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## Editorial

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# Editorial

With the publication of "The Victorian Age: An Age of Purity or of Hypocrisy?" by Professor Jack Vanden Berg we complete the Fall 1986 Faculty Lecture Series. These lectures explored the relation between culture, language, communication, and morality.

Vanden Berg's study brings together two well-known facts which are not usually looked at together, namely, the intense Victorian emphasis on sexual purity and the widespread prostitution of the Victorian age. The article does not approach the problem cynically (many people maintain that the emphasis on sexual purity was hypocritical), but actually examines relations without making sweeping claims. Professor Vanden Berg is retiring from teaching after having taught at Dordt for twenty years. Perhaps he will have time in his retirement to continue to contribute to *Pro Rege*. We trust the Lord will bless him.

Each spring Dordt College sponsors a ministerial conference. The task of the church in confronting the problems facing the modern Christian family was the subject of the 1986 meeting. This issue contains articles based on the talks given at that conference. They contain occasional references to the Christian Reformed Church (all three authors are Christian Re-

formed ministers); but the problems and proposed solutions apply to the situation generally found in the Christian church today.

Gordon Pols ("The Biblical View of the Family") gives the norms for the Christian family. He relies heavily on both the Old and New Testaments. What is particularly interesting about his approach is his analysis of each of the Ten Commandments with reference to the God-ordained family. Cornelis Venema ("Threats to the Family") identifies four spirits of our times which militate against the biblical view of the family: lawlessness, individualism, feminism, and materialism. His article is helpful because it distinguishes between these four spirits and because of his insight into an extremely complicated situation. John Sittema ("Ministering to the Family in Today's Society"), addressing the problems raised by the first two articles, proposes what should be done. Sittema says that family problems can be averted (or, where problems have already developed, solved) by appropriate biblical preaching and by utilizing the particular abilities of elders, deacons, and other believers. Every reader will be able to identify with the problems and the solutions discussed in these articles.

Russell Maatman