

# The Sword AND Staff

*"Preach the Word." (II Timothy 4:2)*

*"Feed the Flock." (I Peter 5:2)*

## Prevailing Attitude Is 'Live and Let Live'

# Student Views on Sex, Morality

By Janice Gaston

Staff Reporter

At a time when sex manuals top the best seller charts, when magazine articles proclaim the "sexual revolution" and the "new morality," the question arises: What is this doing to young people?

With colleges liberalizing their rules, students have much more opportunity for sexual activity than they did five years ago. Women have keys to their dormitories and can stay out all night if they wish.

Visiting in men's and women's dormitories is allowed at most schools, on an unlimited basis in some, and there are dormitories that house both men and women. And men sometimes sleep in women's rooms overnight. At one school, a girl said, "Everybody knows when there's a guy in the wing — nobody hassles you. You just have to respect your roommate's rights."

### New Freedom

The elimination of fear of pregnancy, by using the birth control pill, has freed many women from sexual abstinence. Pills are available at some college infirmaries, from private doctors and from family planning clinics.

At one school, a student estimated that more than half of the women in her dormitory were "on the pill." A second student verified the statement, while a third

called it a "conservative" estimate.

This would seem to indicate that, at least at that school, quite a few women are sexually active. But who's to say that just as many were active, although more worried about it, before the pill.

Earlier this year, a student at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro caused a furor when she told a Charlotte newspaper editor that premarital sex was rampant on the Greensboro campus.

Students, parents and administrators were furious and denied, among other things, that UNC-G was "any worse than anyplace else."

Since statistics on such matters aren't kept, there's no way to prove whether more people are having premarital sexual relations today than ever before or whether things are "any worse" at one campus than at another.

But, according to one student, "More people are feeling more free about doing more stuff."

To find out the attitudes toward sex among college students today, a reporter visited several North Carolina colleges and universities, including Salem College, Wake Forest University, Duke University, Guilford College, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and UNC-G.

### Opposing Views

In talks with dozens of

students, many contradictory opinions were heard. But several conclusions emerged:

—It is difficult to determine the amount of sexual activity that took place several years ago because people just weren't talking then.

—Students who are having sexual relations today are more likely to admit it and those who aren't are less apt to condemn another for doing so.

—Sex is not confined to couples who are officially engaged or even thinking about marriage.

—The definition of a "nice" girl has changed.

—Most men no longer expect their brides to be virgins.

"Things have changed, especially in the South," a senior student said. Whatever people are doing, they're willing to talk about it, she said.

During her freshman year, she said, "drugs and sex were unmentionables. They're more freely discussed now. People know who's on the pill. Everybody reads Reuben, Masters and Johnson, 'The Sensuous Woman,' 'The Sensuous Man' and 'The Sensuous Couple.'"

A male student at another school said, "People aren't going to hide it. Now you can talk about it in mixed company. Usually when sex is brought up, it's on a rational and serious level."

This presents quite a contrast to the days when gossip sessions centered on "does she or doesn't she?"

### Gossip Going

"The gossip is fading out," one student said. "A lot believe it's a personal thing — not everybody's business anymore. You can't keep up with everybody's sex life."

One college sophomore, comparing the situation in college with that in high school, said, "People here don't have established standards they try to impose on one another. In high school, they set a limit in which a person had to stay to retain respectability."

Many college freshmen have lived sheltered lives and are shocked when they find that their friends are sleeping with their boyfriends.

"Freshman year is a change of pace," one girl said. "You take your stand then."

### Vow to Self

Some vow to remain virginal until they marry and condemn those who don't. Others lose their virginity and wish they hadn't. "People say they don't care, but they do," one girl said. "Some really worry about it and put up a front."

But for the most part, people really DON'T care. The prevailing attitude seems to be: "If you want to, fine. If you don't want to, that's

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## Proverbs of Today

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*You must have a personal encounter with yourself before you can have a personal relationship with God.*

*"It's easy to make a mountain out of a mole hill — all you have to do is to add dirt."*

*Your ownership of a television set may not arbitrarily keep you out of heaven, but it can easily send your soul to hell.*

*"Faith feeds on 'impossible' things and grows in the hard places."*

*The preacher who "waters down" his preaching to get a big following will be followed into hell.*

*"When people are forced to eat their own words, they wish they had made them a little sweeter."*

*If you feel more "at home," at ease, around sinners than you do with Christians, you had better re-examine your Christianity.*

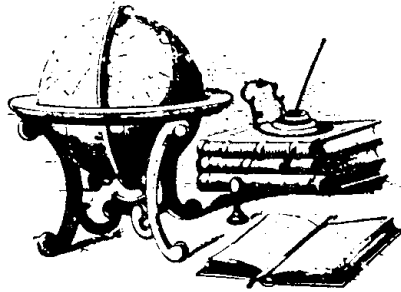
*"Do good to thy friend to keep him, to thine enemy to gain him."*

*If the Holy Spirit does not personally indwell in the life of the Christian, He does not indwell at all.*

*"Blessed is the man who knows what he doesn't know as well as what he does know."*

*The Holy Spirit is the person, power, and providence of God at work in the Christian's life.*

*"A man who is prepared has the battle half fought."*



## EDITORIAL COMMENTS...

### BE ALERTED TO GOD'S STANDARDS

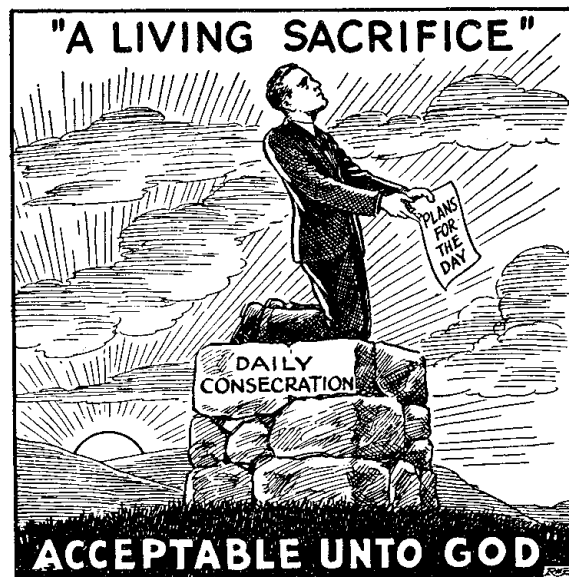
WE ARE LIVING IN A TIME of moral decay and uncertainty. Pseudo-religious leaders, compromising and retreating, have not faced up to this. They have given forth uncertain sounds. To them, in essence, our crisis has been eliminated by the introduction of the so-called "new morality." Right or wrong is not determined by a "legal" standard (thus doing away with absolutes), but by the situation. Thus, what the "old fashioned" concept would call sin is not necessarily so today. Such is bearing its unseemly fruit in the midst of our land.

Starting on the front page of this paper, we have reprinted an article from the April 7th issue of the WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL (a daily newspaper). We present this to inform, alert and alarm.

When a people start to go down, and they go down, in their morals in reference to sex, they have reached the bottom. Sodom and Gomorrah, and the Canaanite nations of the past show us that a people practicing sexual perversion are the objects of God's most intense wrath.

May the people of our day be alerted and return to God's standards before it is too late. □

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# Showing HONOR and RESPECT



• By JAMES E. GIBBONS

IT IS NEEDLESS for us to remind you of this—even the secular magazines are talking about it—but we are living in a society that is increasingly permissive in the abandonment of morals and the old established standards. There is talk of a moral crisis. Ancient landmarks, which have proved their truthfulness and worth by use, are being removed. It seems to us that freedom is being abused, and, if not checked, will consume itself. The fruit of permissiveness is showing itself in a general attitude of disrespect. Disrespect for parents and older people, disrespect for law and order, and a disrespect for that which is holy and sacred—all of this can be seen. Sex is no longer regarded as holy, and marriage is being lightly esteemed. Divorce is on the increase. The Hollywood (and other) film-producers, worshiping the God of money, continually grind out their unsavory productions, showing honor and respect for nothing. For them all the old taboos are gone. Even death itself is presented as a burlesque joke.

In a day when men are increasingly selfish, showing little honor and respect for anything, let us call attention to such Scriptures as I Peter 2:17, "Honour all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honour the king." These admonitions are needed today. If we are to be honorable people, we must show honor and respect.

## I. SHOWING HONOR AND RESPECT TO YOURSELF.

First, we should show honor and respect to ourselves. Our understanding of just who and what we are will determine what kind of honor we bestow upon ourselves. If we have a spiritual concept of ourselves, this honor will be one thing. However, if we have a materialistic, worldly concept, it will be quite another.

Just who are you? Just who are we? Genesis 1:26 tells us that God made man in His own image, in His own likeness. That "image" is not this physical body, which God has given us to be used in this present environment, but the spiritual part of man (God is Spirit, John 4:24). Man is not a body with a spirit, but a spirit with a body. We are beings of eternity.

The Psalmist asked, "What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him? For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and

hast crowned him with glory and honour" (Psalms 8:4,5). Yes, God has placed glory and honor upon us, and we should practice honor and self-respect.

God's special regard for man can be seen in this Scripture: "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16). Such Scriptures as Matthew 16:26 show us that one man's soul is worth more than the whole physical world.

Just who or what is man? As a Christian we are God's own special possession bought by the precious blood of Jesus, a temple wherein He takes His abode. Listen. "What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's" (I Cor. 6:19,20).

Beloved, if we believe these things, we will respect and honor ourselves, not in a vainglorious worldly sense, not in a pampering and self-indulging of the flesh, but in a humble, spiritual sense. We are made in God's image. We are the temple of the Holy Spirit, a temple wherein God lives. Our every thought and action should be compatible with the fact that we are now a temple. We practice self-respect.

But we are living in a day and time when people do not respect themselves (and this is mainly because they do not respect God). This can be seen in the careless speech people use, not only taking God's name in vain in many ways, but spewing out dirty, profane, and vulgar talk. This is increasingly common today—even among children and women. It makes a person feel "creepy" to hear such talk. There is no self-respect.

People do not respect themselves when they are given to strong drink, drugs, and the use of tobacco. Drugs are more recent on the scene, but strong drink and tobacco are just as common as everyday life. If you claim to be a Christian, however, you must regard your body as the temple of God. It is not to be destroyed, abused, or defiled. Paul wrote, "If any man defile (footnote: destroy) the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for which temple ye are" (I Cor. 3:17; 6:19,20; II Cor. 7:1).

People do not respect themselves as seen in the way they dress today (or, should we say, undress?). To look sexy and vainglorious is most desirable by the standards of this world (just look at women's magazines which emphasizes fashion and clothing advertisements in general; this statement cannot be denied). Short dresses are worn that could be no shorter and still be called dresses. There is no self-respect. There is no modesty. There is no blushing. Our shame today is that there is no shame (no sense of shame). (But shame on mothers who want to be in style with this ungodly world in these matters and do not teach their daughters any better. Shame... shame!). God properly clothed Adam and Eve as they were leaving the Garden of Eden, the shame of nakedness is presented throughout the Old Testament, and modest apparel is plainly taught in the New Testament (I Timothy 2:9; I Peter 3). Jesus said that if a man looked upon a woman to lust after her he was guilty of adultery (Matthew 5:28). We can expect the women of the world to desire the lustful glances of sinful men, but Christian women are supposed to be different. They should dress differently. The writer of Proverbs wrote: "As a jewel of gold in a swine's snout,

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# SWEDEN'S WAR ON THE FAMILY

In 1968 the Swedish government issued a report called "The Status of Women in Sweden." Stockholm's Socialist daily *Aftonbladet* headlined its story, "Women, Don't Let a Man Support You!" (Sept. 28, 1968, p. 1), and commented (favorably), "The government is making an assault on marriage . . . . The place of woman is in the labor-market, not the home."

The following year the Swedish minister of justice established a committee to study the abolition of marriage in the old sense. The new laws accomplishing this abolition may be enacted to take effect on July 1, 1973, according to *Svenska Dagbladet* (June 8, 1972, p. 7). They will mean the end of both religious and civil marriage ceremonies. A simple notification will replace both marriage and—after a three- or six-month "period of reflection"—divorce. Marriage will officially mean little more for a couple than a common address—there are no special duties or rights.

The Swedish tax reforms of 1970 had already abolished all the tax advantages of marriage. In fact, not only do children born out of wedlock now receive larger state subsidies than those born to a married couple, but unmarried parents get a better tax break and the children get a better deal at the state-run day nurseries.

Proposed new laws would pressure all children to attend state day nurseries from age six months. The official Swedish Investigation Commission for Day Nurseries has this to say: "The children need to experience alternative systems of values and norms. . . ." The compulsory state nursery must come because "it offers more models of imitation and identification than the parents." Mrs. Alva Myrdal, Sweden's atheistic minister for church affairs, has publicly declared that the government will pay no attention to "orthodox zealots" who object to this obligatory state program; the state will never permit Christians to split society."

Another aspect of the Swedish government's strategy for becoming the only determining factor in the education of children is the obligatory teaching in sex-education courses that sexual relationships are more or less acceptable at any age. There is a campaign against parents who "poison children with Christian morality."

When Sweden's present minority prime minister, Olof Palmé, was minister of education, he proclaimed the

state's intention to force the closure of Sweden's few remaining private schools (then numbering fifty, now about twenty). Compulsory state religious instruction aims, according to Bishop Bo Giertz of Gothenburg, at creating skeptics and atheists. In 1971 thousands of Christians protested this tightening state monopoly to U Thant, then secretary general of the United Nations. A small group of Lutherans has opened a court action against the Swedish government before the Commission on Human Rights of the Council of Europe in Strasbourg. The Swedish government was one of the prime movers in forcing Greece out of the Council of Europe because of alleged lack of democratic freedoms there.

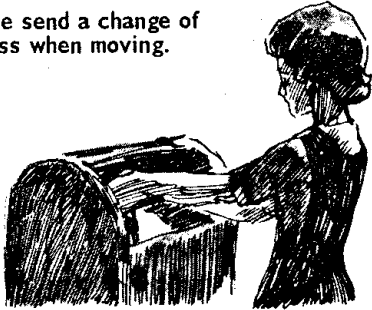
An action committee led by twenty-eight representatives of religious and political groups has launched an appeal "Rädda Familjen!" (Save the family!) in an attempt to alert Swedes to the implications of what their government

is planning. So far the appeal has made little headway. An ideological indifference has characterized most Swedes since the Social Democrats began their unbroken reign forty years ago.

The present Social Democratic government controls 48 per cent of the seats in the Riksdag, and can maintain itself in power only because the Communists (3 per cent) do not vote against it.

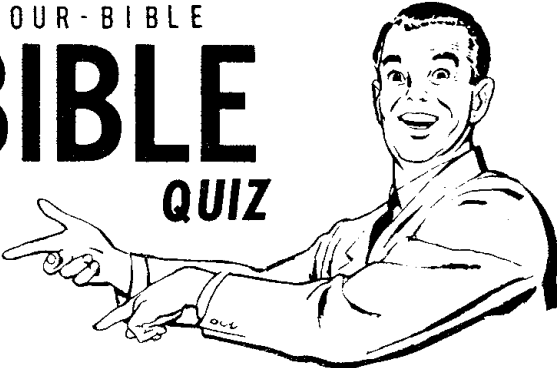
TOM G. A. HARDT  
—CHRISTIANITY TODAY

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## KNOW-YOUR-BIBLE

# BIBLE QUIZ



1. On which day did God make light?
2. "And \_\_\_\_\_ walked with God: and he was not; for God took him."
3. Where was the tower of Babel built?
4. What did the Jews do, or what were they supposed to do, in the year of Jubile?
5. How is the expression "whoring" used many times in the Old Testament Scriptures?
6. "Wine is a \_\_\_\_\_, strong drink is \_\_\_\_\_: and whosoever is deceived thereby is not \_\_\_\_\_."
7. Who does Jesus denounce and sharply rebuke in the 23rd chapter of Matthew?
8. According to Jesus, the Day of Judgment will be like a shepherd doing what?
9. Where did Jesus tell his disciples he would meet them after his resurrection?
10. What man and his family in Corinth, who were "the firstfruits of Achaia," had given themselves to "the ministry of the saints"?

(Answers found elsewhere in this issue)

# A Question of IDENTITY

• By Curtis Dickinson

A professional football player was heard to say that he was quitting football in order to try to "find himself". Millions of young people joined the "hippie movement" of the 60's in the search for a purpose and reason for life. Millions more throng the college campuses with the haunting fear that they are only numbers, living computer cards, destined to go through life without living as persons, never knowing what it is all for, ever asking, "Who am I?"

A person can know himself only in relation to his Creator, a relationship as clay to the potter. The clay takes on meaning when it begins to be what is intended by the potter. The potter gives it form and fits it for use, then gives it a name—pitcher, vase or bowl. Meaning for the clay originates in the mind of the potter.

The human being is created by God for the purpose which originates in the mind of the Creator. A person knows his purpose only by knowing the Creator and what He designs to create.

The Psalmist wrote, "I will give thanks unto thee, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made." (Psalm 130:14) He is thrilled in knowing that he is created, seeing in his creation a marvelous, wonderful demonstration of the Creator's infinite power and magnificent purpose. I am not a mere happenstance. I am a product of infinite wisdom and care.

Modern education has undermined today's children by denying them the knowledge of this basic fact, that they are created by a loving, wise, just and merciful God. What kind of character is to be expected of the person who sees himself as the chance product of "nature"? What purpose can exist for something that is a mere step in the purposeless ladder of evolutionary development? Who am I? The ten-billionth stage of growth of a cell that began in primordial ooze 60 billion years ago? Even the thought of such meaninglessness chills the mind.

And to think that today's children are compelled to sit under such teaching practically one third of the time, many of them continuing in public class rooms through college until they are past the twenty-second birthday. The official doctrine of the state school system is atheistic evolution, with the truth of God's creation attempted only by a small minority of brave teachers who are generally ignored. Thus the very system that is supported for the purpose of education leaves the young people without purpose and direction, and apt to follow whatever voice is the loudest.

It is God's intent that His purpose be seen in Christ. "Seeing it is God, that said, Light shall shine out of darkness, who shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ" (II Corinthians 4:6).

Moses said, "A prophet shall the Lord God raise up unto you from among your brethren, like unto me; to him shall ye hearken in all things whatsoever he shall speak unto you. And it shall be, that every soul that shall not hearken to this prophet shall be utterly destroyed from among the people. Yea and all the prophets from Samuel and them that followed after, as many as have spoken, they also told of these days" (Acts 3:22-24). Peter affirmed that Jesus is the One to whom Moses and all the prophets pointed. Now that He has come, His word is the foundation for all of life.

The result of rejecting the Creator's design was stated by Moses as utter destruction. God is the Potter, and has the

perfect right to destroy all those who reject His specifications, who are spoken of as "vessels fitted for destruction" (Rom. 9:22).

Jesus boldly claimed, "I am the way, the truth and the life. No man cometh unto the Father but by me" (John 14:6). What could He mean but that all of life is to be lived His way, that the truth about life's purpose is stated in His commandments and promises, and that He is the authority over life? You reach the ultimate image of God, and receive eternal life ONLY by being in Christ.

As the educational process conditions people further away from Christ, gathering momentum through the media and the legislators who cowardly seek votes rather than righteousness, the gap widens between the followers of Christ and the rest. Yet, the Christian must work in the world and even bear a message to it, a witness of his own faith and fellowship in Christ. The result is that more and more he finds himself out of step with his peers, often isolated and even treated with hostility because his allegiance is to Christ's kingdom rather than to the kingdoms of the world.

Elijah lived in a time like our own in that the official religion was idolatry, and the teachers of godlessness filled the land. The Queen alone had 850 prophets of Baal under her hire, and altars to the corrupt gods and goddesses of sex and perversion were to be found everywhere.



When Elijah spoke against the evils that were corrupting the land he was accused by the King as the "troubler of Israel". The King had the full force of official religion behind him. The man who was giving his life to God for the sake of the nation was the one accused of being the enemy. Such is not uncommon today.

Elijah, refusing to unite and identify with unbelievers, was convinced that his efforts were futile because he was alone. But God declared that

he had "seven thousand in Israel, all the knees which have not bowed unto Baal" (I Kings 19:18).

While all Christians are not given the role of Elijah, many are receiving the same treatment as he did. It may be popular to belong to a church, but it isn't popular to take your witness of Christ into the office, the workshop, or the schoolhouse. Many are despised because they will not participate in dishonesty, profanity, impure conversation and the general tone of immorality that prevails. One man told me that while most of his office force were church members, none of them wanted to hear anything about Christ. This attitude is common.

But we are not called to identify with all those around us. In fact, this is one thing we are warned against. "Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees," warned Jesus. "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world" (I John 2:15). "If the world hateth you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you" (John 15:18). Why such warnings? Because man is always tempted to find power and security in the crowd, in unity, like the builders of Babel, and the urge for unity is often stronger than the will to stand with Christ and to be identified with Him.

Yet this is faith, to believe God, though all the world unites against Him. And while there are 7,000 other believers, it is each believer's part to face the idolatry in the strength of Christ—"I can do all things in Him who strengthens me" (Phil. 4:13) and not by the power of the Ministerial Alliance, The Evangelistic Association or The Crusade.

At this point another, more subtle, temptation appears. Religious movements and organizations arise to meet the

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# A QUESTION OF IDENTITY...

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force of the world with the force of organized religion. The subtle implication is that you cannot rely upon Christ alone; you also need the power of man's creations. Power is conceived as bigness. Bigness is realized in being able to sum up all the "members" who are united around a certain movement, or convention or school or publishing house. The greater this body of unity, the more it is convinced that IT is the right one, that all who identify with it are on the "right" side. The Christian is made to feel that he is outside the Kingdom, unless he unites with the group. He is a misfit, an oddball, a fanatic, even an enemy of the Faith.

There is a "unity of the Spirit" which we are commanded to keep (Eph. 4:3). It is the unity formed by our identification with Christ and our fellowship IN HIM. The only other identification needed is with a local assembly of believers. But there are those who would make one feel that he must join a certain movement or support a certain project in order to be part of the "brotherhood." Such agencies often would stand between the clay and Potter, as a kind of interpreter of His art. All extra-identification tends to produce division rather than unity, and results in loss of the personal identification before God.

Who am I? "A member of such and such a church, with two million members. A part of a special movement, etc." No! All such identification weakens the faith and diminishes Christ's glory and power. It is like the Corinthians: "I am of Paul; and I of Apollos; and I of Cephas; and I of Christ."

Then who am I? One who is identified with the Creator through Christ. "We are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works." (Eph. 2:10) "For ye died, and your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, shall be manifested, then shall ye also with him be manifested in glory." (Col. 3:3,4). It is Christ who tells us who we are. It is Christ who demonstrates what we are to be (He never supported the religious movements of His day). It is Christ who shows us what we shall be. "We know that if He shall be manifested, we shall be like Him." (1 Jn. 3:2).

To know the Creator's mind is possible because He has revealed it in scripture. "But we received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is from God; that we might know the things that were freely given to us of God" (1 Cor. 2:12. Also 13-16).

Therefore the true seeker will search the Bible. He will study it, memorize portions of it and make it a part of his mind, just as food he eats becomes a part of his body. "Study to show thyself approved unto God" (2 Tim. 2:15). Note that our study is for the purpose of being approved by God, not by the crowd.

Christ said, "Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me". (Matt. 11:29). Since the object of our creation is that we might "be like Him", the most important subject matter for every child and adult is the study of Christ, according to the Scriptures.

Power, knowledge and unity are found, not by identification with movements and human agencies, but by identifying with Christ the Lord of all.

—The Witness

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# SHOWING HONOR AND RESPECT...

(Continued from Page 3)

so is a fair woman which is without discretion" (Proverbs 11:22).

Loose, immoral living is becoming more the accepted thing. In our society, sex is no longer regarded as something exclusively associated with marriage. If we are to believe what we read in the newspapers, as well as personal observation, the situation in most colleges today is

very disturbing and discouraging (from the Christian's viewpoint). Colleges are relaxing their rules governing the personal lives of students, restricting themselves more to academic matters. It is no concern of theirs if the boys sleep in the girls' dorm. It is reported in some schools that a majority of the girls are on the "pill." But the Bible is still true. "Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge" (Hebrews 13:4). Paul, inspired by God, wrote: "Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God" (1 Cor. 6:9, 10).

How we need self-respect! Beloved, if we do not respect our sexuality, giving way to immorality, we will not respect what sexuality produces—other human beings! Friend, honor and respect yourself. It is hard to respect the person who does not respect himself, and it is hard for the person who does not respect himself to respect others. O young person, do not throw your life away! The person who throws his life away better fear where it will land—in HELL!

May the words of this poem be our very own as we seek to show honor and respect to ourselves:

*I have to live with myself, and so  
I want to be fit for myself to know;  
Always to look myself straight in the eye.  
I don't want to stand with the setting sun  
And hate myself for the things I've done.  
I want to go out with my head erect;  
I want to deserve my friend's respect;  
But here in the struggle for fame and pelf  
I want to be able to like myself.  
I don't want to look at myself and know  
That I'm bluster and bluff and empty show.  
I never can fool myself, and so  
Whatever happens I want to be  
Self-respecting and conscience-free. (author unknown)*

(CONTINUED IN A FUTURE ISSUE OF THIS PAPER)

# STUDENT VIEWS ON SEX, MORALITY...

(Continued from Page 1)

fine, too. But don't try to impose your values on me."

The double standard still exists, but its form has changed. It used to be fine for a man to have sex anytime, but it was taboo for a woman to do the same. Now it's "okay for a guy anytime and okay for a girl who has an emotional attachment to someone."

Fewer men are expecting their wives to be virgins when they marry. "You can be a nice girl and still sleep with someone," one man said. A man doesn't want a girl who's "been around," but "you don't condemn a girl who had a relationship that was meaningful to her at the time."

The attitude is becoming more 'I don't care what's happened in the past. Our

relationship is what's important."

## No 'Forever's

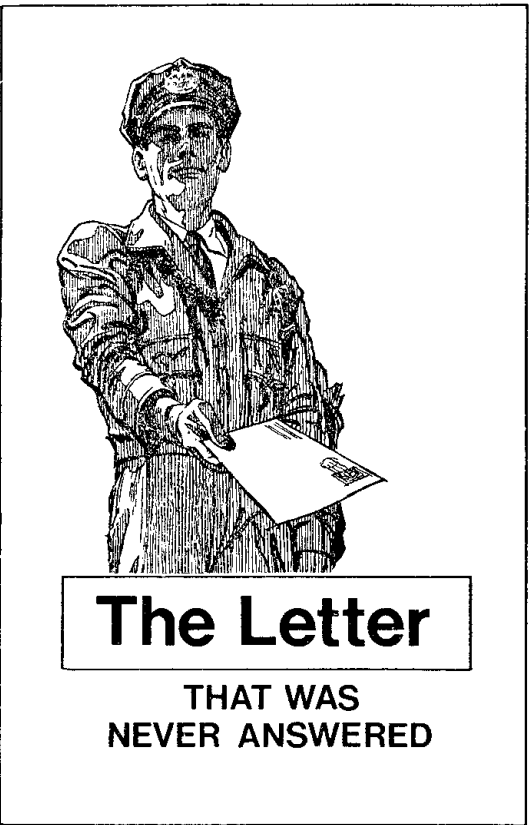
For a couple to indulge in sex, their relationship need not be a lifetime commitment. "It's frequent among people who haven't dated so long," said one man. "You need to care about someone, but you may have only known them for a week."

There are some who say that sex has become a very casual thing — too casual. "To too many people, it doesn't mean anything," one girl said.

Often a girl will drink too much, sleep with a guy and never see him again, she said. And many girls whose boyfriends are away in ser-

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A NEW Booklet: "THE LETTER THAT WAS NEVER ANSWERED"



IN THE DECEMBER, 1969, issue of THE SWORD AND STAFF we ran a study of Acts 2:38. Simply stated, the article concluded that "FOR" meant what it said when it reads that we are baptized "FOR the remission of sins."

A sample copy of that issue fell into the hands of a local Baptist minister. He very strongly denied that baptism was for the remission of sins and gave some reasons "why" he denied it in his very pointed letter. The editor of this paper carefully and courteously answered his letter, pointing out the fallacy of his thinking. Both letters were printed in January, 1970, issue of this paper. We received a tremendous and favorable response from our

reading audience. The correspondence was even reprinted in a paper in South Africa. It has now been over two years, and our letter has never been answered.

We have printed this material in booklet form and are calling it, "The Letter That Was Never Answered." We believe this material should have wide distribution in helping people see the truth of Acts 2:38 and the fallacy of sectarianism. To help it have a wider distribution, we are making it available for only 5¢ a copy (in any numbers). We believe that you can use this tract-booklet. Order a good supply from THE SWORD AND STAFF.

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THE WORST THING

"The worst thing that happens to a man may be the best thing that ever happened to him if he doesn't let it get the best of him."

vice or at other schools will get involved with another on just a sexual basis.

If attitudes toward sex are casual, the attitudes toward dating are even more so. According to a student at one school, there is no such thing as a date anymore. "You just meet up here. It's like there's no respect."

At another school, a girl said, "I used to have strict ideas of what I thought a date was." Now she finds herself in a much more casual relationship with a guy. "I don't mind calling him up.

I'm not that worried about what other people think."

The Way They Want

Not worrying about what others think seems to be the philosophy of the current college-age generation. They dress, think and act the way they want to. And many of them have premarital sex.

Why? What has brought about what the magazines dub the "sexual revolution"? The first rumblings of it were heard in the early sixties when the threat of nuclear warfare made people "live for

today" because there might not be a tomorrow.

Since then, there's been a relaxation among members of American society. People don't seem to be as status-conscious and are more intent on enjoying life.

"People aren't as uptight," one student said.

"I think it's a cultural trend," one girl said. "It never would have happened if magazines, books and movies hadn't emphasized it."

Another student blamed the decline in religious con-

victions among young people. "If you're religiously devout, you're less likely to engage in premarital sex." With religion declining, she said, "People aren't going to feel guilt."

Whatever the reason, there has been a revolution of sorts, at least in attitudes toward premarital sex.

"Maybe a lot of people who would be afraid of it aren't afraid of it anymore," one girl said. "Whatever you do, you don't have to have a guilty conscience about it."

Church-less Christianity?

IN YEARS PAST the trend of religion was a Christless "churchanity." Much of religion centered around a cold, formal, dead and meaningless "churchism." In reaction to this the present trend is an equally wrong direction. Now it seems to be a "church-less" Christianity. The mere mention of "church" seems to "turn off" the "hip" generation. We need to understand that one wrong trend is not corrected by another wrong trend.

Christ must be preached, believed, and lived. There must be a personal and vital relationship to HIM if Christianity is to be in effect (Galatians 2:20). But please remember that Christ built His church (Matthew 16:18). He loved the church and gave Himself in death for it. He is the head of the body (the church). He is also the Savior of the body (the church). He is coming again for His bride—the church (Ephesians 5:23-27).

You cannot be identified with Christ without being identified with His church. By the direction of one Spirit a person is baptized into one body (the church) (I Corinthians 12:13). When one is saved he is added to the church by the Lord (Acts 2:47). As Christians we are members of His body (I Corinthians 12:27).

Yes, my friend, the church is important. Don't be misled by the modern philosophy that would leave the church out of Christianity.

—DALE WILLIAMSON

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READERS'

... Response

KANSAS:

■ "Please remove these names from your mailing list. . . Thank you."

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Your request is granted. If anyone wishes the same thing, just let us know).

OHIO:

■ "Greetings to you in Jesus' Blessed name! I have been a reader of THE SWORD AND STAFF for 6 years now and I must commend you on a wonderful job. I know that is not a popular thing to take a firm stand, as you have for the Gospel of Christ. But if there was ever a time we need men who will stand for the truth, it is now."

"I do not know if you have a problem with the 'tongues movement' or not in your area, but we are sure in it here! I for one would love to see a good article that would put these false apostles in their places. Another Pet Peeve of mine is 'traditions in the church.' So many are more up-

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set over going against tradition than they are the Word of God."

"I have made a series of sermons from 'The Subject of the Holy Spirit Made Simple.' It is tops! Congratulations... I like to go over it from time to time to refresh my memory. It has a good section on tongues as well... God bless your efforts in a very worthwhile project!"

VIRGINIA:

■ (Waynesboro, Va.) "Keep sending The Sword and Staff! It's the only publication I know of that's holding to the simplicity and directness of the New Testament without compromise. Thank you and God's blessing."

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Thank you. These are indeed times of much "falling away." Let us be satisfied with nothing less than the full truth of God on every matter. We know of a few other publications taking a strong stand for Jesus, but their numbers are not legion).

■ (Bishop, Va.) "When the last issue of The Sword and Staff came, I didn't start my morning work until I had read it through. 'You did yourself proud' with this number. The article, 'The Meaning of Suffering in the Life of the Christian,' was, and is, one of the best write-ups I have ever read, and I read many... Your article was well written and illustrated..."

"Thank you for keeping your Sword and Staff small, to the point, and not taking more ads. I like it—as it is!... You are doing a fine job. Don't change!..."

"May God bless you in your work is my prayer."

JAPAN:

■ "You have no idea how your paper ministry encourages and uplifts His small servant like me in this godless pagan nation. I'm 41 years old with two fine children God entrusted us to raise for His glory. Please remember a small group of N. T. church (home church) here. We have about 15-25 faithful members here. May God bless your good work."

ITALY:

■ "I wish to take advantage of your special introductory offer... for the first year of Sword and Staff..."

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ANSWERS TO "KNOW-YOUR-BIBLE" BIBLE QUIZ

1. Genesis 1:3-5; 2. Genesis 5:24; 3. Genesis 11:1-4; 4. Leviticus 25:8-17; 5. Judges 2:17; 6. Proverbs 20:1; 7. Matthew 23; 8. Matthew 25:31-33; 9. Matthew 26:32; 28:7, 10, 16; 10. 1 Corinthians 16:15.

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Address Correction Requested

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