

# Letters To The Editor

Dear Editor,

In *The Parade Magazine*, a mass circulation Sunday supplement published in area Sunday papers, there appeared an article entitled "Religious Storm Center: New Sex Code!" Because the article is a distortion of the United Presbyterian Church's stand, those who read the article should keep these four facts in mind as they read it:

1. The article is based--superficially on a study document, "Sexuality and the Human Community", prepared by the Council on Church and Society for submission to the 182nd General Assembly (1970). The study document is based on three years of study, research and discussion. The article in *Parade* is superficial because it quotes from the document out of context.

2. The study document is not in any sense a CODE. It is a document to clarify thinking on problems of human sexuality. The report, which the *Parade* article failed to do, notes that "Our task is to speak to rather than for the church!"

3. The study asks that the Assembly receive the report, "Sexuality and the Human Community", that the study be published and that the Assembly support action in the areas of education, research and legislation.

4. And most important, it is of course not an action of the Assembly or the United Presbyterian Church at this time. Obviously it must, like any proposal, be submitted to a standing committee (Church and Society in this case). That committee, with whatever changes it wishes to make, may then (and only then) submit it to the full Assembly for further consideration.

Why then was this article written? Any report before the Assembly can be released for public comment or quotation, but such release does not preclude subsequent changes in any report prior to presentation at General Assembly. The Church of course has no control over what is done with quotations or comments.

I, as do all United Presbyterians, hope that this will provide some guidance in reading the article.

Sincerely,  
Rev. Don R. Elly



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IN THE GREEN TUBE

DEAR MR. PUBLISHER,

BY **PARSON JONES**

Dear Mr. Publishers:

I got out of the Hospital yesterday. Doc said I was feeling better, and he oughta know. He reminded me to keep my mind off my troubles, and then handed me a bill for \$250. I've been trying to follow his advice and not take life so serious. My Doc allowed as how laughing at troubles is a lot better than fretting over 'em.

At first I thought this approach to problems would be kinda sacriligious, but now I ain't too sure. I was reading in the Good Book the other day where God gets kinda tickled at man's stupidity. In Psalm 2, after talking about man's wickedness, it says "He who sits in the Heavens shall laugh." I reckon the reasoning behind this is that when a monkey acts like a monkey its funny, but when a man acts like a monkey its down-right hilarious.

I suppose this approach is just plain good psychology too. You take T. V. for instance-when the news got so bad that nobody could stand it anymore they come up with programs like "Laugh-In". That's where they give the news and everybody laughs about it. Cartoons have been doing the same thing for years. Maybe that's why more grown-ups are reading the comic strips these days.

You know, maybe if I used this approach in my sermons more people would get the message. I could talk about all the sins my folks are indulging in, and then break-up and laugh like crazy. This would at least wake some of the folks up that sleep all the time.

Well, I gotta start taking it easy. If I could just do like my ole dog, Spot, and go to sleep in the shade when things get tough I would be alright. At least sleeping dogs st a y outa trouble. Be good and write when you can.

Laughingly yours,

Parson Jones.

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