

Please Pray

- ✳️ **The 2023 Grade 6 Conference in Kitchener, Ontario (April 28-30):** (1) May several Grade 6 children in the Eastern Canada region be released to attend this conference. (2) May the Grade 6 children be prepared by the Lord to become empty vessels to receive a personal speaking from Him. May the ones who are not yet saved receive the Lord as their personal Saviour and may they consecrate themselves to the Lord. May the ones who have already received the Lord be firmly established in their faith and get to know the Lord in a more profound way. (3) Pray that all the preparations be headed up by the Lord and that all serving ones be strengthened in their serving. (4) Pray that the Lord would pour out His blessing upon this conference and upon everyone who will be present.
- ✳️ **The North America College Training in Champaign, Illinois (July 16 to July 22):** The subject of this training will be "Love Prevails." (1) Pray for the release of the college-age students to attend this conference; (2) Pray that each one may be prepared to become an empty vessel to receive a fresh speaking from the Lord. (3) Pray for the binding of the strong man so that we may plunder his house. (4) Pray for the unhindered release of what the Lord has on His heart for this conference. (5) Pray that all the preparations be headed up by the Lord and that all serving ones be strengthened in their serving.
- ✳️ **The International Blending Conference in Warsaw, Poland (April 29 to May 1):** The subject of this conference is "Knowing, Experiencing, and Living the All-Inclusive Christ for the Genuine Church Life." (1) May the Lord use this time to blend the saints from the churches both in Poland and other countries. (2) May the saints be brought to the reality of knowing, experiencing, and living the All-Inclusive Christ for the Genuine Church Life. (3) Pray that all the preparations be headed up by the Lord and that all serving ones be strengthened in their serving.
- ✳️ **Renovations of our Meeting Hall and financial offerings:** Our Meeting Hall will have many necessary renovations to be done during the coming months, such as replacing the whole roof, replacing all the air conditioning units, etc. These renovations are essential for the proper functioning of the Meeting Hall and will require a large amount of funds. The brothers will provide more details during the coming weeks. May each one of us consider our financial offerings before the Lord. May the Lord direct us in our giving for the needs of the church, of the saints and of the needy ones. May we store up for ourselves "Treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not dig through nor steal." – Matt. 6:20. May our hearts be on the things of heaven and not on the things on the earth. "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." – Matt. 6:21.
- ✳️ **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: 1 John 3:11 – 5:13.
- ✳️ HWMR, Loving the Lord and Loving One Another for the Organic Building Up of the Church as the Body of Christ, Week 7.
- ✳️ Life-Study of Matthew, Messages 29 and 30.

Announcements

- ✳️ The registration for the July 2023 Semi-Annual Training in Anaheim, CA is now open. The live training will be held from Monday, July 3, 2023 to Saturday, July 8, 2023. Video training will also be available. The registration cost is CAD\$275 for the live training and CAD\$175 for the video training. If you would like to attend either the live or video training, please let the serving brothers know. Registration deadline is May 1.
- ✳️ 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.
- ✳️ [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 by clicking [here](#).
- ✳️ Please consider your needs carefully before the Lord and send your prayer requests by email 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 sent to us. May the Lord teach us how to pray for the advancement of His Economy.

Upcoming Events

- ✳️ April 29, Kitchener, ON: **Eastern Canada Grade 6 Conference.**
- ✳️ May 26-29, Chicago, IL: **International Memorial Day Conference.**
- ✳️ July 3-8, Anaheim, CA: **July Semi-Annual Training.**

Please refer to the church's website where more events are listed.

This Week's Activities

Sun-April-23 LORD'S DAY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ 10am-12pm: Lord's Table and prophesying meetings. ◆ Eastern Canada Young People's Conference.
Mon-Apr-24	◆
Tues-Apr-25	◆ 7:30pm-9pm: English, French and Chinese Districts prayer meetings by conference calls.
Wed-Apr-26	◆
Thurs-Apr-27	◆
Fri-Apr-28	◆ 6:30pm-9pm: English, French and Chinese Districts home meetings in person and on Zoom.
Sat-April-29	◆
Sun-April-30 LORD'S DAY	◆ 10am-12pm: Lord's Table and prophesying meetings.

MARRIAGE

X. WIDOWS (cont'd)

Paul told Timothy, “I will therefore that younger widows marry” (1 Tim. 5:14). The same applies to widowers. Today the issue is whether or not one has the need for marriage. Some have a physiological need. Others have a psychological need; they would feel lonely if they did not marry again. Some have a need because of their family. It is all right for a brother or a sister to remarry after his or her spouse has died. No Christian should criticize another on this matter. We need to eradicate all heathen concepts from our mind.

XI. ON COMMITTING SIN

In the Bible God acknowledges the validity of sex. There is nothing wrong with the consciousness of sex or sex itself. The consciousness of sex is not sin; in fact, it is holy. However, this is true only within the context of a marriage. In a marriage, sex is good and holy. But any sexual consciousness or sexual act outside the bounds of oneness is sin. Have you seen the difference? What is sin? It is sex outside of marriage. Why? Because sex outside of marriage is a breach of the oneness of a marriage. Therefore, sex is a sin only when it destroys the oneness. Sex has nothing to do with sin when it is sex alone. Sex itself is not sinful. We must see this clearly before the Lord.

In Matthew 5:28 the Lord Jesus said, “But I say to you that every one who looks at a woman in order to lust after her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.” The word looks here involves the will. It is not just seeing a woman but looking at her. Seeing is passive, while looking is active. This looking is followed by the phrase in order to lust after her. It is not a passing lustful thought that comes to one’s mind when he sees a woman, but a look at a woman that is for the purpose of lusting after her. Lusting comes first, and then looking. This look is the second look, not the first look. The first look is a random look at a woman on the street. The second look is to actually look at her. Between the first look and the second look, a lustful thought has come in. The second look is therefore for the purpose of lusting after a woman. The second look is the third step in the process. The Lord Jesus is not talking about the first look, but the look which is the third step. When some see a woman on the street, they do not control themselves and lust after her. Satan injects lustful thoughts into men, and they turn and look the second time. The second look is sin. Sin is having lustful thoughts and looking at someone the second time.

Matthew 5 says that everyone who looks at a woman in order to lust after her has already committed adultery with her in his heart. The Lord Jesus is not referring to the first look. It is wrong to involve the first look in this discussion. Suppose I see a woman on the street by accident. Satan may inject lustful thoughts into me. If I reject them, that is the end of it. But if I turn and look at her again, that is sin. Please bear in mind that the consciousness of sex is not sin. It becomes sin only when there is the consent of the will. When such a consent of the will happens outside the context of marriage, the oneness is destroyed by the will. It is sin to destroy the oneness in one’s conduct. In God’s eyes, it is sin also to destroy the oneness in one’s will.

In the Old Testament, only adultery is spoken of as sin; fornication is not mentioned as sin. The Old Testament forbids only adultery, because man did not have enough knowledge of himself yet. What is adultery? Adultery is sin committed by those who are married. What is fornication? Fornication is sin committed by those who are not married. The act is the same, but the sin is not the same. We can say that a prostitute commits only fornication, but not adultery, because she is not married. We have to realize that God does not want man to commit fornication. The Old Testament speaks only of the sin of those who are married; it does not speak of those who are not married. It does not mean that there is no such thing in the Old Testament, but the term is not there. Here we see that the act that destroys oneness—adultery—is sin. But the act that does not destroy oneness—fornication—is sin as well.

We need to see that adultery is sin and that fornication is also sin. To destroy the oneness of the married ones is sin. Fornication, which happens to those who are not married and which seemingly does not destroy oneness is also sin. Christians should not commit adultery; neither should they commit fornication. We must see that sex is holy; sex consciousness is not a sin. Sex within marriage is holy and is not a sin. But if you are married and have sex outside of marriage, that is adultery. If you are not married but have sex, that is fornication. As believers we must not commit adultery, and we must not commit fornication.

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>.