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Practical Duties

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A Sex Morality Lecture.

The matter of a lecture on this subject is both important and necessary. It is important because it deals with manpower, a type of power not easily obtained and hard to replace. One cannot deal with personality as one would a machine - simply replace the worn or broken part. Once personality is broken a liability is placed on society. This responsibility makes for reconstruction which is often a long and costly process. This subject is necessary because it deals with human nature in its most bare form.

The best approach to this subject is the natural one that a chaplain would take: what does the Bible have to say on the matter? It is to be noted that the scriptures deal with this matter as it is an age old problem. What shall the relationships between opposite sexes be? What is the ideal relationship? What tests for human conduct should be set up? Who is the final authority?

One of the oldest commandments given by God to man is found in what we know today as the Ten Commandments. One of them specifically states "Thou shalt not commit adultery". The mere fact that God said it should cause men to obey, however like many teachings of the Holy Writ, men violate it or put it aside.

A post-mortem examination of the fall of many men, and of many nations would reveal that disregard of this cardinal command is the cause of their downfall. Lust at the core of ones life causes moral decay. Lust on the part of society causes inner strife that ends in national defeat.

Both the old and the new Testaments warn men to avoid the lusts of body and spirit that lead to ultimate ruin. Jesus even raised the standard warning men to avoid evil thoughts and desires. To practically apply this today, we should avoid that type of literature; that kind of language; and those stories that deal with matters of obscene living.

In a short time, let us look into this matter from two points of view: first as it deals with the individual; and secondly as it deals with society. Both of these are of interest to us because of our own individuality and our natural interest in the welfare of humanity.

1. Sex Morality in Relation to the Individual.

To violate the commandment, "Thou shalt not commit adultery" weakens self respect. The sheer transgression on the personality of another weakens the moral fiber. One self.

respect is gone, man's greatest asset is destroyed. Self respect is to the individual as power is to the shell. It is its driving power.

Once we lose self respect, we also lose respect for others. The habitual adulterer soon conceives everyone to be loose in morals as himself. His designs are no longer along creative lines for greater living, but are reduced to mere appetite as with the lower animals.

When one loses self respect and loses respect for others, he also loses respect for God. His life becomes one of discord, worn by ill use and shame of natural dignity.

II Sex Morality in Relation to Society

But the matter is more than a personal one. If the problem were only individual we might give it less concern, but all of society is involved.

For one thing, disease is often spread in the act of adultery. Many lives are left broken by venereal diseases. These must be cared for at public expense; manpower is put "out of action"; hospitals are crowded; and all of this in a time of national need.

Not only is disease spread, but often innocent victims, children must

pay the penalty for illicit acts and deeds. These may be unwanted children born out of wedlock, or ones own legitimate offspring born in the holy act of love. Here is found a tragedy of the most tragic kind. It may be expressed in blindness, crippled limbs, or twisted minds. The yawn of agony cannot recompense for the folly of foolish acts.

We may also point out the unhappiness of broken homes that come from adultery. These cases often end in a divorce court and the promise of a once happy life is forever gone. Here again we find children reared without the blended counsel of both father and mother. Their lives are also twisted in youthful development.

III a closing suggestion to avoid this pitfall.

Here the chaplain is speaking in his rightful field. There are simple, practical steps one can take to avoid the dangers illicit sexual relationship.

Hard work is one step. The life that is busy in creative living does not have time for evil pleasures. Industry can use up part up energies without wasting them.

Right thinking is another step. One the mind is directed along right paths, lunatic conduct

is properly directed. The desire, the ambition must always precede the action.

Again, the ideal of an admired personality enters into the solution. Perhaps your mother, your own sister, or your wife. How would they react to the knowledge of your conduct? Could you will that your action have universal application. The Golden Rule: Do unto others as you would have others do unto you apply applies here. In our highest moments of thinking we would not will our conduct to be applied to those we love, and to those who trust in us. We, thus do not do in secret what we would not approve in public.

Avoid suggestive pictures, tainted stories, foul literature and dark haunts of lust. Set aside each day a few moments of prayerful devotion to the Holy name of God. Make use of the religious services in the chapel. Feel free to discuss with the chaplain those matters that trouble you. Strive ever to be the kind of man your nation needs; vigorous, brave and strong!