

Please Pray

- ✳️ **After hearing the messages from the recent ICSC**, we do not want to be merely passively waiting for the Lord's coming, but we desire to cooperate with the Lord to grow in life and be mature to be ready to meet Him. In life, let us be the virgins who are watchfully awaiting our Bridegroom, and in service, let us be faithful and prudent slaves to fulfill the Lord's commission to give food at the proper time.
- ✳️ **2023 Spring ITERO Training online and in person (March 31 – April 2):** (1) Pray that many brothers will be released to attend this training. (2) May the brothers be released outwardly and inwardly to receive the Lord's speaking. May the Lord release what is on His heart to the brothers. (3) May the Lord gain what He is after in this training.
- ✳️ **Guelph's search for a meeting place:** (1) Pray that the Lord will open up a proper meeting place for the saints in Guelph. (2) Pray for a minimum of two rooms, with washrooms and storage space.
- ✳️ **Lord's move in Asia:** (1) Turkey: Pray for the two families affected by the earthquakes, that their lives can return back to normal and be protected from further disaster; also pray for their hearts to be comforted and be free from the shadow of fear and death. (2) Sri Lanka: Pray for the new golden lampstands to be raised up in Mawathagama and Ampara this year. (3) Vietnam: Pray for the plan of printing 10,000 copies of the Vietnamese Recovery Version for free distribution.
- ✳️ **Pray for various local needs in Montréal:** The saints, their contacts, and for the persons in need of care and shepherding.

Weekly Readings

- ✳️ Holy Bible Recovery Version with footnotes: 2 Pet 1:5 – 2:22.
- ✳️ HWMR, Crystallization-Study of 1 and 2 Kings, Vol. 2, Week 11.
- ✳️ Life-Study of Matthew, Messages 13 and 14.

Announcements

- ✳️ This year's International Memorial Day Blending Conference will be held in Chicago, IL, from Friday, May 26 to Monday, May 29, 2023. All meetings will be held at the Chicago Marriott Downtown Hotel. There is a special discount group hotel rate available until Friday May 5. Please see the details on the bulletin board.

Announcements (cont'd)

- ✳️ [LivingtoHim YouTube channel](#) is releasing a series of four talks by Brother Minoru Chen on the matter of getting into the Life-Studies. The subsequent talks will be released weekly on Mondays. You can [subscribe](#) to the [LivingtoHim YouTube channel](#) to receive updates. All four outlines of this series can be downloaded [here](#).
- ✳️ Please consider your needs carefully before the Lord and email your prayer requests to Allan Yeow, allan.yeow81@gmail.com before Wednesday evening of every week. Please note that due to the limited space in the newsletter, we may not be able to publish all prayer burdens that are sent to us. May the Lord teach us how to pray for the advancement of His Economy.

Upcoming Events

- ✳️ March 10-12, 2023, Kingston, NY: **Northeast Spanish-Speaking Conference.**
 - ✳️ March 24-26, 2023, Anaheim, CA: **International Training for Elders and Responsible Ones.**
 - ✳️ May 26-29, **International Memorial Day Conference, Chicago, IL.**
- Please refer to the church's website where more events are listed.*

This Week's Activities

Sun-Feb-26 LORD'S DAY	♦ 10am-12pm: Lord's Table and prophesying meetings.
Mon-Feb-27	♦
Tues-Feb-28	♦ 7:30pm-9pm: English, French and Chinese Districts prayer meetings by conference calls.
Wed-Mar-01	♦
Thurs-Mar-02	♦
Fri-Mar-03	♦ 6:30pm-9pm: English, French and Chinese Districts home meetings in person and on Zoom.
Sat-Mar-04	♦
Sun-Mar-05 LORD'S DAY	♦ 10am-12pm: Lord's Table and prophesying meetings.

MARRIAGE

II. BASIC ELEMENTS OF A MARRIAGE

C. Inheriting Grace Together

There is a third aspect. In his first Epistle, Peter said that the wives are “fellow heirs of the grace of life” (3:7). In other words, God delights to see husbands and wives serving Him together. God delighted to see Aquila and Prisca serving Him. He delighted to see Peter and his wife, Jude and his wife, serving Him together (1 Cor. 9:5).

Therefore, there are three basic elements of a Christian marriage. First, there is mutual help; second, there is the prevention of sin; and third, there is the joint inheritance of grace of two persons in the presence of God. One should not be a Christian alone but a Christian together with another person. One should not inherit grace alone but together with another person.

III. THE QUESTION OF VIRGINITY

The Bible also shows us that even though there is the consciousness of sex, this consciousness is not very strong with some people, and so there is no need for such a one to fulfill this need. The Bible advises such persons to keep their virginity.

A. The Benefits of Keeping One's Virginity

Virginity does not make one more holy spiritually. However, a virgin can surely devote all his or her physical energy to the Lord's work. This also is spoken of in 1 Corinthians 7.

Paul shows us that there are three problems in marriage. First, marriage is a bondage. He says, “Have you been bound to a wife?” (v. 27). Often, a person is not free after he is married; once he is married he becomes occupied with many things. He is bound by his wife and has to take care of many things. Second, those who are married have affliction. Paul said, “But such ones will have affliction in the flesh” (v. 28). When a person is married, the affliction in the flesh increases, and it is hard for him to serve the Lord with a single heart. Third, those who are married care for the things of the world (vv. 32-34). In Matthew 13 the Lord indicates that these cares are like thorns which can easily choke the growth of the seed. The result can be barrenness (v. 22). In short, marriage brings in family problems, entanglements, afflictions, and anxiety.

Paul's words are not only for the co-workers but also for all the brothers and sisters. A person who keeps his virginity can be spared many difficulties. Paul did not command these ones to keep their virginity, but his words show his inclination toward this choice. Paul did not have any opinion of his own; he was merely telling the brothers the facts. Marriage is good, and it prevents the danger of sinning. But marriage also brings a person into family problems, entanglements, afflictions, and the anxieties of this world.

B. The Type of Person

Who Can Keep His Virginity

Following this, Paul shows us the type of person who can keep his virginity. He said some have the gift from God to keep their virginity. It is a gift from God to keep one's virginity. One person receives one kind of gift from God. Another person receives another kind of gift from God. If I need to marry, marriage is a gift from God; it takes a gift from God to marry. This is why Paul said, “But each has his own gift from God, one in this way, the other in that” (1 Cor. 7:7). Those who keep their virginity have the gift of God, and also those who are married have the gift of God.

The first condition for keeping one's virginity is that a person have only sex consciousness but no sex compulsion. Some people have the compulsion of sex. Others have only the consciousness of sex but not the compulsion. Only those who do not have a compulsion for sex can keep their virginity.

Second, a person must have the desire to remain single and must be firm in his heart. Verses 36 and 37 say, “But if any one think that he behaves unseemly to his virginity, if he be beyond the flower of his age, and so it must be, let him do what he will, he does not sin: let them marry. But he who stands firm in his heart, having no need, but has authority over his own will, and has judged this in his heart to keep his own virginity, he does well” (New Translation, J. N. Darby). Paul shows us that to keep one's virginity, the person must have the intention and willingness to keep it. If anyone thinks that it is wrong to keep his virginity, he can marry. If a person has the intention and the inclination to remain single, and if he is firm in his heart to keep his virginity, he can keep it. Hence, firmness in heart is a necessary requirement.

Third, such a decision must not be in conflict with one's circumstances. Verse 37 says, “Having no need.” Some have special considerations in their circumstances, and it is not easy for them to keep their virginity. Some may create many problems with their family if they keep their virginity. Hence, there must be the environmental provision before one can keep his virginity.

Note: This content is extracted from CWWN, Vol. 49, Messages for Building Up New Believers (2), Chapter 30, *MARRIAGE*, by Watchman Nee, published by Living Stream Ministry, available at <http://www.ministrybooks.org>.