

President Wright,  
November 27, 1926

CHAPEL

I read this morning a passage of scripture that has something very significant in it, "Yea, in heart ye work wickedness." Do you know, that, after all is said and done, it is how one is at heart that really counts in this world? Sometimes a person does a thing that we can't approve at all, when probably deep down in his heart and soul, he is doing the very best that he can. That is the reason we are told to judge not. We can't tell always the motive that prompts one to do a given act. On the other hand, of course, we are instructed that "By their fruits shall ye know them". The outward acts usually, not always, but usually, are the expressions of what one is at heart.

I have been very much interested right recently in talking with a number of people about the present generation of boys and girls. I hope no previous generation of boys and girls have been talked about quite as much as this one. I suppose they have. I did not live back there, and when I was living back there, I was one of the boys, and of course I didn't hear it. I quite often hear people still taking the position that we do not know what to do with this generation; they are headed in the wrong direction. It always riles me to hear any one use that expression. I don't believe a word of it, and I always come to the defence of the boy and girl of today, and I invariably get this answer, "But they are not like they used to be." And I usually say, "For which I thank God". Then the argument is on. We are not living in the same kind of world that we lived in ten years ago. Young women, I realize that. I don't know whether I am changing as fast as you are or not, perhaps not, but if you are at heart right-minded, if deep down in your soul, and I believe it is true, there is burning that desire to do something in this world that is worth while; then hold to that, and let the tongues of the world wag on, but hold to your purpose.

It is the wicked who are not right in heart. It is the man or the woman who has an improper motive that is doing harm in this world. O, I realize that the freedom that has come to women is causing a number of young women, perhaps, to do things that they ought not to do, and I am not at all sure that it is confined to young women, because it is no longer young women only who are bobbing hair and skirts, and it is no longer young women only who are powdering their noses before the public. There is a danger, however, (and it is because there is a danger that I am talking to you this morning about it) of letting this new freedom that has come to womanhood lead the womanhood of today a little too far out into the field of so-called freedom, that is sometimes interpreted by some folks as license to do as one pleases, regardless of everything else. I say there is some danger there. There is unquestionably an increased percentage of divorces in America. Statistics show that, and there is a pretty good article on it in the December World's Work. It isn't an article, as a matter of fact, it is on the front of the magazine, a running story of what is going on in the world. It is worth reading and considering. It may be in a measure due to the fact that our whole social structure is changed and that people are no longer living under the same conditions that they lived under a generation ago. I think that has a great deal to do with it. Do not let this new freedom that is for your good, I honestly believe that; do not let it be your undoing. The time has come in the world when the girl is given a better chance than the boy. I mean most businesses will employ young girls before they will employ young boys, and that is a bad tendency. You will find a short reference to that in a most interesting article in the December World's Work also. You are given an opportunity. You are given more freedom than any generation of girls has ever had before, and it is not only true in America, but it is world wide. That carries with it a more serious responsibility than has ever rested upon any generation of young women. All freedom carries with it individual responsibility.

Perhaps the greatest evil in this country today, I say perhaps, is a lack of a willingness to obey the laws, and part of that is due to the fact that we have so many laws that no one knows how to obey them. The one place that it is stressed, perhaps more than anywhere else is around the question of prohibition. I mean around the question of drinking, and there is a place that the women of the world will have to take a stand, if they want to save the world. I am sorry that my sex is not in part the standard bearer, but it isn't, and I know it. It is the womanhood of the world that will establish the standards of the civilization of today and tomorrow, and it is the stand that you young women and other young women like you take that is going to determine whether or not the civilization of tomorrow will be the best type of civilization. It is in your keeping. There are a number of right-minded men who will fight with you and for the civilization of today and tomorrow, but the great masses of mankind, masculine gender, I mean, are going to do the kind of things that you want them to do. It has been said that God created man and after man woman, and she has been after him ever since, but it isn't so. The creation is all right, but man has been after woman. It has been reversed. In the old order of things, man made the meat and bread and woman made the home and the civilization, and today man and woman are making the meat and bread, and, as I see it, there must be a union of the two in making a home. And the home must continue to be the central unit in our civilization. It is around the home that almost all of the sacred things of life are centered. It is in the home and through the influence of the home that the civilization of tomorrow must be builded. And in the home the wife and mother, the woman there is the one who makes it after all, and the standards she sets up are the standards that the next generation will inherit.

So, in all of this freedom that we have, let's hold true to the things that are worth while, and to do that we must be right minded in heart.