

### News Story Summary

On February 21, 2018, one of the greatest evangelists of our time, Billy Graham died. Billy Graham is famous for a lot of things including what his colleagues called the Modesto Manifesto. Graham along with Grady Wilson, George Beverly Shea, and Cliff Barrows compared lists of problems they saw facing many evangelists and created an agreement with each other to an effort to avoid those problems. The four areas addressed were financial integrity, sexual morality, honest publicity, and partnering with local churches. The statement on sexual morality received the greatest attention in modern times as others have adopted the practice. Graham actively tried to avoid meeting, traveling, eating, or being alone with a woman who was not his wife. He did this to avoid the appearance of evil, avoid temptation, and to show integrity. This part of the agreement became known as the Billy Graham rule.

(For more on this story, search the Internet using the terms “Modesto Manifesto” and “Billy Graham Rule”.)

### Focus Attention

To replace the Focus Attention ideas, share a summary of the news story. Lead the group to discuss the following questions: *How do you respond to the four ideas included in the Modesto Manifesto? Do you think any to be excessive and if so, how? Why do you think the sexual morality statement received the most attention? What does the presence of the Billy Graham rule reveal about Graham’s commitment to his wife?* Explain that today’s sessions provides Scriptural basis for how believers can honor God by keeping their vows related to marriage and sexual purity. Complete the step by using the Explain section

### Summarize and Challenge

To supplement the Summarize and Challenge ideas, when reviewing the summary statements, remind the group of the news story. Ask: *How does the Billy Graham rule serve as one way of expressing what Paul wrote to the Corinthians?* Lead the group to create their own rule based on what was discovered in 1 Corinthians 7.