

THE PANDEMIC CONTINUES

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A recent article in the American Family Association Journal entitled “The Disease that Won’t Die” gives some of the latest statistics on the HIV/AIDS epidemic in America. In spite of 25 years of effort by CDC and the expenditure of \$20,000,000,000, there are now 1,100,000 cases of HIV in the US. Most of these are among homosexuals and IV drug users. One-half of the new cases are among homosexuals and another 30% are among IV drug users. Together they comprise 80% of the newly reported cases. Of all the active HIV infections 47% occur in African Americans. Why is it that the pandemic continues to grow around the world, especially in Africa and in the black population in the US in spite of our efforts to control it?

If we look at how it got started and spread, it appears that the SIM virus (one found in monkeys) infected a native in sub Saharan Africa. It was then passed to a French airline steward who then passed it on to truck drivers in the same area. These truck drivers then passed it on to prostitutes. At one time 69% of the prostitutes in Nairobi were infected. HIV came to the New World by way of Haiti where it was introduced into the North American homosexual population. And the rest of the story is that their promiscuity spread it rapidly to others. It is a fact that most homosexuals have close to 500 different partners in a lifetime, so it is no wonder that it spread so rapidly. It is also documented that a homosexual with a new diagnosis of infection with HIV had

unprotected sex with 50 partners in the next five years. Now many homosexuals are also IV drug users so it is easy to see that HIV got into the drug population through contaminated needles as well as through sexual intercourse. Although the emphasis on the spread of the infection among homosexuals is on anal intercourse, it is true that it can be spread through oral contact as well since the virus can be found in saliva. HIV was spread into the heterosexual population through males consorting with infected prostitutes and bisexual males. Lesbians have an increasing incidence since it is known that they often have sex with infected male homosexuals. It is obvious that children can be infected in-utero if their mother is infected. The rate of spread to fetuses is 25 to 45%.

HIV infections are often accompanied by other viral infections. Hepatitis B and C are common comorbid infections. Shingles or herpes zoster also accompany HIV infections. Finally, syphilis is also a common infection in HIV infected persons. There are of course other infections that occur because of the immune deficiency that the HIV virus causes. Diseases such as tuberculosis, Kaposi's sarcoma and other infectious diseases occur.

Why have we not been able to control the continued occurrence of AIDS? The answer is very simple. People still sin! Sex outside of marriage is a sin. Homosexual sex is a sin. That's it, pure and simple. As you read the literature you find out that public health and medical authorities talk at length about safe sex. They cite the ABC's of control are *Abstinent, Be faithful, use Condoms*. As we inspect this formula proposed by the president of Uganda where a successful control program has been put into effect, we

find that Most Public Health people emphasize the use of condoms rather than the A and B part of the formula. Nevertheless, one author says, "The first truth is that condoms have a failure rate, however minimal. Even the pro-condom WHO only claims that 'consistent and correct' condom use only reduces infection by 90%. The second is that condoms institutionalize promiscuity, the behavior that is at the heart of the sexually transmitted epidemic." Then the question arises, "Do people use them correctly?" The answer is, "No!" Even persons who have been carefully instructed in their use will not use them on many occasions. In one study of youths in England many years ago (they had condoms freely available to them for birth control), they only used them 50% of the time. It is also true that homosexuals are very lax in the use of condoms.

Interestingly, the editor of a magazine that is primarily for homosexual activists made the point that abstinence is the only answer. It does not seem that vaccines are going to be developed that will prevent the disease. At the present time abstinence is the only answer to prevention. Most persons in our society however, especially Planned Parenthood, seem to operate on the notion that to deny sex to youth is inhumane. Oh is it? I grew up in a culture that preached abstinence, and I did not think that denying myself was inhumane. Most of us practiced it and it did not harm us to be abstinent. It was the right thing to do. Why? I knew that I would not get a venereal disease, and I would not impregnate a girl and ruin my life by having to get married so that my child would not have to be adopted or be without a father. Sin has consequences. The wages are still death! These wages have not suffered from inflation or deflation. What has happened is society has said, "No, it doesn't have consequences!" But what they say is

a **lie**; the AIDS epidemic with 33,000,000 infected people in the world is mute testimony to the fact that it is a lie.

Before the AIDS epidemic in 1947 I had the privilege of working in a rapid treatment center treating venereal disease. During the three months I worked there I saw hundreds of cases of syphilis, gonorrhea, lymphopathia venereum, and lymphogranuloma inguinale. Almost all of them were due to promiscuity. Many of the people we admitted had sex with multiple partners. One guy had infected over 30 partners with syphilis over a six-week period. A prostitute who was angry at the authorities infected eight men while on a bus trip of 120 miles. A few women were infected by husbands who were promiscuous.

The AIDS epidemic is due to promiscuity whether it is homosexual or heterosexual. It is not due to the lack of affordable housing, poor personal hygiene or wrong use of condoms. The Ugandan's got it right. They controlled it with morality. They did not have affordable housing, running water in every home, or correct use of condoms. They did, though, have the help of the church in their country, and they took their lessons of morality from the Christian church. Unfortunately, people in the world believe the lies of the enemy and AIDS continues to kill. Don't you know that Satan rejoices? He has successfully led people to believe that immorality has no consequences. Don't you believe it!!