

Crimson & White Connection

A ministry of prayer and encouragement to "High School, College, & Singles" (& others, too) on Values + Character + Relationships + the Christian Life
 Now resources and some back issues available at www.CrimsonWhite.org

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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!

June 22, 2005

God doesn't want to be "first" with you.

By Dr. Richard R. Dymmel, Ed.D., (c) 2005

I heard a sermon on the radio the other day. He made a good point. God doesn't want to be "first" in your life. "First" implies that there is also a "second" and a "third" and maybe more.

Marie doesn't want to be "first" in my life... "first" among a list of other women. Marie is not a jealous woman. That is because she doesn't worry about any other women. Marie doesn't worry that I have young women around in classes, some with skirts that are way too short and shirts two sizes too small. She knows I'm not available or interested. She knows I do things like always keep the door open at least a little when I am with students. If a conversation is about classwork, the door is wide open. If the conversation turns to something confidential, I'll close the door to be open only about 4 inches, but not closed. On the other hand, IF there ever was a "second female" in my life, I would hate to even think about what she might do. In that situation, she would be very much the jealous, possessive woman. - We're a couple of "hopeless romantics." The other day as we were going somewhere, listening to the radio, they played an "oldie" and we immediately sang along, "Cause I'm your lady, and you are my man. Whenever you reach for me, I'll do all that I can. We're headed for somewhere ..." (The guy part sings it, "Cause you're my lady, and I am your man..." etc.) Corny, I know, but that's how we are. We are each others. We do all we can for each other. We have a wall clock that on the hour plays one of 6 different love songs with twinkling star lights. (Say, "Awwwwww. How mushy can you guys be? You're too much.")

Well, God is like that. Marriage is supposed to be a model of the relationship between you and God. And He is a jealous God. He doesn't want to be just on your list of favorite or important things. He doesn't want to be even #1 on your list of favorite things. God wants to be the **ONLY** God in your life! And He wants it to be a "love affair!" A love relationship.

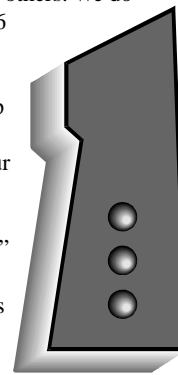
The KJV reads (Exodus 20:3) "Thou shalt have no other gods before me." That could be read as God is to be #1 on your "top ten gods" list. Other translations make it clearer - The NIV reads "You shall have no other gods before^c me," and the c footnote says "Or *besides*." (All the underline emphasis is mine.) The New Century Version reads, "You must not have any other gods except me." The New Living Translation reads, "Do not worship any other gods besides me." I like The Message, direct, blunt, to the point, "No other gods, only me."

And He is jealous. In Exodus 34:14, even His name is Jealous. He is identified as a jealous God in Ex 20:5, Ex 34:14, Deut 4:24, 5:9, 6:5, and Josh 24:19. Nahum 1:2, depending on the translation: (KJV) "God *is* jealous, and the LORD revengeth; the LORD revengeth, and *is* furious; the LORD will take vengeance on his adversaries." Or the NCV: "The LORD is a jealous God who punishes; the LORD punishes and is filled with anger. The LORD punishes those who are against him, and he stays angry with his enemies." I like The Message's wording of Ezekiel 5:13, "God is serious business. He won't be trifled with. He avenges his foes. He stands up against his enemies, fierce and raging." If you want a demonstration of "fierce and raging," have something or someone come between Marie and me and you will see fierce, consuming fire.

Jesus said (Matthew 22:37 KJV), "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind." The message says, "passion and prayer and intelligence." In either wording it is ALL. Not 10%, not 50%, not even 90%, but ALL.

You say, "Hey. I don't worship any idols. I know there is only one god and that's the God of the Bible." How about what drives your choices? Is it a desire to be more intimate with God, or do you look to things that you wouldn't invite Jesus to come along with you? What might that include? Drugs, alcohol, porn, lust, I'd rather work on my car than go to Sunday School, stay up too late at a party so you can't get up for Church on Sunday, ...

Your grades and tests are important, but what about skipping church to study for a test? - I read a testimony by a student who made the choice for church. All he had time for was to study one section of the text, not the several chapters for the test. He prayed (Finish on page 2)



...**“First”**... - (continued from page 1)

for God to help him think clearly and do well. When he arrived at class, the teacher walked in and said that he had been too busy over the weekend to write a comprehensive test, so there would only be one question. ... Can you guess what the subject of the question was? Right. The one section he had had time to review.

Well, how do you set priorities? When you're at school, on your list for week #1, is finding a church to attend that first Sunday on there? Before even picking a college, did you look to see if there were IV or FCA or BSU groups on campus? Did you make contact with them? Do you have any sort of quasi-daily time for God? - I don't mean do you pray "God is great. God is good. Let us thank Him for this food. Amen," and "Now I lay me down to sleep..." - I'm far from perfect, so don't look at me. (There's a song like that: "Don't look at me as ... of perfection. Don't look at me. Look at Him.") The C&WC hopefully is an encouragement to you in your walk. And we email an (almost) daily devotional. I may be 60 years old, and been a Christian for 46 years, but most of you are a lot younger and many certainly a lot more disciplined than I am in some of these areas. The C&WC has been not only a ministry to hundreds of students, it is also a way that God has led me to do more reading, studying, eventually a daily devotional, and then daily journaling as I comment on most of the daily e-devotionals.

Giving all over to God is simple, but not easy. One more story... The man says, "You want it all? Okay, God. You can have my house and car." "I want your shirt, too." "Okay, here." "And you're career." "That, too? Here." "And your family." "Gee! You probably want my wallet and IRA." "Yes, I do." "Well, I've got nothing left. You've got it all." "Yes I do. Now, I don't need any of this stuff, so here, I'm giving it all to you to take care of for me." - When we've surrendered it all, He also supplies all we need.

Trusting an invisible God can be scary, till you learn to trust Him. Trust me, I know, I've experienced Him and seen His work. - And if you trust Him with your eternity, are you willing to trust Him with your tomorrow and with your today?

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

Date: 6/9/2005 **From:** cw____@____.edu **To:** rdymmel@aol.com
Hey Dr. Dymmel,

I had you as a teacher ____ and have now just graduated.

I just wanted to say that your [daily email] devotions have meant more than you can imagine... there were so many days that I would wake up and not want to face the day, but these devotions got me going. So, thank you for them!

I have a new email address and would love to continue getting them if possible: "C____@____.com"

Hope all is well and God Bless.

CW

Congratulations on graduation!!!.

And thank you so much for your encouraging words. (Kids aren't the only ones who need encouragement.) - LOVE the note.)

I'm updating the email address right now. And, absolutely, yes, you can continue getting the email-devotions and the C&WC as long as you tell me where to send them. Graduate, get married, get old (Louise is 95 now and she's not my only "over 70" that gets the C&WC), you can still get the C&WC as long as I keep writing it.

Subject: Thank You! **Date:** 4/28/2005 **From:** j____@____.edu

Hi Rich, I got the birthday card in the mail and it made my day! Thank you!! :) JR

I will pass this on to Jeanette who does the birthday cards. This will be an encouragement to her. God bless. Rich

Date: 6/14/2005 **From:** liveitforgod@hotmail.com **To:** RDymmel Rich,

Thank you so much for your ministry. I am excited that the website is now up and running, I think that'll be a great addition. I also hope your big math test went well. I've heard those are pretty challenging (at least that is what the foreign language teachers were saying). I leave tomorrow for Romania! I look forward to still getting the C&CW by email ... I'm hoping for internet once a week, but I have no idea how regularly I'll actually be able to check it. I'll be sure to add you to my updates when I send them out! I appreciate your prayers. I know God is wanting something big because I can feel Satan getting pissed, but we serve a big God—what an unfair battle for Satan :-)

In Christ,

Lindsay

This issue will be the first we email to Lindsay, who will be ministering in Romania for the next year. We have others that are "out-of-the-country" that we email the C&WC to. (I didn't obliterate Lindsay's email or name because she had given it out with the letter/story about her trip before.)

Subject: Crimson & White **Date:** 6/15/2005

From: mp____@____.edu **To:** Rdymmel@aol.com

Hi Rich,

Just wanted to say thanks for the ministry through Crimson & White. This particular edition [June 8, 2005, article on "The Future"] touched on an aspect of my life...I am leaving to [go to a new place] this fall.... So the future is a little uncertain for me right now. So this edition really meant a lot and helped me recall that my God is an Awesome God and He will take care of me. I am learning a little more trust! Thanks and keep up the good work!

God bless,

MP

As you move, be sure to keep us posted on addresses - and be sure to tell the Post Office, too. When the P.O. returns the mail or they send us the forwarding address, it quintuples our postage costs. So, please, if YOU tell us when you move, it saves us a lot of \$\$\$.

Subject: Re: New **Date:** 6/19/2005

From: ch____@____.edu **To:** RDymmel@aol.com

Rich,

Sorry it's taken so long for me to reply. Getting moved in was crazy to say the least. My DSL is not currently up and running, so for now continue to use this address. My new snail mail address is: _____, PA _____.

My job is going well. ... One of my supervisors knew I love chocolate tootsie pops so she bought everyone she could find. Then she spelled out "Welcome Back CH" on my desk in tootsie pops. I now have enough tootsie pops to keep me stress free for the rest of this year. :-)

Thanks again for all your hard work on the CW. I love reading it!

CH

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

With 300+ kids, and my "old age," let's see if I can remember your favorite candy until your birthday. Please show kindness and forgive me (the theme of the current series of e-devotionals) if I forget by then, it's several months away.

NOTICE...

PLEASE, keep your home and school and summer addresses current with us. - Did you graduate? For most college folks, that means your campus P.O.Box isn't valid any more. I'll assume you moved "home," but that may not be right. Please confirm your address. If "home" moves, or if YOU move, please remember to tell us.

Tell me what you think of www.CrimsonWhite.org. Critique it. What did we leave out? What would you suggest as a possible change? It is **NOT** a way to deliver the C&WC, that will still come by 'snail-mail.' The site is an easy way to introduce someone, or a church, to a few back issues and what we are about and what we believe. The site also has links to finding Christian radio stations across the country and several other resources.

Personal apology.

I apologize for the lapse in getting the C&WC to print as often as usual the past couple months. Teaching has been VERY stressful and time and energy consuming. I WILL catch up and promise to hit our target of 18 issues for the year, making it an average of once every 3 weeks for the year. This is #7, it should be #9.

EGO: Easing God Out

SIN - Self Interest Now

Lonnie B

Post-its & The Flying Cookie Incident

True story. May 2005. High School science classroom.

The cookie was thrown, not a paper wad, not a paper airplane, but a perfectly good cookie. Since no one would admit to it, the teacher decided to do some investigating. She distributed 3x3 Post-it notes and asked students to write down what they knew or saw. These are six of the notes written by 10th graders.

I don't know Anything, I was talking to Molly Brian

I didnt See Nothin Justin

It was brown with chocolate chip & it was thrown at Dustin Tyler

I don't know nothing, I was sitting beside him the whole time. - Alan

Natalie

I didn't see anything, I did not hear about the cookie until you held up the wrapper in the air.

*It flew like the wind, like a flying sauser, sauring high, then boom It pegged me like a 10 gallon sack of salt + vinigar chips
Indeed*

DUSTIN

Being a Christian does NOT mean being old!

[This was one of the e-devotionals this week.]

6/22/05 Wed – Life to the Fullest

“We interrupt this series on kindness again to bring you this important thought,” as the radio or TV announcement would go.

Our youth group returned Saturday from a week of working and worship in the heat and humidity of Charleston, SC. Sunday morning some of them gave testimonies about the week, how God worked in their lives. – I’ve been with the kids to M-fuge. Let me tell you - morning send off and evening worship time are definite evidence that “to be old and to be a Christian are NOT the same thing!” And Sunday morning, when the kids sang... their smiles while worshipping... were testimony to the “Joy of the Lord” in them. – There were a few “old Christians” in the congregation, like the old chief in the Slice story that follows, that wouldn’t know joy if it hit them like a 2x4. Christianity has NOTHING to do with being “old.” It is all about LIFE and JOY and PEACE.

Have a JOYOUS day with Christ.

Rich

06/20/05 Slice #922

Life to the Fullest

Jill Carattini

The voted motto of my graduating high school class was the hopeful instruction, “Live life to the fullest!” Though, I suspect we all had different ideas about what living life to the fullest really meant.

Joy Davidman tells the story of an old missionary ministering among a tribe of cannibals. The missionary was hard at work trying to convert the native chief. The chief listened patiently but at last said to the missionary, “I do not understand. You tell me that I must not take my neighbor’s wife. Or his ivory, or his oxen.” “That’s right,” said the missionary. The chief continued, “And I must not dance the war dance and then ambush him on the trail and kill him.” “Absolutely right!” exclaimed the missionary. “But I cannot do any of these things!” the man replied, “I am too old. To be old and to be Christian, they are the same thing.”(1)

The story is a careful glance at a common vision, but as the chief reveals, it is one with limited perspective. I remember when “living life to the fullest” felt like something I was not supposed to do. I remember resenting the religion that handed me a list of rules that set me apart from my friends. And I remember thinking that God was something I would evaluate later in life. Christianity seemed to me, as I suspect it seems to countless others,

a religion of old, grumbling individuals who walk about frowning at young people who are living life to the fullest. To be Christian, in many minds, is to be old and life-less. To embrace life as a Christian is to embrace something like Narnia under the curse of the White Witch, when it was “always winter but never Christmas.” Somehow we have come to believe, or perhaps come to exude, that to follow Christ is to sacrifice our enjoyment of life.

Yet how have we construed that this was even remotely the message upon the lips of Christ? How have we taken the good news, at which curtains were torn in two, trumpets sounded, and all the earth trembled, and turned it into a despairing yoke of boredom? How have we come to the conclusion that following what we enjoy and following God himself are two completely different pursuits?

The words of John Piper counter such an outlook with the wonder of the gospel and what he refers to as the most freeing discovery he ever made. Writes Piper, “God’s commitment to be glorified and my deepest longing to be satisfied are not in conflict, but in fact find simultaneous consummation in his display of and my delight in the glory of God.”(2)

In his letter to the Philippians, the apostle Paul prays that their love will abound more and more and that they will be filled with the fruit of righteousness which comes through Jesus Christ and is to the glory and praise of God. His prayer for their lives reflects the conviction on his heart that “to live is Christ” (Phil. 1:21).

God has said, “You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart” (Jer. 29:13). Such a promise invites us to become children filled with wonder, living life at its fullest, holding onto the promise and the reality of a joy worthy of our destiny. To be Christian is to live with the certainty that God is glorified in our delight of Him and honored in lives lived to the fullest. For to be Christian is to follow the one whom death could not swallow and in whom life has no end.

(1) Smoke On the Mountain (Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1954), 13.

(2) The Supremacy of God in Preaching (Grand Rapids: Baker, 1990), 26.

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[Slice of Infinity #031] The Lion and the Stream (June 3, 2002)

The Lion and the Stream

Ravi Zacharias

C.S. Lewis, in one little episode from his book *The Silver chair* illustrates God's invitation and our resistance. Aslan, the lion is representative of Christ and Jill one of us.

This is the first time they meet. Listen:

When Jill stopped, she found she was dreadfully thirsty... She listened carefully and felt almost sure she heard the sound of running water. Jill...looked around her very carefully. There was no sign of the Lion; so she plucked up her courage to... look for that running water. ...[S]he came to an open glade and saw the stream, bright as glass... [A]lthough the sight of the water made her feel ten times thirstier than before, she didn't rush forward and drink. She stood still as if she had been turned into a stone, with her mouth wide open. And she had a very good reason: just this side of the stream lay the Lion...

"Are you not thirsty?" said the Lion.

"I'm dying of thirst," said Jill.

"Then drink," said the Lion.

"May I—could I—would you mind going away while I do?" said Jill.

The Lion answered this only by a look and a very low growl. And as Jill gazed at its motionless bulk, she realized that she might as well have asked the whole mountain to move aside for her convenience.

The delicious rippling noise of the stream was driving her nearly frantic.

"Will you promise not to—do anything to me, if I do come?" said Jill.

"I make no promise," said the Lion.

Jill was so thirsty now that, without noticing it, she had come a step nearer.

"Do you eat girls?" she said.

"I have swallowed up girls and boys, women and men, kings and emperors, cities and realms," said the Lion.

"I daren't come and drink," said Jill.

"Then you will die of thirst," said the Lion.

"Oh dear!" said Jill, coming another step nearer. "I suppose I must go and look for another stream then."

"There is no other stream," said the Lion.

What a powerful illustration this is. We thirst for God. Christ invites us to come and be filled by Him. Yet, fearful of the risk we turn away from Him, still thirsty.

GK Chesterton said it well: Faith and love are apt to be spasmodic in the best of minds. Men and women live on the brink of mysteries and harmonies into which they never enter and with their hand on the doorlatch they die outside.

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God promises that if you give to Him, you'll be better off in the end.

I'm disgustingly comfortable with my life. Unhappy, alone, not sleeping. Settling for a God that brushes up against our leg like a neighbor's dog. – He wants to stir things up a little bit. My God is a God of passion, energy! There are days He's all I have. You are enough. Don't brush up against Jesus. Have Him for your own.

Brian @ M-Fuge, WPB, FL 7/98

Are you playing the right game?

Marie is a fan of Wheel Of Fortune and also Jeopardy. In going through a box of papers while cleaning the library, I ran across a Laugh Parade cartoon:

Left: man standing with hand raised among several that are seated. Center: a podium. Right of the podium: Man in black suit, a gavel in his hand. Behind him, an old table radio that looks like an arched church window.

Caption: "This is an auction of antiques, sir... You cannot buy a vowel."

A lot of people want to argue about the Bible ... not too many read it ... even fewer follow its teaching.

Teenager Found Alive in Wrecked Car After Eight Days

AOL News, Oct 11, 2004 Redmond, Wash. (Yea, I know, an old news story. Point: **God still speaks; God answers prayer.**)

Short summary of the news story:

Laura Hatch 17, left a party Oct 2. She went off the road and 150' down an embankment into the trees. There was no police search as they thought she was a run-away. Parents and 200 volunteers had searched near where the car was eventually found, but had not seen it. Sha Nor, a church member, had vivid dreams of a wooded area and the message "keep going, keep going." Waking on Sunday with an urgent need to search for Laura. She stopped at one point along the road, then went on because "it just didn't feel right." She prayed "Let her speak out to us." At the second place she stopped, she had climbed over the concrete barrier and over 100' down the wooded hill when she barely made out the car farther down, in the trees. When she reached the car, Laura said, "I think I might be late for curfew."

Whatever your lot in life... build something on it.

Summertime... hot weather... bikinis... short-shorts, micro-mini-skirts..., etc., etc.

But whether it's summer or winter, modesty is appropriate. In the classroom even, I see ... AAhhh!!! And modesty goes for guys, too, like underwear not being "under" wear. When 8" of underwear is showing, you might as well not have worn the pants. At the beach... they wouldn't go outside in their underwear, but something half the size of underwear ... guys and gals!

Here's another "old" article I found while sorting boxes of papers in the library. It's from *Christianity Today Magazine*, January 2000. This is the beginning of the article (reprinted within the CT permission guidelines). I encourage you to read the rest of the article found on the web at <http://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2000/001/30.70.html>

[Home > Christianity Today Magazine](#)

[Christianity Today, January 10, 2000](#)

Conversations: Proud to Be Modest

Author Wendy Shalit rattles the female establishment with a hip appeal to tradition.

A conversation between Lauren F. Winner and Wendy Shalit | *Wendy Shalit is the new darling of American neoconservatives. As a sophomore at Williams College, she published an article in Commentary called "A Ladies' Room of One's Own," arguing that her dormitory should include a single-sex bathroom [instead of co-ed]. The article got a hostile reaction on campus. But when Reader's Digest reprinted the article, Shalit received scads of letters from college students across the country: "Thank you for writing this," they said. "I thought I was the only one who felt this way." Shalit's first book, A Return to Modesty (out in paperback this month), argues that the sexual revolution was bad for women, champions modest dress, and urges sexual abstinence until marriage. The book has been assailed by critics from the Left but has found an eager reception among young Christian women who are no doubt delighted to have a champion for modesty who is actually young and hip.*

Shalit, 24, grew up in a secular Jewish household, but her investigations into modesty have led her toward a more observant Jewish life. CT senior writer Lauren Winner recently spoke with her in New York.

You suggest in your book that if people truly understood the value of modesty, they would want to return to a modest way of life. What are some of the misconceptions people have about it?

There are a lot of myths concerning modesty. One of them is that modesty is Victorian. But, in fact, it dates back way before the Victorian era. It's in the Bible. As long as we've been human we've needed modesty, because as humans we don't just have sex; we also have emotions and vulnerability. Modesty prevented us from being vulnerable with the wrong people. It also protected deep, erotic connections between the right people. When you're young, modesty protects innocence, but when you're older it protects profound connections.

Second, modesty is not about prudery; it is about the opposite of prudery. When people are promiscuous, they can't be moved by anything. So, prudery and promiscuity actually have a lot in common:

neither the promiscuous person nor the prude can be moved or touched by anything. The modest person can be moved by something and wants to be moved by something in the right circumstances.

Third, modesty is not, as the academy would have us believe, a social construct. Modesty is natural. Consider the behavior of our generation, twentysomethings. We are taught that we aren't supposed to have meaningful, long-term relationships with one person that eventually culminate in marriage and sex, but that we are supposed to have casual hookups, where you meet a person at a party, have sex, and then never see the person again. That people get drunk before they do it is significant—it's a concession to modesty. In our sober, natural state, we can't do this. So we have to drug ourselves in order to pretend otherwise.

How does modesty protect women?

There's a 1948 song, "Baby It's Cold Outside." It's about a man and a woman, and the man wanted the woman to stay over. His argument was, "Baby, it's cold outside"—if she didn't sleep over, she could catch pneumonia and die, and that would cause him lifelong sorrow. The woman has her own reasons for not staying over, which include, but are not limited to, "My father is there at the door. My maiden aunt's mind is vicious, and there's bound to be talk tomorrow."

There are two ways you can look at this song. You can say, "Gosh, women were oppressed in 1948 because their fathers were waiting for them at the door after their dates. How patriarchal was that society?" But if you actually listen to the song and the back and forth that's going on, you appreciate that the woman was made strong by those excuses, because that father waiting at the door gave her ground to stand on.

Back then, this social support for modesty was a kind of armor for a young woman. In the absence of that, in the absence of all of those excuses, a woman who wants to say no to sex is all on her own—that choice becomes a personal thing. It's personal precisely because society has abdicated responsibility for these decisions, and the ground has dropped from under women and men. They can't depend on society anymore for these excuses.

So did the women's liberation movement really liberate women?

Women aren't allowed to be women anymore. That's part of the problem with Prozac and what I call the curing of womanhood. Doctors prescribe Prozac for women who say they are hurt after a breakup, who say they feel too shy or reticent to go on lots of casual dates. The Prozac has "worked" when they are willing to go out on those casual dates.

There is one discussion of a woman who was too particular about the men she dated. But now on Prozac she's dating two men, and she doesn't care how it will turn out. The literature on Prozac presents this as a virtue. A *virtue*? What is this ideal we're presenting to young people? I'd like to see women being proud of their emotions and listening to their instincts instead of trying to cure themselves of them.

So society is telling women to hide who they really are?

Exactly. If we live in such supposedly liberated times, why....

[Read the rest of the article by request from C&W or online at <http://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2000/001/30.70.html>]

Crimson & White Connection

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What we do on some great occasion will probably depend on what we already are and what we are will be the result of previous years of self-discipline.

¹And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will accept. When you think of what he has done for you, is this too much to ask?

²Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will know what God wants you to do, and you will know how good and pleasing and perfect his will really is. Romans 12:1&2 (NLT)

I discipline my body like an athlete, training it to do what it should. Otherwise, I fear that after preaching to others I myself might be disqualified. 1 Corinthians 9:27 (NLT)