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## From the Editor's Desk: Virtue and Society

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## From the Editor's Desk



### *Virtue & Society*

As we Christian physicians gaze about us and contemplate the world we live in it is very discouraging. We see in our own time the breakdown of the moral fibre that undergirds Christian civilization, where the Christian values are being disregarded only to be replaced with values that dehumanize civilization. The rampant effects of immorality inundate us. Truly we are living through a post-Christian era in society. The reports on widespread abortion, the creeping euthanasia movement, widespread violence, family breakdown, murder, family abuse, gross corruption, drug abuse, all point toward a breakdown in society. The recent reports of passing out of condoms in public school systems, the sex education programs which corrupt our youth are but signs of society's misunderstanding of human nature.

To encourage youth to engage in fornication, but to do it "safely" by using a condom is to declare that society condones this behavior, if not approves it. To hold up athletes as models, as the paragons of good behavior, is to demonstrate how inverted in values are the arbiters of human conduct today. Human nature does not change. The blueprint for a virtuous life is the Ten Commandments and it is high time that we as a Christian community re-assert this vision of man. We are created by God who has given us rules to live by. These rules help us to conform to what is best for us, and lead us to a peaceful fulfilling life and to God Himself. It is this message that will heal society and rescue it from its own depravity.

In regard to youth and sexual mores, it is axiomatic that a teacher will get out of his students as much as he demands. If the teacher sets high goals, students will try to reach them. If the goals are set low, the students will not try very hard and the results will be low. If the students are not challenged, there will be very little response.

If school systems publicly endorse condoms for use, the message that premature sexual intercourse is permissible is condoned, if not encouraged. With the consequences of sexual promiscuity rampant around us, with all of its consequences, it is ludicrous to think that the school system is being faithful to its calling.

Rather, it is important, if we are to reverse this trend, society has to return to basic fundamentals conforming to the Ten Commandments and strive to inculcate virtue into its charges. This should be the first priority of schools and society in order to reverse the ominous trends with which society is faced. What then is Virtue? In a succinct paragraph penned by William May and Joseph Baybe in one of their books it is stated, "Virtue is defined as a stable character trait or disposition. Virtues therefore are not actions or feelings, for these are passing and momentary. Virtues last and, like other traits that are not naturally given, they must be acquired over a period of time and are not readily lost. Virtues are those character traits which enable a person to do well what is morally good. Virtues enable a person to do well what is morally good. Virtues enable a person to know what is right and to do it without excessive struggle. Thus, virtues are the extension of a person's morally good choices throughout his or her entire personality. Virtues integrate a good person's entire self around what is best and most central in his or her personality. Education should center around the inculcation of virtue in our youth.

Our youth should be taught the virtue of chastity if they are to live a fulfilling life. Strange to say this virtue is not being taught today. In fact, the modern attitude of youth today is that if you don't have sex there is something wrong with you. Youth has no idea of what chastity is as they have never read anything about it. Yet there are signs that chastity or abstinence is beginning to catch on. Reports are beginning to come in about the response of youth to speakers who advocate chastity. Public and private high school students are responding to these speakers thus giving hope for the future.

If we as a society are to reverse the present trends it is only through education that this may come about. We encourage all of our readers to speak out for our youth about the value of chastity not only for themselves but for their friends and society as a whole.

It is important for ourselves and our youth to have a return to the ancient virtues of justice, fortitude, and temperance and prudence if we are to survive as a peaceful, loving, and just society.

— John P. Mullooly, M.D.  
Editor