out for:

Lies (if they lie to others, what makes you think they won't lie to you?)
 Cheats, Deceit, Lies to parents (disrespect for others)
 Doesn't get along with their parents (disrespect for authority)
 Your parents don't like them (they are experienced, find out why)
 No true religious or spiritual values
 Doesn't/won't attend church with you
 Immature, clingy, “into themselves”
 He or she is a “wimp”
 Drinks or does drugs, even just “once in a while”
 Unfaithfulness to obligations, duties (fidelity)
 Gives excuses why they didn't follow through (reliability)
 Has a temper (might direct it at you if you cross them)
 Low morals, sleeps around
 Wants/willing to have sex on 2nd date, 1st date, or after 6 or 12 months of dating. Pressures you for sex, get too physical

“Watch how his father treats his mother because that is how he will treat you.” (Marie's mother told her to do this.) We are taught by our role models. Observe the parents, they were the teachers by example of roles and relationship expectations; loving, committed, generous, permanence, attentive, PDA, divorce, discipline. The son usually turns into the father, the daughter usually turns into the mother. In general, we turn out like our parents unless we make conscious choices and changes. You can make choices and pick new role models, from rock stars, neighbors, friends, etc., but these are hard patterns to change.

If they ‘hide’ you from or lie about you or where they go or what they do to their parents, (a) they lie and (b) they disrespect their parents. How can you expect him/her to be truthful, loyal, respect you, and stand up for you in the future when needed?

Is he or she loyal and committed to being celibate till marriage? If not, then what makes you think they will be loyal and committed to you later? If they played around before, ... if sex was just a toy and not valued as a treasure to be a shared intimacy between two people with a lifelong covenant, what makes you think they will treasure your relationship and commitment and be monogamous? (Loyalty, fidelity, faithfulness) Someone can learn and change and make a commitment to purity “from this point forward” in their life, and recover from a mistake or bad choice/decision. But if they haven't, why should you take the chance. Read chapter 10 in Harris' book *Boy Meets Girl* about having made a change but then when you have to tell the most important person in your life about your past ... it's better if you decide early that you don't want to have a “past” at all. Someone once said, ‘I did the best I knew. Now that I know better, I'll do better.’

Have you considered making a pledge of chastity? Regardless if you've had sex or not in your past, you can make a pledge of,
“Before God and witnesses, I have promised and made a commitment to myself, my family, those I date, and my future mate that from this day forward, I will keep myself sexually pure until I have sex with and only with my life partner and within marriage.”

C&WC has pledge cards available, free for the asking, and can

~~Save~~ **Safe Sex** *for my mate*

When someone wants me to compromise my values and my purity and have sex, I tell them, “That's not good enough for me. I'm more valuable than that. I'm worth waiting for!”

Daily Encounter ~ Monday, February 21, 2005
Know God: http://www.Got-God.net/know_god1.htm
www.ACTSweb.org www.actscom.com/store

By Richard (Dick) Innes. Published and (c)
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Today's Daily Encounter
Sunk in a Sinkhole

"One evening David got up from his bed and walked around on the roof of the palace. From the roof he saw a woman bathing. The woman was very beautiful, and David sent someone to find out about her. The man said, 'Isn't this Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam and the wife of Uriah the Hittite?'" (2 Samuel 11:2-3, niv).

"In December 1985 an enormous sinkhole swallowed a house and carport and forced the evacuation of four homes in a retirement community in Florida. The hole was about the size of a pickup truck when it was discovered. Within three hours it had grown to 30 by 40 feet and had swallowed half of a small house. Two hours later it had expanded to more than 70 feet, and the house with its carport was gone. Authorities were grateful that it finally stopped growing without doing even more damage.

"David discovered that sin is like an ever-expanding sinkhole. As he was walking on the flat roof of his palace, he saw a beautiful woman bathing. Instead of turning away, he stared longingly at her. At this point the sinkhole was small but expanding. When he inquired about who she was, the hole grew larger. And finally, when he sent for her, he soon found himself and those around him swallowed up. What started out as only a look ended in tragedy for all involved."

Many people, like David, find themselves falling into the sinkhole of temptation because they leave the door open for temptation to enter.

Temptation works the same for all of us. It's progressive. It can start with an innocent look, then a thought, and then if we linger longer on the look, the thought progresses to desire, then to becoming blind to reality and fooling ourselves into rationalizing that it won't hurt, and then to yielding. Following this pathway can quickly lead one into the sinkhole of sin as well as despair.

To overcome temptation we need to realize how vulnerable we are to the pull that temptation has on us. When temptation knocks on your door, ask Jesus to answer the door. Also, as God's Word says, "Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be men [and women] of courage; be strong."² And again, "Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour"³. "Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you."⁴

Suggested prayer: "Dear God, may I never forget that I, like David, am just as open to temptation as he was. Please help me to call on you in the hour or even the moment of temptation, and give me the strength to resist the devil so that he will flee from me. Thank you for hearing and answering my prayer. Gratefully, in Jesus' name, amen."

1. "Lessons On Living," Back To The Bible. www.backtothebible.org/
2. 1 Corinthians 16:13, (niv).
3. 1 Peter 5:8, (niv).
4. James 4:7, (niv)

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2. For help to be sure you're a real Christian without having to be religious click on: http://www.got-God.net/know_god1.htm (or cut and paste the URL in your browser).

When God used His creative genius to create you, He created a masterpiece! Don't settle for anybody that doesn't deserve a masterpiece.

"Our pea-sized brain can never figure out God. I don't want a God I can figure out."

Only fools believe only in what they see.

The one who pays an ounce of principle for a pound of popularity gets badly cheated.

The Back Pew - Jeff Larson

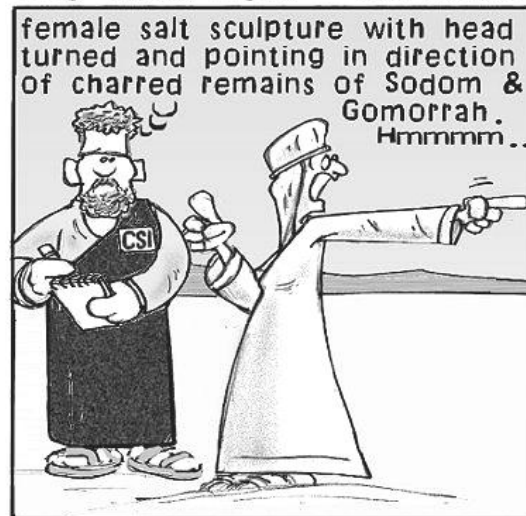


If you don't understand these cartoons, then you need to read the whole story in Genesis chapters 18 and 19. -- Sodom was a vile, sinful place. The men in town wanted the men visitors at Lot's house. Lot offered his daughters, but they wanted the men. Can you guess why? The men were really angels. Lot and his family left town and then the city was destroyed from the sky. Sarah "looked back" and was turned into salt. - When we leave sin, we shouldn't "look back."

<http://thebackpew.com>

In **Genesis 19:1-11** in the city of Sodom and at the home of Lot we are introduced to the first recorded KNOCK KNOCK joke. Since this very weak attempt, knock knock jokes have replaced vulgar banter with 'humor'.

The Back Pew - Jeff Larson



female salt sculpture with head turned and pointing in direction of charred remains of Sodom & Gomorrah. Hmmm...

<http://thebackpew.com>

CSI SODOM & GOMORRAH
Genesis 19 Or 20ish

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PLEASE, if this is not to be sent here, correct the address if you know it, clearly mark "RTS" and drop in the mail.

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Mar 26, 2005

A Return (p.1) - Prayer request in my mail box (p.2) - Relationships Love and ... HAS Character or IS a Character

A publication so dangerous it now comes with it's own warning label.

WARNING

Do not read the Crimson & White Connection unless you want your HEART ENCOURAGED and your MIND CHALLENGED and your SPIRIT PRODDED

Yes! This is a subversive, challenging, counter-culture publication. That's what Christianity is - a counter-culture. This should have a warning label.

It's better to be alone than in bad company.

Bad company corrupts good character. 1Corinthians 15:33

“For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.”

2 Timothy 1:7