

10/10/99

So You Are A Virgin?

1Thess. 4:3-6

Today our society has been thoroughly indoctrinated into believing that the best for society is to be tolerant of all ethical and moral standards, this is the buzz word as we enter the new Millennium “tolerant”.

The place of indoctrination is our public schools, with the teaching of situational ethics, value clarification, the philosophy of relativism.

By tolerant, society means that you are not judge, criticize or give your opinion regarding an absolute standard of right and wrong.

The concept is that every person, culture and race, regardless of their practices has value and is to be learned from, this includes their practices of worship, philosophy of life and sexual norms.

Society has created an entire “politically correct language”, so as to not offend the various groups and mark those who are not tolerant of the , such as:

1. You are “homophobic”, if you do not except homosexuality as an alternate life-style.

2. You are no longer responsible for you actions but are a product of all that others have don to you, therefore you are dysfunctional, co-dependent, an enabler.

3. You can not call a person short lest you take away their self-esteem, so they are vertically challenged.

The national pastime of Americans it to watch programs like “the Jerry Springer” show that parades the perverted life-styles of this generation.

The evidence of their tolerance is their audience view rating, as they rise to number one.

If you are committed to God, truth, virtue, honor and absolute right and wrong, you are out of sink with society today.

Such was the society of the Thessalonians as Paul addressed them regarding their sexual purity, in view of having come to Christ.

The entire opening section of chapter four deals with the topic of their sexual purity. 4:1-8

The general exhortation to walk in their new life based on the commandments of God are found in the first two verses, which are based on three things. vs. 1-2

- I. A commitment to grow in the knowledge the believer has received.
- II. A commitment to please God.
- III. A commitment knowing the instructions are from God.

Then Paul focuses on the will of God for the Thessalonians regarding their sexual morality “in Christ”.

Three things are revealed to be the will of God regarding their sexual practices. 4:3-6

- I. The believer is to be sexually pure. vs. 3
- II. The believer is to be Spirit controlled. vs. 4-5
- III. The believer is to recognize and respect sexual boundaries. vs. 6

I. The believer is to be sexually pure. vs. 3

- A. The apostle says that the will of God was their sanctification. vs. 3a
 - 1 God’s will is revealed in the Scriptures, not in the educational institutions of man.
 - a. This is only one of many things revealed, which God has communicated throughout the ages.
 - b. Paul is talking to former Gentiles, who for the most part had a low view of sex and marriage.

- 2. In Greece immorality had always been quite blatant.
 - a. Long ago Demosthenes had written: “We keep prostitutes for pleasure; we keep mistresses for the day-to-day needs of the body; we keep wives for the begetting of children and for the faithful guardianship of our homes.”
 - b. So long as a man supported his wife and family there was no shame whatsoever in extra-marital relationships. Barclay-pp. 199
- 3. But they had received the gospel, been cleansed from all past sin and been sanctified for God.
 - a. The word sanctification “Hagiasmo” has as it’s root a setting apart for specific use, the word holy and saint come from it.
 - * It appears three times in this section. vs. 3, 4, 7
 - b. The apostle Paul is telling the believer that he and she is set apart for the purposes of God.
 - * Much like the Old Testament vessels and instruments of honor in the Tabernacle. 2Tim 2:20-22
 - c. Sanctification has a three fold aspect.
 - 1) Positionally, we are justified in Christ. Rom 5:1-2

- 2) Practically, we are walking in the light 1Thess. 5:23
- 3) Perfectly, we will be glorified before Christ. 1Jn 3:1-3

B. The apostle says that the will of God was that they should abstain from sexual immorality. vs. 3b

- 1. The phrase sexual immorality “porneia” means illicit sexual activity of all kinds.
 - a. The term includes intercourse, usually prior to marriage.
 - b. But when it is used in the context of marriage it refers to adultery. Matt. 5:33, 19:9
 - c. There is no article in the Greek for the “will of God”, which means that sexual purity is only one aspect of God’s will for the believer not everything.
- 2. We get our word pornography from it.
 - a. The word is used for many other things.
 - 1) Incest.
 - 2) Molestation.
 - 3) Fondling of the breast or genital area over the clothes or under etc.
 - b. The examples of it’s use in the Scriptures verify this.
 - 1) The first Church council declared fornication to be one of the

prohibitions for a Christian, sending letters to all the Gentiles. Acts 15:20, 29

- 2) The word is used for incest in the case of the young man having sex with his step-mother, his father’s wife. 1Cor. 5:1
- 3) The sin of fornication is the only one against your own body. 1Cor. 6:16-18
- 4) The sin of fornication is listed as a work of the flesh. Gal. 5:19
- 5) While the enjoyment of sex in marriage is honorable and the bed undefiled... Heb. 13:4
- 2)) Fornication is the only sin against my own body. 1Cor. 6:18

Illustration

The dirt in the infield of a baseball game on your carpet!

Application

1. Let me give to you some of the ways sexual sin affects the home and society.

- * Remember that with God there is no double standard regarding sexual purity, yet I as I study the Bible, I do believe the emphasis throughout the Scriptures is greater on the woman for two reasons.

- a. The cohesiveness and permanence of the marriage bond and home.
- b. The cohesiveness and permanence of society
Both of these because of the woman's greater emotional ties to sex than the man, for she was created for the man. (I don't mean simply as a sex object)
 - 1) She was required to present her tokens of virginity and if her husband accused her of not being a virgin then she would be stoned if it was true. Deut 22:21
 - 2) Whenever Israel conquered a people the women who had experienced sex were destroyed and the virgins kept. Num. 31:15-18
- c. Sex without marriage not only brings destruction to the persons involved but also to the society. As the saying goes, "History repeats itself." An anthropologist, J.D. Unwin, conducted a study on eighty-eight civilizations that have come and gone in world history. In every one of these eighty-eight civilizations, the morals and strict sexual conduct started off the same, but then things became lax giving the people more and more freedom to express sexual desires whenever they pleased. That freedom began the destruction of the civilization. First came venereal disease, then breaking up of homes. Children were brought up in unstable environments and patterned their behavior

- after their parents' behavior, making each succeeding generation more degenerate than the last. Thus those civilizations eventually were destroyed. (McDowell: Why Wait -pp. 261-62)
- d. A study of 5,000 civilizations revealed that 50 were characterized as sexually free and confusing the sex roles without distinction or boundaries bringing about the decay and death of all 50 civilizations. (Dobson, Sept. 10)
- e. In a book entitled "What I Believe", a symposium of the basic beliefs of a selection of well known men and women, Kingsley Martin writes: "Once women are emancipated and begin to earn their own living and are able to decide for themselves whether or not they have children, marriage customs are inevitably revised. "Contraception," a well known economist once said to me, "is the most important event since the discovery of fire." Basically he was right, for it fundamentally alters the relations of the sexes, on which family life is built. The result in our day is a new sexual code; the old "morality" which winked at male promiscuity but punished female infidelity with a life-time of disgrace, or even, in some puritanical cultures, with a cruel death, has disappeared. The new code tends to make it the accepted thing that men

and women can live together as they will, but to demand marriage of them if they decide to have children.” (Barclay:200)

2. God declares all this in the Scriptures.
 - a. God prohibits various sexual sins that will destroy the cohesiveness of the home and society. Lev. 18:1-23
 - b. Incest, child with parent, sisters and brothers or step brother & sister, step children, aunt and uncles, grandchildren, sister-in-law etc. vs. 7-19
 - c. Adultery, homosexuality, bestiality. vs. 20-23
 - d. God declared that the land was defiled by all these and casts the people out at the hand of God. Lev. 18:24-25, 27-28

The believer is to be sexually pure!

II. The believer is to be Spirit controlled. vs. 4-5

- A. The will of God is that each of you should know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor. vs. 4
 - * The apostle is talking and referring to being “Spirit controlled”, the positive.
1. Some think the word “vessel” refers to a wife but the word is never used for the wife except in Peter, to describe her as the weaker vessel in contrast to the man. 1Pet 3:7

- a. The word is used of instruments, utensils, objects, containers and the body.
- b. The use of the word for one’s wife would be demeaning to the wife, to acquire her or possess her as if she were an object.
- c. The context is sex in general, fornication, not adultery. vs. 3
2. The better understanding is to take “vessel” to mean the physical body. 2Cor. 4:7, 2Tim. 2:20-21
3. The believer is to acquire control and gain mastery over his won body by yielding to the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit and obedience to the word of God that will honor God and his or her body sexually.
 - a. Abstain from every form of evil. 5:22
 - b. Flee youthful lust. 2Tim. 2:2
 - c. Continue to be filled with the Spirit. Eph. 5:18
 - d. The filling with the Holy Spirit accompanied with the armor is essential. Eph. 6:10-18
- B. The will of God is that you not possess your vessel in passion of lust like the Gentiles who know not God. vs. 5
 - * The apostle is talking and referring to being “Flesh controlled”, the negative.

1. The word passion “pathos” means inordinate affection. Rom. 1:26, Col. 3:5
2. The word lust “epithumio” means a craving, a persistent desire.
 - a. It is used for good or evil context determines the meaning.
 - b. James tells us that every man is drawn away by his own lust. Ja. 1:14-15
3. The apostle is saying that one of the characteristics of a person who does not know God, is that they can not control their sexual desires.
 - a. The desire and drive is God given, nothing wrong with it.
 - b. The problem is the fall, it became corrupted and perverted by sinful man.
 - c. The attempt to control one’s sexual desires apart from the Holy Spirit if futile.

Illustration

Joseph when he ran from Potiphar’s wife, How can I do this great wickedness and sin against God. Gen. 39:9

Application

1. Let me give to you what the Bible says about virgins and fornication.

- a. A virgin cares about the things of the Lord, that she may be holy both in body and spirit. 1Cor. 7:25
 - b. When a virgin has sex she plays the whore in her father’s house. Deut. 22:21
 - c. When a virgin has sex she is humbled by the man. Deut. 21:14, 22:22, 29
 - d. The priest could marry no one but a virgin, no divorced woman or sexually defiled. Lev. 21:7-13
 - e. The only way she was not responsible for the loss of her virginity was rape in the field where no one was around. The man would be stoned if she was betrothed and if she wasn’t he had to marry her and pay a dowry to her father & never could divorce her. Deut. 22:22-30
 - g. If she lied and deceived her husband about her virginity and could not produce her tokens, she would be stoned. Deut. 22:13-20
2. Some facts about the first time you have sex.
- * Remember I am talking to those who are sexual virgins by way of warning, those who have failed and have come to Christ, know that you are a new creature. 2Cor. 5:17
- a. There is only one first time.
 - 1) A teen from T.C. Williams High School in Alexandria, Virginia, says of some of her friends: “I get upset when I see friends losing their virginity to some guy they’ve just met. Later, after the guy’s

dumped them, they come to me and say, “I wish I hadn’t done it.” 175

- 2) In the true physical sense, there is only one first time. And unless a person has a memory loss or was extremely drunk that night, the first time is indelibly stamped in her or his memory. What a joy it is to be able to share that first time with the one committed to you for life! God’s provision for marriage is that first-time bond, the memory of an act of love that made the relationship complete. (Why Wait-pp. 279)
 - 3) Within a marriage, a holy and permanent commitment to one another, the act of making love can be a physical expression of your love and “oneness.” The “first time” is an especially holy act, as it consecrates or seals the marriage. When you give this outside of marriage, it creates a void, a feeling of having lost something. These painful emotions can cause a rift in the relationship, and fear and insecurity. The distance created will allow suspicion, anger and even hate to take root and begin to grow. Feelings like this can damage you emotionally forever. (Why Wait-pp.261)
- b.** There is no possibility of having sexual intercourse without meshing a part of your non-physical self. Sex is such a definite

experience that a part of each of you remains forever a part of the other. How many times and how casually are you willing to invest a portion of your total self and accept such an investment from another person, with no assurance that the investment is for keeps? 10/9/92 (Why Wait-pp.258)

- 1) Dr. Mary Calderone says: “No one knows what effect sex, precociously experienced, will have on the immature mind. Sex experience before confidentiality, empathy, and trust have been established can hinder and may destroy the possibility of a solid, permanent relationship.” 113
- 2) In a study of the reaction of college women to their first sexual experience, Dr. David Weis found that for a third of them it was quite negative, involving little or no pleasure and high levels of guilt and anxiety. In another third of the women the reaction was rather mixed, but they still often experienced a considerable amount of guilt and anxiety. 290/60HH-LL
- 3) Women in the study felt exploited during their first sexual intercourse. 290/60GG
 - * These are hardly the kinds of initial experiences upon which to build a positive, satisfying marital relationship later in life.

- 4) Emotional damage is a result of premarital sex that nearly everyone can count on, since an act of such spiritual intensity—an act so expressly forbidden by God—entails rejecting the established spiritual order of things. It flies in the face of what is beneficial to us. When this emotional damage goes unchecked, the problems could last for life. (Why Wait—pp. 259)
- 5) You will remember your giving up of your virginity as a sweet celebration that honors you and your mate or as a bitter regretful experience that humbled and defiled you!
- * The greater destruction and damage is to the woman, notice I said greater, both are affected.
- 6) One element is almost guaranteed to be a part of any sexual relationship outside of marriage: unequal levels of commitment by each partner. This can be particularly devastating emotionally for women and girls, as one researcher reports: Sexual intercourse has a psychologically binding effect, particularly for females. The act itself increases the feeling of closeness. (Why Wait—pp.265)
- 7) A single woman warns that “if you have sexual relations before marriage, you are involved with someone’s spouse-to-be.

And what if you think you will marry this person? Does that make it all right? No.

- 8) No matter how much your spouse loves you we are all human, and lurking somewhere in the back of her mind you will probably find the question, “Was I the first, or has he given in before?” “How can you base a marriage on that kind of doubt? It might never show up until someday it comes out in the middle of an argument. Suddenly there is a great big hole in the relationship. (Why Wait—pp.240)
- c. The man’s point of view once you give up your virginity.
- * There are exceptions but here are a few real life facts.
 - 1) You will be promised much but he will drop you off at home and won’t call you or see you again, most of the time.
 - 2) If he does continue to see you, he will not settle for no sex, and when that stops he will be gone. (With rare exceptions)
 - 3) He humbled you and scored therefore he will tell his friends how he seduced you in spite of your objections and resistance to boast of his conquest.
 - 4) You will be thought of as easy and permissive especially if you give up your virginity in a short time.

- 5) There is a phrase that men use, “I got me a piece,” though it is used in an insulting way towards the woman, it is a very accurate statement.
- 6) For you have given a piece of you physically, emotionally & spiritually and at that the “best piece” your virginity which you can never recover.
 * Even Joseph being a righteous man was not willing to take Mary thinking she had given her virginity to someone else during their one year betrothal, which was really adultery.
Matt. 1
- 7) You will never forget the person, name, place, time and the emotions for you were there.
- 8) One girls asked, “Why do boys tell so much? He said all these beautiful things and now do you know what happened? He’s telling all over school. I am so embarrassed I could just die. How can he be like that?”
- 9) There are several reasons why boys do this. For one thing, they take sex much more casually than girls do. Men will give all kinds of assurance but they can toss that off lightly too, even if you can’t. Men like to think of themselves as “collectors.” They often brag about their conquests to impress themselves and

other males. But probably the hardest thing to take is right here: He can talk like that because he has lost respect for you. A part of him scorns you. He sees you now as “Damaged Goods.” Since you didn’t think highly of yourself, he sees no reason why he should respect you. (The Stork Is Dead:Shedd-pp.95)
 * There is a sad verse in the Bible about Amnon’s love for his sister Tamar. “The hatred with which he hated her was greater than the love with which he had loved her.” This was after he raped her.

The believer is to be Spirit controlled!

III. The believer is to recognize and respect sexual boundaries. vs. 6

- A.** The apostle says that the will of God is that no one should take advantage of his brother in this matter of sexual purity. vs. 6a
- 1.** The word advantage “huperbainos” means to go beyond the bounds, step over the limits and overreach.
 - a.** Implying very clear, that their are boundaries.
 - b.** Implying that there is right and wrong.

- c. The relativism of morals and ethics are not of God but man.
 - 2. The word matter, some say it refers to business practices.
 - 3. The entire context speaks of sexual conduct. vs. 1-8
- B.** The apostle says that the will of God is that no one should defraud his brother in sexual matters. vs. 6a
- 1. The word defraud “pleonekteo” means to be covetous, make a gain of another, to exploit someone.
 - 2. The entire motivation is for the benefit of self gain.
 - 3. When someone uses their familiarity and friendship to gain sexual favor or advances from another Christian, be they single or married, they are over-stepping boundaries of God’s design by deceptive plotting and thereby robbing someone other than the one they have sex with, namely their mate or future mate.
- C** The apostle says that the will of God reveals that He will avenge all such individuals. vs. 6b-c
- 1. God is Lord of all.
 - a. Lord as creator of the unbeliever, created in His own image, male and female. Gen. 1:27

- b. Lord as Savior of the believer, redeemed by the precious blood of Jesus Christ. 1Pet. 1:19
2. God is the avenger of all.
- a. The word avenger “ekdikos” is made up of two words.
 - 1) The word “ek” which means out from.
 - 2) The word “dikos” which means justice.
 - 3) The word means that God will bring out justice to all such individuals.
 - * The word appears only two times in the New Testament, here and in Romans for law officers in government. Rom. 13:4
 - b. The word implies He is all knowing.
 - 1) There is nothing hidden thing in darkness nor motives of heart. 1Cor. 4:5
 - 2) God cannot be partial.
 - 3) God is the judge of all men, therefore able to bring about absolute and perfect justice without any sense or pleasure of getting even as human vengeance.
 - 4) He is the one who will carry out justice for all. Rom. 12:19-21, “Deut 32:35”

3. God is the One who will judge every person who is guilty of sexual sin. vs. 6b
 - a. Those who do not abstain from sexual sin. vs. 3
 - b. Those who are not Spirit controlled. vs. 4
 - c. Those who take advantage and defraud their brother. vs. 6a
 - 1) They will give an account to Him, God, who is ready to judge the living and the dead. 1Pet. 4:5
 - 2) God can directly intervene and take your life. Eph. 3:5-7, Col. 3:5-7, Acts 5:5-10, 1 Cor 11:30
 - 3) God can allow natural consequences to serve as due justice. Rom. 1:24-32, Gal. 7: 7-8
* Receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due. Rom. 1:27
 - 4) God will also judge both believer and non-believer at Bema-Seat and the white throne judgment.
4. The apostles had told them in the past, at the inception of the church. vs. 6c
 - a. In a form of warning, declaring the evil of such practice.
 - b. In being witnesses to their reception of the instructions.

David did not recognize nor respect the sexual boundaries of the wife of Uriah, Bathsheba and he took her and God Judged him.

* His life was never the same, it went down!

Application

1. God has set the boundaries and expects us to obey. even if He did not give all the reasons and consequences.
 - a. A study on the mechanics of sex and particularly of orgasm, noted a similarity in muscle contractions between orgasm and labor before childbirth.
 - b. It was found that when a woman goes into labor, the muscle contractions trigger a nurturing instinct in the mother (they didn't say whether it was chemical or neurological) that makes her want to protect, love and nurture whatever passed through the birth canal.
 - c. They concluded this was insurance for the survival of the species, because, for example, if a woman had been raised out in the woods and had no knowledge of what was happening to her body as she carried a child for nine months, her reaction would be either relief or anger at delivering this child who had caused her so much pain and discomfort.
 - d. Without the nurturing instinct associated with the birth canal, she would have no

Illustration

desire to care for this noisy pink thing that had hurt her. The instinct overrides logic and feelings, and is put there to insure that a mother doesn't leave her baby in the woods somewhere.

- e. The study went on to point out that, similarly, when a woman has relations with a man, the sex act and orgasm cause those same muscles to contract. With the contractions, the same instinct is triggered to love and nurture whatever passed through that opening, which in this case is a man, not a baby. Therefore, a woman's feelings often run deeper than a man's in a sexual affair, because a deeper set of feelings are tapped, feelings that go beyond the merely emotional or intellectual. So, the study concluded, once those feelings are activated, it becomes all the more devastating if the relationship ends. If a woman's primal instincts to love and nurture are triggered every time she engages in sex, then, conversely, every time such a relationship ends she must reprogram herself to ignore those deeper feelings of longing for that man-the object of those reactions-and move on to someone else.
- f. This is more than just breaking a habit; it involves playing with biology and deep primal urges. For a woman who has had, say, ten affairs over a five year period, that's

ten times she has had to train herself to ignore those nurturing instincts for the previous man in her life.

- g. If God designed these strong, built-in feelings to be the glue that holds together marriages and families, then each affair, each lesson in negating those feelings, weakens the bonding power of marital and familial emotions. The result is obvious in view of the divorce rate in our culture. After all, how is the body supposed to know (after being conditioned to reject feelings of attachment) that this is the "real thing?" When a person destroys over a period of years the glue intended to bond her to someone, what is left to hold the relationship together once the glow of the honeymoon fades?
- h. By the same token, this can be seen in the effects on the family. If the nurturing instincts were meant to bind a mother to her children, yet through a series of premarital sexual affairs she has destroyed the power of the feelings, it will affect her ability to nurture her children as well. (Why Wait-pp.265-7)
- i To ignore all the facts I am giving you and for you to say, "Well, but God will forgive me & He will work it all out" is to tempt the Lord your God!

* For forgiveness is not a problem with God but the forgiving of yourself and your willingness to obey and yield to Him, throughout your life to restore and empower you to live victorious when you remember & regret, when Satan accuses you or people and mates throw it in your face. There lies the difficult problem not with God but us!

2. The regrets of crossing those boundaries.
 - a. You have nothing new to experience or look forward to, at your honeymoon but to experience sex another time with another person.
 - b. You will know that you gave away the best to someone who didn't appreciate it, deserve it or honored you.
 - 1) Even if you give yourself to the one you marry, you've had sex!
 - 2) Some letters written in *Surviving Friendship by White*
 - 3) I feel that the greatest gift I can give the man I am going to spend eternity with is my virginity. pp.75
 - 4) The thing I regret most in my life would have to be losing my virginity. pp.64
 - 5) I listened to my friends advice & made the worst decision of my life, why was I so stupid. pp.91
 - 6) I regret my entire relationship with that boy, it will always be on my mind. It is

still hard for me to believe how just one night could affect my life so greatly.

pp.74

3. The fears after crossing those lines.
 - a. Will I end up pregnant or be a father?
 - b. Will I run into him or her again or with my husband or wife?
 - c. Will my marriage survive if they find out after we are married?
 - d. Some letters, *Surviving Friendship-White*
 - 1) First from a girl: Ever since Stacy's glorious wedding, I saw what I could never be , a virgin! I hate the feeling. Lately I could just cry all day. It is so depressing that because I had to be a stupid freshman I lost my little treasure chest. pp.169
 - 2) Second from a young man, a freshman in college: What could possibly be the best gift you could give to your future wife or husband? It would be to that guy or girl on their honeymoon, "I have never been touched before, no other man or woman has ever had this gift I am about to give to you." Your reward will not only come from God but from the joy you will see in their eyes & heart; for that person can walk along the street and know that they are the only person to have touched you. There will be no shame. pp.169

The believer is to recognize and respect sexual boundaries!

Conclusion

Remember the will of God regarding your sexual practices!

- I. The believer is to be sexually pure!
- II. The believer is to be spirit controlled!
- III. The believer is to recognize and respect sexual boundaries!

WHEN MINISTER JOE WRIGHT WAS ASKED TO OPEN THE NEW SESSION OF THE KANSAS SENATE EVERYONE WAS Expecting THE USUAL GENERALITIES, BUT THIS IS WHAT THEY HEARD:

Heavenly Father, we come before you today to ask Your forgiveness and to seek Your direction and guidance. We know Your Word says, ‘Woe on those who call evil good’ but that is exactly what we have done. We have lost our spiritual equilibrium and reversed our values. We confess that:

We have ridiculed the absolute truth of Your Word and called it pluralism. We have worshipped other gods and called it multiculturalism, We have endorsed perversion and called it an alternative life style, We have exploited the poor and called it the lottery.

We have rewarded laziness and called it welfare. We have killed our unborn and called it choice. We have shot abortionists and called it justifiable. We have neglected to discipline our children and called it building self-esteem. We have abused power and called it politics. We have coveted our neighbor’s possessions and called it ambition. We have polluted the air with profanity and pornography and called it freedom of expression. We have ridiculed the time-honored values of our forefathers and called it enlightenment.

Search us, Oh God, and know our hearts today; cleanse us from every sin and set us free. Guide and bless these men and women who have been sent to direct us to the center of Your will. I ask it in the name of Your Son, the living Savior, Jesus Christ, Amen.

The response was immediate. A number of legislators walked Out during the prayer in protest. IN six short weeks Central Christian Church, where Rev, Wright is pastor, logged more than 5,000 phone calls with only 47 of those calls responding negatively. The church is now receiving international requests for copies of the prayer from India, Africa, and Korea.

*** May we be committed to purity in body, soul and spirit!**