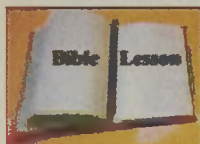


4B

RELIGION

Life 1B



Sexuality teachings

We live in a time of extreme confusion over values relating to the sexes. Pornography is readily available and has become an addiction for many. Young people are becoming sexually active in an education system that provides sex education in a moral vacuum. The push for homosexual marriages challenges formerly accepted definitions of family. Cohabitation without benefit of marriage has become so common that it scarcely raises an eyebrow, even in many churches. Of the marriages that do occur, many end in divorce.

God's Word is not silent in the area of relationships. It defines the Christian's conduct inside and outside of marriage. This week's lesson shows what God expects from His people in this significant area of their lives.

Lesson Background
As we have seen thus far in our summer lessons, the Corinthian church was troubled with many problems. Paul had received reports of these issues from certain individuals who visited him (1 Corinthians 1:11). They apparently also had brought Paul a letter from the church to request his insights on certain issues (7:1).

At the time Paul wrote his letter, the church in Corinth was no more than five years old. Given the moral climate within that church (see 1 Corinthians 5:1-11) and in that city, Paul sees the need to discuss at some length godly values about sex and marriage.

Purpose of Marriage (1 Cor. 7:2-7)

1. At this point in the letter, what was Paul doing?

As we have learned from last month's lessons, the church at Corinth had many different problems that they were struggling with. Among the list of problems plaguing the church were division (1:10-13), reliance on human wisdom (1:18-31), spiritual immaturity (3:1-4), open immorality (5:1-5) and litigation among them (6:1-6). Now, Paul was turning his attention to various questions concerning singleness and marriage.

2. What advice did Paul give the Corinthians concerning how they might avoid fornication? (v. 2)

Paul knew that this church was struggling with sexual immorality. Fornication was the norm of the Roman culture. In fact, the temple to the goddess Aphrodite employed a thousand cult prostitutes. Part of that religious experience involved having sex with those prostitutes, and those followers believed that the goddess was pleased when such acts happened.

Paul gives his preference of being single in verses 1 and 8; however, he realizes that most of the Corinthians are strongly tempted to engage in sexual activity. In this case, Paul

Please see **SEXUAL/6B**



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Andrae Crouch earned the International Worship Institute's Cherub Award for a career that has "transcended so many boundaries and borders," said Lamar Boschman, founder of the institute.

Beyond borders

Crouch battled racism to reach Christian music pinnacle

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

GRAPEVINE, Texas—As Andrae Crouch remembers it, the crowd was roaring — until they actually saw the band.

Enthusiasm waned because many in the 1970s audience were startled to see something they apparently didn't know about Christian recording artists Andrae Crouch and the Disciples: They're black.

"It was like turning the stove on from burning hot, scorching hot, to low," Crouch said, laughing. "It would be like, from cayenne pepper to bubble gum."

Some began walking out of the Fort Worth concert, but everyone stayed once the group started playing, according to Crouch's recollection.

"The Lord gave us an expression of our own to reach people," said Crouch, one of the most celebrated gospel artists in history. "Some of my best friends today were people in that concert."

Crouch returns to Dallas-Fort Worth on July 7 to receive the International Worship Institute's Cherub Award in suburban Grapevine. Past winners include prolific gospel songwriters Bill and Gloria Gaither.

"He has transcended so many boundaries and borders," said Lamar Boschman, founder of the institute, which helps church leaders enhance worship services.

Crouch's songs, which include "My Tribute (To God Be the Glory)" and "The Blood Will Never Lose Its Power," which he wrote at the age of 14, span racial and cultural divisions. Andrae Crouch and the Disciples helped pioneer "Jesus music," a 1960s and '70s movement that spawned the current explosion in contemporary Christian music.

Please see **CROUCH/5B**

School board sued over Jesus picture on campus

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHARLESTON, W.Va. — Two civil liberties groups have sued in federal court to remove a picture of Jesus that has hung in a high school for more than 30 years.

Americans United for Separation of Church and State and the West Virginia American Civil Liberties Union say

the painting, "Head of Christ," sends the message that Bridgeport High School endorses Christianity as its official religion.

"I frankly cannot understand why this school insists that it is doing nothing wrong," said the Rev. Barry Lynn, executive director of Americans United. "This is

pretty clear constitutional law. Public schools cannot promote specific religious ideas."

A vote by the Harrison County school board on removing the painting ended in a tie last month.

"At this point, it's a matter that's pretty much going to be up to the board," Superintendent

Carl Friebe Jr. said. "It's just going to be very interesting for me to see what the board wants us to do with it."

The suit was filed on behalf of Harold Sklar and Jacqueline McKenzie, whose children attend or will attend the school.

Jakes implores black community to support children

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

HOUSTON — Bishop T.D. Jakes isn't giving up on the nation's black youth, and on Saturday he implored members of the black community to adopt the same mind-set.

Jakes, a televangelist, best-selling author and minister of the 30,000 congregation Potter's House in Dallas, spoke to a crowd of about 5,000 as part of the annual Essence Music Festival.

"I think the older we get and the more we become involved in our community, the more we realize that children are an investment and that we have a responsibility to give something back to the next generation," Jakes told The Associated Press after his speech. "Even when the stats are not good and we've not seen the results we would like to see, I feel like we have a responsibility to become involved and engaged with every age level."

The three-day Essence Fest, featuring daylong seminars and nights filled with top-name musical acts, began its 12th installment Saturday. This is the first year it's been held outside New Orleans.

Essence is using this weekend to launch its Essence Cares program, designed to promote involvement in organizations that help children affected by substandard education, poverty, gang violence and natural disasters such as Hurricane Katrina, which swamped New Orleans last year.

Jakes' almost 45-minute address, delivered in his trademark dynamic manner, often brought the crowd to its feet and had its members chanting cheering and shouting "Amen!"

The father of five encouraged people to nurture their own children, and he also

Please see **JAKES/6B**



THE STOCK MARKET

Bishop TD Jakes doesn't want to give up on the traditional black family and wants others to adopt the same mind set.



PHOTO/THE STOCK MARKET

Christian-oriented Statue of Liberty

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MEMPHIS — A 72-foot-tall replica of the Statue of Liberty erected at a Memphis church is green like the original, with the right arm extended upward in the familiar pose.

But instead of a torch, this statue holds a cross. And the famous inscription — "Give me your tired, your poor..." — has been replaced by Roman numerals representing the Ten Commandments.

The Statue of Liberation, to be unveiled at a July 4 Independence Day ceremony at the World Overcomers Outreach Ministries Church, also has a tear running down her face, representing her concern for America.

"People don't talk about Christ anymore and our morals are gone," said church pastor Apostle Alton R. Williams. "People cannot drive by our statue without thinking about their relationship with God."

The \$260,000 statue is not a welcome sight for the entire community.

Evelyn Douglass, 11, said she takes the long way home to avoid seeing the "big green thing."

"The Statue of Liberty is a symbol of the United States of America. The cross represents a specific religion," Douglass said. "It's not right that they are mixing the two. That church is trashing the meaning of America."

Across the street from the statue, store manager Mary Preyer said she is looking forward to seeing it unveiled completely.

"I like the idea of the Statue of Liberty holding a cross representing freedom through Jesus Christ," Preyer said. "I just think its funding could have been put to better use for the neighborhood. It's definitely got people talking."

CHURCH NEWS

The deadline for announcements in the calendar is noon on Fridays. Fax your announcements to (704) 342-2160 or e-mail cheris.hodges@thecharlottepost.com.

July 9

Shirley Caesar's outreach ministry will host its 34th annual conference through July 14 in Raleigh at the Mount Calvary Word of Faith Church, located at 3100 Sanderford Road. To register, visit www.shirleycaesar.com.

July 11

The Women's Initiative Network Chapter meeting will be held at the Doubletree South-Park. Guest speaker will Jill Felts, owner of Classy Creations Jewelry. To register, log on www.womensinet.com or call Jessica at (803) 802-5454.

July 14

University Park Baptist Church, 6029 Beatties Ford Road, will host comic Jonathan Slocumb at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$13 in advance and \$15 at the door.

July 16

The 33rd Annual Women's Day Celebration will be at 4 p.m.

The guest speaker will be Minister Chris Whitley, First Lady of Mount Moriah Baptist Church.

Greater Mt. Sinai Baptist Church, 1243 West Boulevard, will host its Youth Revival with the theme: "A Child Shall Lead Them...word on the street."

Services Sunday begin at 6 p.m. and run

through Wednesday with services beginning at 7 p.m. For more information, call (704) 332-2163.

July 20

The CHOSEN Youth/Young Adult Department of the New St. Luke Holy Baptist Church of God will host the NuNation Youth Convocation. Theme: Generation X — Marked for Greatness! Times: July 21 and 22 at 7:45 p.m. and 23 at 11 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. Location: 910

Please see **NUNATION/6B**