

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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 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!

Nov 5, 2005

LOVE? Love and Intimacy and Sex

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

"Do you believe in love at first sight?" he asked her. "No," she replied. "Well then, wait right here and I'll be right back." It was about 8 weeks after I met Marie that I brought her home and she met my folks. Afterwards, I asked mom if she liked her. "Yes, she seems nice." "Well, I'm gonna marry her." It took almost 3 years and the fifth proposal before Marie said "Yes."


Long time back... well, maybe not TOO long back...60's? Maybe early 70's?... Cher had a hit song, "How do you know if he loves you so? Is it in his arms? No.... Is it in his eyes? No.... It's in his kiss." Is that it? If they're a "good kisser"? Is that it? - One of Marie's friends, throughout their courtship they didn't even kiss. Their first kiss was when the minister said "You may kiss the bride." - Now I'm not necessarily recommending that, but it worked for them. That definitely would not / did not work for us. We did a lot of kissin' back then... still do. Kissin' is a level of intimacy. In some cultures, you greet everyone with a kiss. Maybe on the hand or cheek, but a kiss. Or a hug. Our culture, neither right or wrong just what our customs are, is stepped or progressive. A nod of acknowledgment, a hand-shake, a hug, a kiss, in progressive steps of intimacy or openness. Love and intimacy and vulnerability are things that are generally developed and grown. It's progressive. When people don't develop relationship skills and progress in stages of intimacy, it generally doesn't work. What do I mean by that?

In USA Today (Oct. 19, 2005, pp.1D,2D,7D. "Teens define sex in new ways," "A sense of intimacy appears to be lacking," "'Technical virginity' becomes part of teens' equation") the latest CDC report on teens and sex was released and reported on. It was almost unanimous, over 99% (p.7D), that intercourse is "sex." But only 37.7% of girls and 43.9% of guys consider oral sex to be "sex." (p.2D) "To adults, oral sex is extremely intimate ... What we're learning is that adolescents are redefining what is intimate." According to the report, about 30% of 15 year olds have participated in oral sex and 26% have had intercourse.

The most interesting part of the USA Today articles were the comments that come from psychologists. "Emotionally fulfilling relationships do help teens learn important relationship skills. ... Relationships that are focused on sex tend to be less sustained, often not monogamous and with lower levels of satisfaction." "When the physical part of the relationship races ahead of everything else, ... then they're not developing all the really important skills like trust and communication and all those things that are key ingredients for a healthy, long lasting relationship." - 'Well, I don't intend for this to be long-lasting, it's just for fun now.' But what about later, when you want a trusting, intimate relationship and you have all this 'baggage' of wounds and broken trusts and bruised emotions?

Young people today are having their compasses messed with. They are having a harder time finding a direction that is right, because they are being told, "There is no North. You have the freedom to decide what is 'right' for you. There are no absolute truths. Whatever your parents or the church told you, is something that you can decide to accept or reject for yourself." The irony of this is that they are saying that that is in itself an absolute truth, contradicting what they just said. - - But it isn't just mom or dad or "the church" that has taken a position on sexual and moral purity, it is God. It is the Bible that says to not participate in sexual sin. It says not to commit adultery (married and have sex with someone who is not your spouse) and not to commit fornication (unmarried and have sex, obviously with someone you're not married to). - - See, God knows what's best for you. This casual sex stuff, intercourse, oral, "safer sex" whatever, is damaging the relationships later, damaging the family later, damaging the relationships with your children later, which will damage their relationships and families. Satan's little lie, "It's just sex (or oral sex). It's fun. It feels good (sure it feels good, God designed it to feel good). Be 'safe' and no one gets hurt." Is it safe for your emotions? Is it good for your future spouse?

"Those who do not plan for the future will have to live through it anyway." So let's change perspective here and go back to Cher and (continued on p.2)

 **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.]
 a pretty empty mailbox lately.
 Rich

***Eye Laugh* "Bmup Warning"**
<http://www.cybersalt.org/go.php?id=cw611>
www.cybersalt.org/cleanlaugh/images/04/signbmup.htm

**Beware of things
 that go BMUP in the night.**



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Thanks to Dad Hengeveld (See Genesis 6-8) 07-21-2005

I URGE YOU TO FORGET YOUR DREAMS OF ZOOKEEPING AND SAILING, NOAH ... AND I HAVE TO SAY THAT ALL YOUR GOD TALK IS NOT GOING TO GET YOU VERY FAR IN TODAY'S HEATHEN WORKPLACE

LOVE (continued from p.1)

"How do you know if he loves you?" There's a more recent than Cher country song lyric that says "Love is something that you do." - Did I hear a "Yea!" out there? Sex is not love. "Sex" is obviously very enjoyable otherwise it wouldn't take long and there wouldn't be any people left around. Us "adults" aren't stupid or were never young once. We were. We've "been there."

Was watching the movie "Sandlot 2" on TV last night. Sandlot baseball and the guys vs. 3 girls who want the same lot to play baseball. At age 13 it's just getting started. And the girls mature sooner. There is an interest between the girls and some of the guys. And at 13 they haven't figured out how to relate yet. It's competitive. They compete for the field, and the girl does fast-pitch-softball and the guys can't hit it. The first pitch, he's standing at the plate saying, 'Come on. Throw it.' and the catcher already has it. And the next batter hits it but hits nothing but foul balls. But a couple of them are 'seeing' each other, and obviously don't know what to do.

Well, relationships are like that. We learn and develop interpersonal skills. As we get to meet and know someone, we learn more and more about them and at each level we decide whether to progress to the next level. At each step we become more intimate. Some relationships are very superficial. Some deeper. And as the relationships become deeper and more intimate, the number of people in that circle generally gets smaller. I have lots of acquaintances, like coworkers at school, most have no idea what I do besides teach math. I have only a couple people that we share family prayer concerns with. "Intimacy" has been said to be "In-to-me-see." Marie knows all about me. There are many things that no one else knows but us. Often we say, "It's you and me."

USA Today and other recent articles like "Dorm Brothels" (Christianity Today, February 2005) about coed dorms, coed dorm rooms, coed bathrooms at some schools, even coed showers at one college, and "What to Say at a Naked Party" (Christianity Today, February 2005), are about the pressures being applied to break down the natural progression of growth in intimacy. And this is going to have repercussions later.

And the patterns we build for intimacy and love with people affect how we see God. The Bible describes marriage as the husband loving the wife, just as Christ loves the church. If the husband isn't faithful, what picture of trust and reliability does that paint for the family and the children? We learn a lot of things in our families. Sadly, sometimes, we have to deliberately choose role models outside our family. Maybe an uncle or an "uncle" or a grandfather is a better role model of a father than the father is. We are allowed to pick our role models. Choose carefully.

Love is caring for someone. Love is not seeing what you can get from someone. Love is not sex. Love is wanting the best for someone. Love won't put someone at risk (like pregnancy; even their reputation would want to be protected and defended). Sex is great... in marriage... and is like a glue that holds people together. But sex is not love. Sex is more than an exchange of fluids. There is a spiritual mystery in the giving and sharing of spirits and emotions.

Bible love is prickly and hard. It is sacrificial (is not "for ME"), painful, hard, goes out of it's way for the benefit of others, sacrifices itself. If you love someone, would you put them in danger? If someone loves you... There is a "7th Heaven" TV episode where the pregnant girl says to her boyfriend, "If you really loved me you would have protected me and not had sex with me."

So do you trust God's style of love or are you making up your own definitions of love and intimacy and sex? God designed humans and how their brains and bodies and emotions work. Are you following the Designer's design? Check 1Corinthians 13 for a definition of love.

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: Susan M. 11/4/05

I thought this was a particularly cute analogy.....hope you enjoy it too.

Have You Lost Your Jingle?

Our dog Pierre has several tags on his collar, engraved with all our phone numbers, so that we can be called if he is found (recommended to all pet owners, or try an implanted chip!). Every time he wants to go out, wants us to wake up - or is just especially excited, he shakes, to make himself jingle. It's my favorite sound in the world - I would rather hear that than my very favorite song! But a few months ago, Pierre developed an allergic reaction to a flea prevention treatment. Subsequently, because of the irritation around his neck, we had to keep the collar off when he was indoors. It was so sad; he would shake, but there was just silence! Pierre had lost his jingle.

Have you lost your jingle? Do you still have joy when you read God's word, excitement about attending your house of worship, eager anticipation when you think about prayer time?

Most of us go through "dry" times spiritually. It doesn't mean we are weak in faith. Most godly people go through this at one time or another, and if you don't believe it, read about Nehemiah. It simply means we are human. God often uses those times to teach us, and later to enable us to help others.

How can you recapture your jingle? Try reading the Bible from a fresh version. ASK God to help revitalize your spiritual life. "Ask and you shall receive." God will be delighted to answer this prayer. Spend time with Christians who have a joyous spiritual life; it really is contagious.

If you have lost your jingle, hang in there. It will return, if you are patient and persistent.

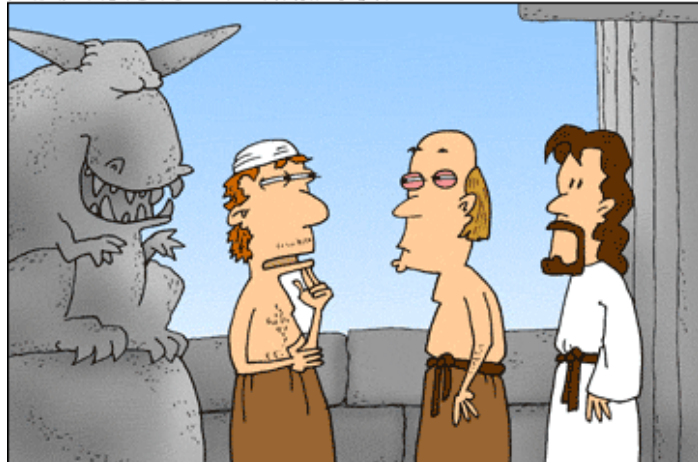
www.http://www.cfdevotionals.org/
 Christian Fellowship Devotionals 2005-11-04

Pass Them On!

The Christian Fellowship Devotionals are written to be passed along via email, printed copies or by passing along our Internet Addresses. www.cfdevotionals.org and www.i-devotions.com. There is no cost for a subscription or to pass along a devotional article that you find helpful to yourself or might help a friend, co-worker or family member.

You can get an encouraging word (almost) every morning selected from several daily devotionals. I have a strong tendency to pick a lot of "Faith@Work", usually add a comment of my own and email it out. Others are Ravi Zacharias, Soul Journey, Chuck Colson, ACTS, Daily Bible Verse from Pastor Keith, 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.

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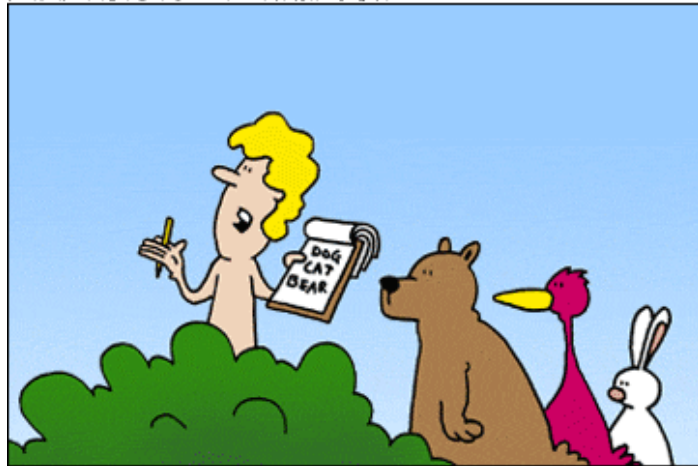


(See Acts 17:16-34)

10-21-2005

HMM ... YOUR GOD SOUNDS PRETTY GOOD, BUT I'D REALLY LIKE TO SEE A REALLY SCARY STATUE OF HIM BEFORE I COMMIT

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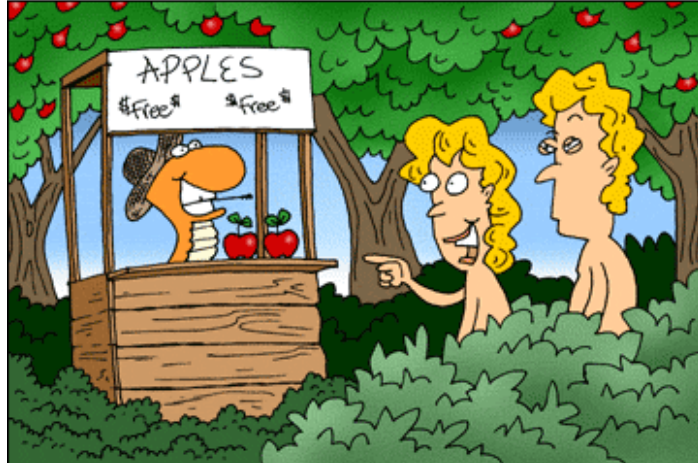


Thanks to George Rudd (See Genesis 2:18-25)

10-05-2005

CAN I DO "CAT" OVER AGAIN? I WAS THINKING OF GOING WITH SOMETHING MORE CREATIVE. LIKE "FELIS DOMESTICUS"

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Thanks to K.C. Armogida (See Genesis 3)

08-30-2005

OH LOOK, ADAM ... A FARMER'S MARKET

I found this article some time ago, got permission to print it, and just never felt the right time to use it till now. I know it's lengthy, but she was 22 when she wrote this and I think it's good.

Subversive Virginity (more matches on this page)

Perhaps virginity seems a bit cold, even haughty and heartless. But virginity hardly has exclusive claim on those defects, if it has any claim at all. Promiscuity offers a significantly worse fate. I have a very dear friend who, sadly, is more worldly-wise than I am. By libertine feminist standards she ought to be proud of her conquests and ready for more, but frequently she isn't. The most telling insight about the shambles of her heart came to me once in a phone conversation when we were....

<http://www.firstthings.com/ftissues/ft9810/opinion/hinlicky.html>

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Subversive Virginity

Sarah E. Hinlicky

Copyright (c) 1998 First Things 88 (October 1998): 14-16.

Okay, I'll admit it: I am twenty-two years old and still a virgin. Not for lack of opportunity, my vanity hastens to add. Had I ever felt unduly burdened by my unfashionable innocence, I could have found someone to attend to the problem. But I never did. Our mainstream culture tells me that some oppressive force must be the cause of my late-in-life virginity, maybe an inordinate fear of men or God or getting caught. Perhaps it's right, since I can pinpoint a number of influences that have persuaded me to remain a virgin. My mother taught me that self-respect requires self-control, and my father taught me to demand the same from men. I'm enough of a country bumpkin to suspect that contraceptives might not be enough to prevent an unwanted pregnancy or disease, and I think that abortion is killing a baby. I buy into all that Christian doctrine of law and promise, which means that the stuffy old commandments are still binding on my conscience. And I'm even naive enough to believe in permanent, exclusive, divinely ordained love between a man and a woman, a love so valuable that it motivates me to keep my legs tightly crossed in the most tempting of situations.

In spite of all this, I still think of myself as something of a feminist, since virginity has the result of creating respect for and upholding the value of the woman so inclined. But I have discovered that the reigning feminism of today has little use for it. There was a time when I was foolish enough to look for literature among women's publications that might offer support in my very personal decision. (It's all about choice, after all, isn't it?) The dearth of information on virginity might lead one to believe that it's a taboo subject. However, I was fortunate enough to discover a short article on it in that revered tome of feminism, *Our Bodies, Ourselves*. The most recent edition of the book has a more positive attitude than the edition before it, in that it acknowledges virginity as a legitimate choice and not just a by-product of patriarchy. Still, in less than a page, it presumes to cover the whole range of emotion and experience involved in virginity, which, it seems, consists simply in the notion that a woman should wait until she's really ready to express her sexuality. That's all there is to say about it. Apparently, sexual expression takes place only in and after the act of genital intercourse. Anything subtler—like a feminine love of cooking or tendency to cry at the movies or unsuppressable maternal instinct or cultivation of a wardrobe that will turn heads or even a passionate good-night kiss—is deemed an inadequate demonstration of sexual identity. The unspoken message of *Our Bodies, Ourselves* is clear enough: as long as a woman is a virgin, she remains completely asexual.

Surprisingly, this attitude has infiltrated the thinking of many women my age, who should still be new enough in the web of lies called adulthood to know better. One of my most vivid college memories is of a conversation with a good friend about my (to her) bizarre aberration of virginity. She and another pal had been delving into the gruesome specifics of their past sexual encounters. Finally, after some time, my friend suddenly exclaimed to me, "How do you do it?"

A little taken aback, I said, "Do what?"

"You know," she answered, a little reluctant, perhaps, to use the big bad V-word. "You still haven't . . . slept with anybody. How do you do it? Don't you *want* to?"

The question intrigued me, because it was so utterly beside the point. Of course I want to—what a strange question!—but mere wanting is hardly a proper guide for moral conduct. I assured my concerned friend that my libido was still in proper working order, but then I had to come up with a good reason why I had been paying attention to my inhibitions for all these years. I offered the usual reasons—emotional and physical health, religious convictions, "saving myself" till marriage—but nothing convinced her until I said, "I guess I don't know what I'm missing." She was satisfied with that and ended the conversation.

In one sense, sure, I don't know what I'm missing. And it is common enough among those who *do* know what they're missing to go to great lengths to insure that they don't miss it for very long. In another sense, though, I could list a lot of things that I do know I'm missing: hurt, betrayal, anxiety, self-deception, fear, suspicion, anger, confusion, and the horror of having been used. And those are only emotional aspects; there is also disease, unwanted pregnancy, and abortion. As if to prove my case from the other side, my friend suffered a traumatic betrayal within a month or two of our conversation. It turned out that the man involved would gladly sleep with her, but refused to have a "real relationship"—a sad reality she discovered only after the fact.

According to received feminist wisdom, sexuality is to be understood through the twin concepts of power and choice. It's not a matter of anything so banally biological as producing children, or even the more elevated notion of creating intimacy and trust. Sometimes it seems like sex isn't even supposed to be fun. The purpose of female sexuality is to assert power over hapless men, for control, revenge, self-centered pleasure, or forcing a commitment. A woman who declines to express herself in sexual activity, then, has fallen prey to a male-dominated society that wishes to prevent women from becoming powerful. By contrast, it is said, a woman who does become sexually active discovers her power over men and exercises it, supposedly to her personal enhancement.

This is an absurd lie. That kind of gender-war sexuality results only in pyrrhic victories. It's a set-up for disaster, especially for women. Men aren't the ones who get pregnant. And who ever heard of a man purchasing a glossy magazine to learn the secret of snagging a wife? Sacrifice and the relinquishing of power are natural to women—ask any mom—and they are also the secret of feminine appeal. The pretense that aggression and power-mongering are the only options for female sexual success has opened the door to predatory men. The imbalance of power becomes greater than ever in a culture of easy access.

Against this system of mutual exploitation stands the more compelling alternative of virginity. It escapes the ruthless cycle of winning and losing because it refuses to play the game. The promiscuous of both sexes will take their cheap shots at one another, disguising infidelity and selfishness as freedom and independence, and blaming the aftermath on one another. But no one can claim control over a virgin. Virginity is not a matter of asserting power in order to manipulate. It is a refusal to exploit or be

exploited. That is real, and responsible, power.

But there is more to it than mere escape. There is an undeniable appeal in virginity, something that eludes the resentful feminist's contemptuous label of "prude." A virgin woman is an unattainable object of desire, and it is precisely her unattainability that increases her desirability. Feminism has told a lie in defense of its own promiscuity, namely, that there is no sexual power to be found in virginity. On the contrary, virgin sexuality has extraordinary and unusual power. There's no second-guessing a virgin's motives: her strength comes from a source beyond her transitory whims. It is sexuality dedicated to hope, to the future, to marital love, to children, and to God. Her virginity is, at the same time, a statement of her mature independence from men. It allows a woman to become a whole person in her own right, without needing a man either to revolt against or to complete what she lacks. It is very simple, really: no matter how wonderful, charming, handsome, intelligent, thoughtful, rich, or persuasive he is, he simply cannot have her. A virgin is perfectly unpossessable. Of course, there have been some women who have attempted to claim this independence from men by turning in on themselves and opting for lesbian sexuality instead. But this is just another, perhaps deeper, rejection of their femaleness. The sexes rightly define themselves in their otherness. Lesbianism squelches the design of otherness by drowning womanhood in a sea of sameness, and in the process loses any concept of what makes the female feminine. Virginity upholds simply and honestly that which is valuable in and unique to women.

The corollary of power is choice. Again, the feminist assumes that sexually powerful women will be able to choose their own fates. And again, it is a lie. No one can engage in extramarital sex and then control it. Nowhere is this more apparent than in the moral nightmare of our society's breakdown since the sexual revolution. Some time ago I saw on TV the introduction of the groundbreaking new "female condom." A spokeswoman at a press conference celebrating its grand opening declared joyously the new freedom that it gave to women. "Now women have more bargaining power," she said. "If a man says that he refuses to wear a condom, the woman can counter, fine, I will!" I was dumbstruck by her enthusiasm for the dynamics of the new situation. Why on earth would two people harboring so much animosity towards each other contemplate a sexual encounter? What an appealing choice they have been given the freedom to make!

The dark reality, of course, is that it is not free choice at all when women must convince men to love them and must convince themselves that they are more than just "used goods." There are so many young women I have known for whom freely chosen sexual activity means a brief moment of pleasure—if that—followed by the unchosen side effects of paralyzing uncertainty, anger at the man involved, and finally a deep self-hatred that is impenetrable by feminist analysis. 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.

Admittedly, there are some who say that sex isn't anything nearly so serious or important, but just another recreational activity not substantially different from ping-pong. I don't believe it for a second. I learned most meaningfully from another woman the destructive force of sexuality out of control when I myself was under considerable pressure to cave in to a man's sexual demands. I discussed the prospect with this friend, and after some time she finally said to me, "Don't do it. So far in life you've made all the right choices and I've made all the wrong ones. I care enough about you that I don't want to see you end up like me." Naturally, that made up

my mind. Sex does matter; it matters a lot; and I can only hope that those who deny it will wake up to their error before they damage themselves even more.

It is appalling that feminism has propagated lies so destructive to women. It has created the illusion that there is no room for self-discovery outside of sexual behavior. Not only is this a grotesque lie, but it is also an utterly *boring* one. Aside from its implied dismissal of all the world's many riches outside the sexual domain, this false concept has placed stultifying limitations on the range of human relationships. We're told that friendships between men and women are just a cover until they leap into the sack together. While romance is a natural and commendable expression of love between women and men, it is simply not the only option. And in our sexually competitive climate, even romantic love barely deserves the title. Virginity among those seeking marital love would go far to improve the latter's solidity and permanence, creating an atmosphere of honesty and discovery *before* the equally necessary and longed-for consummation.

Where feminism sees freedom from men by placing body parts at their disposal in a bizarre game of self-deception, virginity recognizes the equally vulnerable though often overlooked state of men's own hearts and seeks a way to love them for real.

It is puzzling and disturbing to me that regnant feminism has never acknowledged the empowering value of virginity. I tend to think that much of the feminist agenda is more invested in the culture of groundless autonomy and sexual Darwinism than it is in genuinely uplifting women. Of course, virginity is a battle against sexual temptation, and popular culture always opts for the easy way out instead of the character-building struggle. The result is superficial women formed by meaningless choices, worthy of stereotype, rather than laudable women of character, worthy of respect.

Perhaps virginity seems a bit cold, even haughty and heartless. But virginity hardly has exclusive claim on those defects, if it has any claim at all. Promiscuity offers a significantly worse fate. I have a very dear friend who, sadly, is more worldly-wise than I am. By libertine feminist standards she ought to be proud of her conquests and ready for more, but frequently she isn't.

The most telling insight about the shambles of her heart came to me once in a phone conversation when we were speculating about our futures. Generally they are filled with exotic travel and adventure and PhDs. This time, however, they were not. She admitted to me that what she really wanted was to be living on a farm in rural Connecticut, raising a horde of children and embroidering tea towels. It is a lovely dream, defiantly unambitious and domestic. But her short, failed sexual relationships haven't taken her any closer to her dream and have left her little hope that she'll ever attain it. I must be honest here: virginity hasn't landed me on a farm in rural Connecticut, either. Sexual innocence is not a guarantee against heartbreak. But there is a crucial difference: I haven't lost a part of myself to someone who has subsequently spurned it, rejected it, and perhaps never cared for it at all.

I sincerely hope that virginity will not be a lifetime project for me. Quite the contrary, my subversive commitment to virginity serves as preparation for another commitment, for loving one man completely and exclusively. Admittedly, there is a minor frustration in my love: I haven't met the man yet (at least, not to my knowledge). But hope, which does not disappoint, sustains me.

Sarah E. Hinlicky, a writer living in New York City, was an Editorial Assistant at *First Things*.

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.

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 Daily Encounter ~ Wednesday, July 6, 2005
 Know God: http://www.Got-God.net/know_god1.htm
www.ACTSweb.org Store: www.actscom.com/store
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By Richard (Dick) Innes. Published and (c)
 by ACTS International <http://www.actsweb.org>
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Today's Daily Encounter
 1. Lessons From Geese

"There are different kinds of service in the church, but it is the same Lord we are serving. There are different ways God works in our lives, but it is the same God who does the work through all of us. A spiritual gift is given to each of us as a means of helping the entire church" (1 Corinthians 12:5-7, NTL).

Fascinated by the conduct of flying geese, Dr. Robert McNeish, wrote "Lessons From Geese" for a sermon in his church in 1972. Demonstrating the power of a good idea, his essay spread and has become a classic statement of the importance of teamwork.

Fact: As each goose flaps its wings, it creates an "uplift" for the birds that follow. By flying in a "V" formation, the whole flock adds 71 percent greater flying range than if each bird flew alone.

Lesson: People who share a common direction and sense of community can get where they are going more quickly and easily because they are traveling on the thrust of one another.

Fact: When the lead goose tires, it rotates back into formation and another goose flies to the point position.

Lesson: It pays to take turns doing the hard tasks and sharing leadership. As with geese, people are interdependent on each other's skills, capabilities and unique arrangements of gifts, talents or resources.

Fact: The geese flying in formation honk to encourage those up front to keep up their speed.

Lesson: We need to make sure our honking is encouraging. In groups where there is encouragement, the production is much greater. The power of encouragement (to stand by one's heart or core values and encourage the heart and core of others) is the quality of honking we seek.

Fact: When a goose gets sick, wounded or shot down, two geese drop out of formation and follow it to help and protect it. They stay with it until it dies or is able to fly again. Then they launch out with another formation or catch up with the flock.

Lesson: If we have as much sense as geese, we will stand by each other in difficult times as well as when we are strong.

Fact: When a goose falls out of formation, it suddenly feels the drag and resistance of flying alone. It quickly moves back into formation to take advantage of the lifting power of the bird immediately in front of it.

Lesson: If we have as much sense as a goose, we stay in formation with those headed where we want to go. We are willing to accept their help and give our help to others.1

Suggested prayer: "Dear God, please help me to know what my God-given gifts are, develop them, and use them to work in harmony with others to help do your work in your church here on earth. Thank you for hearing and answering my prayer. Gratefully, in Jesus' name, amen."

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1. Cited on Character Counts www.charactercounts.org. For verification of the author see research by Sue Widemark at: <http://suewidemark.com/lessonsgeese.htm>

2. To Know God and be sure you're a real Christian without having to be religious click on: <http://tinyurl.com/8glq9> (or cut and paste the URL in your browser). - - Is also the first link on the page of Resources at www.CrimsonWhite.org.

Pastor Keith

All my friends tell me peer pressure is cool.

Someone who had their 105th birthday was asked what is one thing that is great about being 105 years old. They replied, "No peer pressure."

What if... what if there was peer pressure to be sexually promiscuous, casual sex, drinking, ... all that? ... What if you surrounded yourself with other Christians? What if you encouraged each other (peer pressure) to maintain a standard of purity, holiness, church involvement, a regular devotional time together, and character? What if you encouraged each other to talk to others about Jesus?

<http://www.heritage.org/Research/Family/cda0304.cfm>

Sexually Active Teenagers Are More Likely to Be Depressed and to Attempt Suicide

by Robert E. Rector, Kirk A. Johnson, Ph.D., and Lauren R. Noyes
 Center for Data Analysis Report #03-04 - - June 3, 2003

Read the whole report at the website. - My very abbreviated summary... Data from 6,500 subjects. Good data and methods. You might think those teens that are sexually active are "free," "unrestrained," "enjoying all of life's experiences," "happy." Actually they have a THREE times HIGHER rate of depression and suicide attempts. ... See? God says be not sexually impure. It's healthier for you. God only wants what's BEST for you. "God's rules don't restrict you, they keep you from consequences."

Mostly just for fun...

————— Guaranteed to Roll Your Eyes —————

Proper attire is required in the cafeteria at the University of Maine. To enforce that rule, the management posted this notice: "Shoes are required to eat in this cafeteria."

Next to it, a student added, "Socks can eat wherever they want."

Spelling Information

"Information? I need the number of the Caseway Insurance Company."

"Would you spell that, please?"

"Certainly. C as in sea. A as in eye. S as in sea. E as in eye. W as in why. A as in are. Y as in you."

"Just a minute, sir. I'll connect you with my supervisor."

Deer Prayer

The Wednesday-night church service coincided with the last day of hunting season.

Our pastor asked who had bagged a deer.

No one raised a hand.

Puzzled, the pastor said, "I don't get it. Last Sunday many of you said you were missing because of hunting season. I had the whole congregation pray for your deer."

One hunter groaned, "Well, it worked. They're all safe."

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> A Sunday School teacher asked her class why Joseph and Mary took Jesus with them to Jerusalem. A small child replied: "They couldn't get a baby sitter."

> #####

> A Sunday school teacher was discussing the Ten Commandments with her five and six year olds. After explaining the commandment to "honor thy father and thy mother," she asked "Is there a commandment that teaches us how to treat our brothers and sisters?" Without missing a beat one little boy answered, "Thou shall not kill."

Another teacher told me about "Trunk Monkey." It started as a wacky promotion for Trunk Monkey Racing ... I think it's hilarious. Go to www.TrunkMonkey.com scroll down to the Trunk Monkey Videos. My personal choices: #1 and #5. #2 is especially great for Halloween.

Share with someone

Giving a friend a copy of this letter and asking them if they would like to get it too, is an easy way of witnessing and starting a conversation about God.

If you'd like to be on our mail/prayer list, and have the Crimson & White Connection mailed free each month, fill this out and mail it to:

4401 Wild Oak Lane, Greensboro, NC 27406-8306

*** or email to Rdymmel@AOL.com ***

Under 18 requires a parental approval SIGNATURE please.

- No thank you, remove my name
- Please send ONE SAMPLE ISSUE to evaluate
To subscribe, check 'Yes' below and fill in completely.
- Yes, Please include me (signature)

Under 18? Parental permission : _____
I've read the _____ issue, send the next one, please.

Please tell us how you found out about the C&WC. _____

Name _____

Home address _____

City, St. ZIP _____

Phone (_____) _____

Home e-mail address _____

Birthdate _____

School: _____

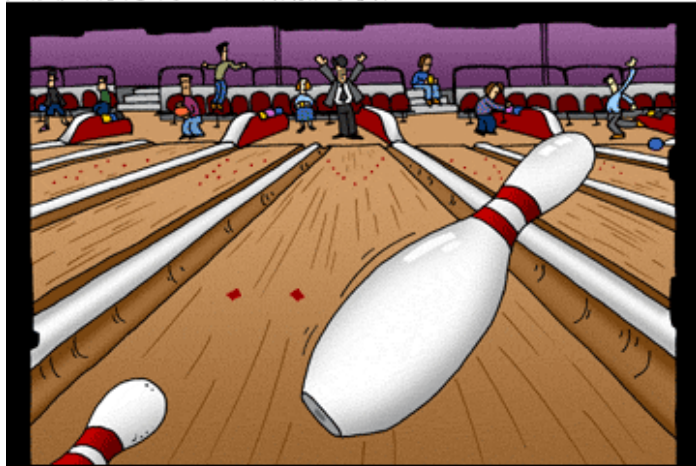
____ in the Fall or ____ now, I am in (what grade/year) ...

8 9 10 11 12 HSgrad. F S J S Col.grad. GrdSch PGR

'at-school' address, if different _____

City, St. ZIP _____

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Thanks to Tim. (See Matthew 17:20)

08-02-2005

SOME FOLKS BELIEVE PASTOR USED HIS FAITH TO MOVE THAT BOWLING PIN THAT DAY

Becoming a Christian: A-B-C

A – Admit that you're a sinner. You just can't meet God's standard. The Bible says, "All have sinned and come short of the glory of God." Romans 3:23 (also see 1 John 1:8).

B – Believe that Jesus was the Son of God and died in your place, took the punishment for you. The Bible says, "For God so loved the world (that includes you) that he gave His only begotten son (that's Jesus) that whosoever (that's you again) believes in Him should not perish (that's saved from eternal death, Hell) but have eternal life (given eternal life with God, that's "salvation" or to "be saved")." John 3:16

C – Confess your sin to God. – The Bible says, "If we confess (own up to) our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleans us..." 1John 1:9.

Want Jesus in your life? Pray this prayer: "Lord Jesus, I confess to You my sin and need to be saved. I turn away from my old sin and place my trust and faith in You as the only way to be saved." Now contact your pastor, or contact us at 1-336-674-7564, or call 1-888-NEED-HIM, and say, "I just asked Jesus to be my Lord."

Crimson & White Connection

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Nov. 5, 2005
LOVE? Love and Intimacy and Sex
Subversive Virginity
Have You Lost Your Jingle?
Lressons from geese

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.

From what we get, we can make a living; from what we give, however, makes a life.

Those who do not plan for the future will have to live through it anyway.
Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.
Psalm 90:12