

No. 93.

Wheaton College

Wheaton, Illinois

September 23, 1948

My little girl,

There was no letter today either, Darling. I said before that I would not write unless I first received a letter. But I have weakened; I must write anyway. I'm sure there must be some reason for your not writing me. Anyway, I'm hoping.

Darling, you know that more than anything else I want to do the Lord's will. That is the foremost desire in my life. My whole life is dedicated to that one purpose. But doing the Lord's will I believe is being very sensible in every respect. There are so many Christians who become very narrow-minded because they think the Lord requires some things He never does require. In other words, I want to be sensible in all I do, but still be in the Lord's will.

Along this line of being sensible and practical, I have been doing a good deal of thinking concerning our conduct toward each other when we meet. How shall we act so that we shall be in the Lord's will, but still very sensible? That is our great question. Of course doing the Lord's will IS the only sensible way to act. But, let's not blame the Lord for things He never meant us to do or not to do. Sometimes as I have thought along these lines, I have felt that we should not be at all personal in our conduct until we are married. But then other times I believe we should be entirely personal except, of course, for intercourse. All the time I have believed that intercourse in ONLY for the married. You believe the same I know.

And after all, the Scriptures say nothing about not learning to know your lover real well, especially after engagement. I don't believe in handling the personal portions of anyone except the one who is to be my wife. And before getting engaged and having the wedding date planned, how are we to know who is to be our mate? Therefore, it is absolutely wrong to be personal before engagement. But afterward it is different. Then we not only can, but should be absolutely personal with one another. Well, this is how I have been thinking. But I have not been sure. I was so afraid that I was letting the fleshly lusts get the best of me. So the other day I asked my roommate what he thought about it. I was encouraged to find he thought the same as I did. Then I went to my friend, Dr. Marquart, head of the psychology department, with the same question. Darling, he also said that engaged persons he believed should become personal. He said that so often couples wait until the marriage night for everything. Then on the marriage night the shock is so much that it almost wrecks the marriage. Dr. Marquart said that from the time of engagement the couple should gradually get more and more personal until there is nothing left except intercourse. Then when they do get married, it is no shock to lay with each other. Now, Darling, these are not my words, but the words of a fine man of God. What do you think about it all? I also talked with Paul Smith about it and he agreed with me too. Then Paul mentioned to June what I had said. She came up to me today and told me she never believed being personal before. But now after getting married herself, she sees the importance of it. If one does not get personal, the shock is too much for the girl especially. So, Sweetheart, I guess we were right all along, huh?

Went to China prayer group again tonight. We had a fine time with the Lord. Wish you could have been with us, Honey. Soon you

will be - I hope.

Darling, how I wish you were here right now. I feel very blue tonight. I received a letter on Monday; but none on Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday. Oh how I hope there will be one tomorrow. Then too, tonight I called home to see how Mom is. No one was there except my aunt. She told me that at 2:00 this morning they had to call the ambulance and take Mom to the hospital again. My aunt said that she is terrible sick. I don't know what to think. It's easy to say, "trust the Lord;" but how hard it is to do it. Pray for Mom, my Darling. My room-mate, Bob Nelson, is ready to read the Scriptures for evening devotions; so must quit. Good-night, Sweetheart.

With all my love,

Bernie XXXO