

## **“SEXUAL WISDOM” by Richard Wetzel, MD** **What we need is another sexual revolution.**

There is a story about a newspaper reporter who is taking a survey at a busy downtown intersection. “What are the two greatest problems facing America today?” he asks a man who is striding rapidly along the street. “I don’t know, and I don’t care,” the man shouts over his shoulder as he hurries on his way. “That’s right,” says the reporter, “ignorance and apathy.”

We’re still facing those same two problems today in the wake of the sexual revolution. The sexual revolution of the 60’s was based on ignorance - misconceptions and falsehoods - which people accepted because they didn’t know enough or care enough - ignorance and apathy.

On the other hand, much good has resulted from the sexual revolution:

We enjoy a new openness today to discussing sexuality, which has great therapeutic value; many important issues are now “out of the closet.” And now that we are talking about them, we can do something about alleviating the suffering they cause.

Our society clearly needed a sexual revolution, but we got the wrong one. We needed a revolution based on love, but we got one based on the uninhibited pursuit of freedom and pleasure. The net result is that we are not just “out of the closet,” but awash in misunderstanding and misuse of our human sexuality. Now we need to reconsider how to make sex a positive experience. There is no quick fix for our national dilemma today. Some of the related ethical and psychosocial problems are enormously complex and unwieldy, but others are more manageable than they may at first have seemed. As a start we can take the following steps toward a new sexual revolution:

- We need to debunk the “needs” misconception. To live a life based on attempts to fulfill needs is enslaving. The “needs” misconception is the most important falsehood about sex, because it directly contradicts the fundamental truth that all people are free to choose to “do good.”
- We need to re-establish the priority of love and re-embrace its behavioral extension - natural morality.
- We need to resensitize our society to the abuse of sex.
- We need to emphasize the nurturing of children. We have to be concerned about our skewed values wherein husbands neglect their wives for sake of their careers, parents abandon their children while working extra jobs to secure material goods and spouses use their children as an excuse to neglect one another.
- We need to more carefully evaluate modern technology and its implications on human relationships.
- We need to challenge the common wisdom of our culture. Realize that just because someone or some agency speaks with authority does not mean they speak with accuracy.