Please Pray

- **International Thanksgiving Blending Conference in Denver, Colorado (Nov. 26-29):** May the Lord release an up-to-date speaking during this time. May the Lord grant us ears to hear the Lord's speaking to the churches.
- **Homes as fishing nets:** Our homes have several advantages. In America many freshmen attend college away from home. Since they are considered full-grown, they may leave home once they have graduated from high school. Many of them are lonely and homesick. If we invite them into our living rooms for a little snack or perhaps a dinner, they will feel at home, and this will open them to the Lord and the truth. Furthermore, people do not have a goal, and they are tired of their old manner of life. This situation is sovereign of the Lord... Many young people today do not have a goal. They are wondering what to do and where to go. They do not have a goal in their human life. The material riches of America cannot satisfy the hearts of the young people. Therefore, we must take this opportunity to fill up the gap in their hearts with Christ. The best way to do this is by opening up our homes. (Preaching the Gospel on the College Campuses, CWWL, 1977, Vol. 3, pp. 27-28). Pray for more home groups to be raised up for the student core to be connected to so that they can bring their friends and contacts into the homes of the saints.
- **Bearing fruit for His testimony in Montréal:** "As branches we must bear fruit. If anyone has not borne fruit for several years, I am very concerned for him. There is the danger that such a one may be cut off from the life supply. We must endeavor and be desperate. We must say, "Lord, I am one of Your branches. Why do I not bear fruit? I must bear some. I cannot go on like this anymore. Lord, have mercy on me that by Your grace I may bear at least one fruit." If we will bear even one fruit, the life supply will flood in. The life-juice will stream in, and we will bear more fruit. To bear the first fruit is a breakthrough. We must have such a breakthrough. We need to go to the Lord to have a thorough dealing with Him." (CWWL, 1973–1974, Vol. 2, Chap. 3) – May the prayer in this ministry excerpt be our prayer. May we all endeavor to be normal fruit bearing branches and be desperate before the Lord to bear at least one fruit a year. May we go to the Lord to have a thorough dealing with Him.
- **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: Heb. 3:1 – 6:3.
- HWMR: The Great Need for a New Revival, Week 4.
- Life-Study of Colossians, Messages 4 and 5.

Announcements

- The 2027 HWMR subscription is now open, and the annual cost is $80. Please contact your respective district's responsible one to subscribe and to make your payment. The deadline to register and make your payment is Lord's Day, December 6, 2026.

Announcements (cont'd)

- This year's International Thanksgiving Blending Conference will be held from Thursday, November 26, through Lord's Day, November 29, 2026, at the Gaylord Rockies Resort and Convention Center, Colorado Ballroom, 6700 N. Gaylord Rockies Blvd., Aurora, CO 80019, and will be open to the public. There will be translation into Chinese, Korean, Spanish, and Portuguese. Live and archived messages will be available at lsmwebcast.com, and free for a period of 30 days after the conference.
- Registration for the 2026 Semi-Annual Training (Dec. 21-26) is now closed for the LIVE training in Anaheim. If anyone would like to join the online/video training, please contact your respective district serving leader to be added and to pay your registration fee of CAD$185, no later than November 30.
- The International Chinese-Speaking Blending Conference will be held on February 20-21, 2027, in Taipei, Taiwan. Details can be found at the website https://icsc2027.org/en. Anyone from Montréal who would like to attend should contact Jonathan Lin, johnathanslin1994@gmail.com, to get the registration information.
- Please consider your needs carefully before the Lord and email your prayer requests to Allan Yeow, allan.yeow81@gmail.com, by Wednesday evening of every week. May the Lord teach us how to pray for the advancement of His Economy.

Upcoming Events

- November 26-29, Denver, CO: **International Thanksgiving Blending Conference**.
- December 21-26, Anaheim, CA: **December 2026 Semi-Annual Training**.
- February 20-21, 2027, Taipei, Taiwan: **International Chinese-Speaking Blending Conference**.

This Week's Activities

Sun-Nov-15 LORD'S DAY	• 10:00am-12:30pm: Lord's Table and prophesying meetings.
Mon-Nov-16	•
Tues-Nov-17	• 7:30pm-9:00pm: English, French, Chinese, and Spanish Districts prayer meetings in person and on Zoom.
Wed-Nov-18	•
Thur-Nov-19	•
Fri-Nov-20	• 6:30pm-9:00pm: English, French, Chinese, and Spanish Districts home meetings in person.
Sat-Nov-21	•
Sun-Nov-22 LORD'S DAY	• 10:00am-12:30pm: Lord's Table and prophesying meetings.

30. MARRIAGE

Marriage

II. Basic elements of a marriage (cont'd)

B. Preventing sin

In the Old Testament God instituted marriage before sin came into the world. In the New Testament, Paul said that marriage not only is allowed but also is a necessity because of the presence of sin (1 Cor. 7).

Marriage can prevent sin. This is why Paul said that men should have their own wives and women should have their own husbands. This is to prevent the sin of fornication (v. 2). Paul did not condemn the consciousness of sex as sin. On the contrary, he showed us that both the male and the female should marry in order to prevent sin.

Paul said that we should make no provision for the flesh (Rom. 13:14). If a man constantly committed the sin of pride, Paul could not have said, "Since you always commit the sin of pride, you can be proud at home so that you will not be proud elsewhere! If you exercise your pride in one place, perhaps you will not exercise it elsewhere." Saying this would have been to make "provision for the flesh." God would never agree with his pride or my making some arrangement for him to exercise his pride. Consider a man who loves to steal. You should not say, "Since you like to steal, I will allow you to steal the things which belong to Brother So-and-so so that you will not steal from others." You should not say this; instead, you need to say, "You cannot steal at all." Stealing is definitely a sin, and we should not make any provision for it. Pride is definitely a sin as well, and we cannot make provision for it either. But sex is not a sin in an absolute sense. This is why men should have their own wives, and women should have their own husbands. If we do not understand this, we may think that Paul's word was making provision for the flesh. But we know that the apostle did not make provision for the flesh. Therefore, we cannot consider marriage to be a sin. Marriage is not God's provision for the flesh. We want to hold marriage on a high plane. It is something holy and ordained by God Himself.

Marriage is necessary because sin has entered. Marriage can prevent sin. This is not to make provision for the flesh. There is a clear difference.

In 1 Corinthians 7 Paul spoke about marriage. He began by saying that a wife does not have authority over her own body, and a husband does not have authority over his own body (v. 4). Paul's teaching is quite clear. Except for the purpose of devoting themselves to the service of the Lord, the husband and the wife should not be separated. This prevents fornication (v. 5). In order to prevent fornication, God ordains that male and female should marry and not be separated.

Paul used strong words to speak of those who have a compelling desire for sex. He said that they should marry in order to avoid burning with desire (v. 9). He did not reprimand such persons. Paul did not say, "You are wrong to have such a strong desire. You have sinned in having such a strong desire. Therefore, you have to make some provision for your flesh." Instead, he said, "If you have a strong desire, you should marry. It is better to marry than to live with such a strong desire." The Word of God is very clear concerning this. The consciousness of sex is not a sin. Even a strong sex urge is not a sin. But God has ordained that those who have a strong consciousness of sex should marry. They should not abstain from marriage on the one hand and fall into sin on the other hand. This is what the Lord has shown us.

The institution of marriage has a New Testament aspect and an Old Testament aspect. The Old Testament shows us that marriage provides help that is meet. The New Testament says that it is instituted to prevent sin. One aspect of the Christian marriage today is mutual help, and the other aspect is the prevention of sin.

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, Judah and his wife, serving Him together.

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.

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.