

## "LOVERS KEEP ROVING"

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## "THE CHRISTIAN FAITH"

"Lovers Keep Roving" - this summarises the research of Psychiatrist Dr. Jack Dominian, director of the Marriage Research Centre in London, who has warned that sexual patterns don't change after marriage. Husbands who sow their wild oats before they marry are less likely to remain faithful to their wives. If one or both spouses had extensive and varied experience with several partners before marriage, it increases the likelihood of infidelity,' he said.

When I first read this I had my usual exasperated reaction to such statements - after all, who has to do an experiment to discover that the sun is hot? Who doesn't know that human beings need good food? We don't need professional experts to assure us of the obvious, and surely the fact that promiscuity leads to infidelity is hardly world-shattering.

But on reflection I see that my reaction is wrong. It is old-fashioned. It arises from a time when the moral code was as clear as crystal, people knew what was right and wrong and it was assumed rather than proved that immorality had harmful consequences. You know as well as I do, however, that all these truths have been challenged in the last 20 years, and the whole business of moral standards has been completely obscured. The loud mouthed so-called libertarians of the sixties and early seventies boldly proclaimed that Christian moral standards were intolerably burdensome, and they insisted that everyone 'do their own thing'. At the same time, the advent of the birth-control pill meant that the consequences of immorality were not so immediately obvious. But let us not be deceived. Doctors have in fact suggested a link between physical ills and promiscuity. It is no wonder then, that scientists now tell us the obvious. We have been so bamboozled by people who want us to adopt selfish

egoistic attitudes in our sexual lives, that even common sense is no longer enough. We need to have the obvious bellowed into our deaf ears.

Thus, let it be said, the encouragement that we give to young men and women to engage in casual sex is fatal to their future happiness. Sexual relation can never be casual; they involve not just our bodies but our whole personalities. If we squander ourselves on a number of partners, we make it impossible to enjoy a deep, fruitful relationship with others. In fact, far from creating love, we make love impossible; we stifle it. All of us want to love and be loved - this must be the most precious of all human experiences. But immorality makes it impossible. 'Lovers Keep Roving' they say. The 'roving' part is right; but 'lover' is not the correct word. Those who love many, love none at all.



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