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[Book Review of] *Sex and the illusion of Freedom*, by Dr. Donald DeMarco

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this book does not provide solid confirmation of such anecdotal impressions, due to lack of the necessary ethical analysis.

I do not wish to be entirely negative, however. The book contains a valuable and seemingly thorough review of the social science literature on informed consent. The data contained in numerous articles is summarized with unflinching clarity. The bibliography provides a helpful tool to those who wish to explore this literature further. The book is highly readable and is well-organized. In short, it provides a good point of entry into the literature on informed consent.

— Carson Strong
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Sex and the Illusion of Freedom

Dr. Donald DeMarco

Mission Press, 53 Dundas Street East, Toronto, Ontario, Canada, 118 pp.

One of the unfortunate misconceptions growing out of the recent "sexual revolution" is the notion that chastity is an unattainable ideal not to be taken seriously as an "alternate lifestyle." Chastity has become identified as the opposite polar extreme to promiscuity, symptomatic of a similar neurotic aberration of sexual adjustment. Very few voices have been raised on behalf of chastity as the virtue resulting from the application of reason to the sexual appetite. Young people at the high school level have few resources at their disposal to reinforce their basic propensity toward continence. Even religious spokesmen, functioning as opinion-makers, seem to be influenced more in their public statements by Planned Parenthood and the social hygiene movement than by their own solemn vow of chastity. Dr. DeMarco, an influential and prolific writer, has made an important effort to fill the current void with this small and highly readable book with a style that is alternately whimsical and professional. He brings a philosopher's insights into the clichés and conventional wisdom of the social engineers.

The book consists of 30 brief essays, half devoted to sex and the other half to the illusion of freedom. With brevity and a willingness to restrict each chapter to a single nugget of argumentation, DeMarco has developed an effective critique of present attempts to reduce sex to a limited, appetitive function rather than an integrative aspect of the whole person. With a sense of the tyranny of language, he points out how words have been used by the propagandizers of the contraceptive society to politicize value-free sexual activity. The importance of this kind of exposé can best be appreciated when we recognize that the whole abortion movement really arose from a need to address the reproductive consequences of societally-sanctioned adolescent sexual activity. The book can be commended equally to parents and college-age offspring. Proceeds from the sale of the book are being donated to the support of Birthright of Toronto.

— Eugene F. Diamond, M.D.
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