

Purity's a revolutionary choice

Dan Nelson - pastor

Calvary Chapel of the Ojai Valley

I just got back from a very cool event and I want to tell you about it. It was really awesome! The program was called Secret Keeper Girl and the powerful wisdom did not fall on deaf ears.

As the girls streamed up the steps of the Matilija Auditorium just before 6 p.m., there was a sense of anticipation in the air. While mothers and daughters filed in to find their seats, chatter and giggles could be heard throughout the venue and the excitement grew with each passing moment. Then it was time to begin the event. I had my cue.

My role would be to welcome everyone and get them ready to be dazzled. And that's exactly what happened. Once the Secret Keeper Girl ministry team took over, it was non-stop excitement, laughter, lessons and looniness, with a few serious moments in between. They sang songs, learned hand motions, heard stories, threw stuff around the room, and even caught confetti. Everyone had a blast! A message was given that is really from the Bible and is counterculture to what mainstream media offers young girls today. It was all about true beauty. There was even a fashion show.

Very few role models exist in the era that we live in these days. Confusion is rampant among adults and it is little wonder why there is a sense of "lostness" among the youth. There is very little hope for a bright future among vast portions of America's young. Television, print, movies and Internet so often portray a message that creates a problematic understanding of how a girl should present herself to others if she wants to be accepted and loved. Power brokers and media mongers often claim ignorance of the roots of this evil and yet the answers are there in their research studies and focus group reports. The problem is that the answers run contrary to the greedy desire for more money. If sex sells, they are "selling out" our youth and very few "grown-ups" are doing anything about it. Enter Secret Keeper Girl.

The national outreach program attempts to connect girls with God's description of beauty. By teaching them that their attractiveness is not defined by comparing themselves to a model in a magazine, they build a more healthy type of perspective about themselves, God, and the opinions of others. The leaders encourage girls to keep private what should not be made public and teach them fashion tips to counteract the "show it so they'll know it" trend. The girls are taught to expose certain charms only to that one and only person who would value her as precious, her husband.

For some, all this sounds too idealistic to be realistic. Parents are planning promiscuity into their mind-set for their teenager. Many can't even imagine any other way. Some don't


understand what the fuss is all about.

As a pastor, I know all too well the tragedy of warped thinking and rationalization of ideas to fit the supposed cultural norms. Life Choices Pregnancy Center, the organization that coordinated the event, deals with the after-effects of poor lifestyle choices every day. And the good news is that there is hope for someone in any circumstance or situation. But would you agree that it is so much better to be proactive and save a life before it is lost? Isn't it preferred to teach the young girls principles of modesty and personal value before they are entrenched in the thinking of this world?

At the end of the show, there were some excellent prizes to be given away. But whether one won from the drawing or not, there was a real sense that everybody was a winner! Every girl who received the message and took it to heart, wins! And every future husband of each of these diamonds will also win. Future generations win. The whole community wins. If only the world would know that purity is possible, trust in relationships is possible, hope is possible. And white on a wedding day may one day mean something again.

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Dan Nelson is a frequent contributor to the Ojai Valley News and currently serves the Ojai Valley Ministerial Association and community as editor of the Religion Column. Permission is freely granted to reprint the article in its entirety. Dan Nelson is pastor of Calvary Chapel Christian Church of the Ojai Valley.


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Mid-Week Study:
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