

It's Not About the Birds and the Bees Anymore

(Talking to Your Kids About Sex
When They Think You're Clueless)

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Vocation= "Calling"

- * We all have many vocations in life
- * One of your most important vocations is that of parent— all other vocations flow from the family

A wooden sign with a weathered, greyish-brown finish and a rough, torn edge. The sign is mounted on a tree trunk and features the text "THIS COULD BE SCARY..." in a bold, yellow, stylized font with a red outline. The background shows a lush green forest with sunlight filtering through the trees.

THIS COULD
BE
SCARY...

**9 out of 10 parents
surveyed:**

*“Parents should talk to their
kids about sex”*

What to say,
how to say it,
or when to start?





frontal cortex of brain

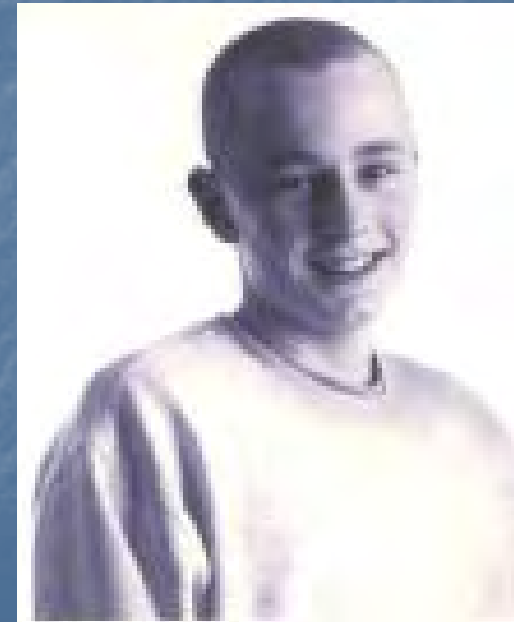
- Frontal lobes of each hemisphere used for logical reasoning, emotions
- Pre-frontal lobes used for higher-level thought processes
- Pre-frontal cortex development not complete until mid-twenties

Explosive brain development

- Fetal life



- adolescence



Teens are NOT
mini-adults!

Recent studies:

Christian teenagers are just as likely to be sexually active as non-Christian teens.

Pregnancy. . .

**You have a 4 times
greater chance of
contracting a STD
than getting (or
getting somebody
else) pregnant**

24 HOURS =

12,000 teens will get a
sexually transmitted disease

30% incurable

STD infection rate of sexually active young people

1981 = 1 in 18 people infected

2006 = 1 in 3 people infected

Chlamydia

You often won't know you have it.

1/2 people infected with Chlamydia and
Gonorrhea are teens

1 time = 25 % chance of sterility

2 times = 50% chance of sterility

Herpes

- Virus = for LIFE / no cure
- 400% more cases seen in teens

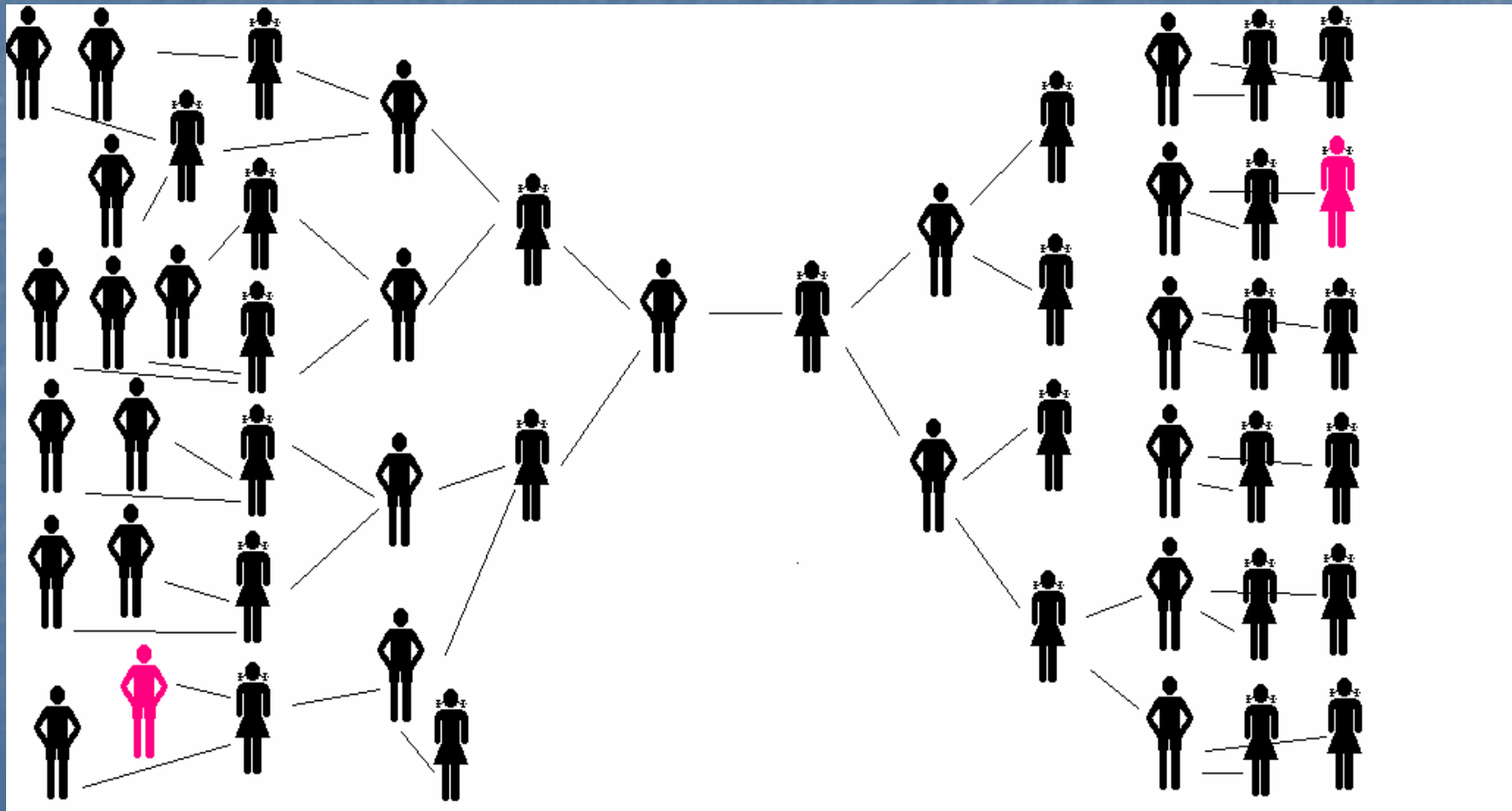
Human Papilloma Virus (HPV)

- Fastest growing STD among teens
- Genital warts
- HPV's most cancerous strains don't cause symptoms

#1 Causal agent of cervical cancer in women!

46% of teenage girls will get
HPV after 1st sexual
intercourse!

Just one time? You come in contact with many more partners than you can imagine. What if even one is infected?



Each Day:

- 3,000 teens become pregnant
- (1,000,000 each year)

Culture of Courtship:

- *“set of social norms and expectations that once helped people find the pathway to marriage.”*

83% undergraduate women say:

"Being married is a very important goal."

**Parents need to help
young people fulfill
that goal.**

Parent-led Sex Education

- A matter of self-defense.
- Makes sure that your children will accurately learn facts AND values.

“Chastity”

not just abstinence
education

Chastity Education

- Relationship skills
- Respect for self and others
- Self-discipline
- Servanthood in Christian relationships
- Knowledge about dangers of extra-marital sex
- Building a foundation for solid marriage

3 "Do's"

- 1) Communicate, Communicate, Communicate. . .
- 2) Listen first.
- 3) Get medically accurate information & know what's going on in your teen's world.

3 "Don'ts"

- 1) Don't---be age inappropriate

age appropriate ideas

- **Pre-school & early elementary:**
 - Reinforce miracle of human body
 - Discuss appropriate and inappropriate touching by others
 - Make sure they know they can always talk to you if anything makes them uncomfortable.
 - Answer questions in simple, concrete ways.
 - Use teachable moments in life.

age appropriate ideas

■ Older elementary

- More detailed info about formation in womb.
- Answer questions about opposite sex truthfully and with accurate vocabulary.
- Introduce discussions about modesty.

age appropriate ideas

■ Junior High

- Crunch Time!
- Continue ongoing discussions.
- Listening becomes even more critical.
- Stay in touch. . .ask questions in non-threatening way (use humor!)
- Monitor friends
- Don't let body changes come as surprise
- Highlight the importance of spiritual and intellectual maturity to accompany physical maturity

age appropriate ideas

■ High School

- Clear expectations and boundaries, communicate consequences—prior to problems
- Don't do this in confrontational way
- Know friends and parents of friends
- Make sure gatherings are supervised
- Require frequent check-ins by phone
- Require family time and reinforce importance of family meals.
- Know what they're watching---but watch it first before you ban it. It may be a discussion starter!
- Engage in all kinds of discussions (not just sex. . .political, opinions, culture, etc.) Know your kid!
- Enjoy your kid! Be amazed at them!
- Use humor. . .be goofy if that's what it takes to make a point without being threatening

3 "Don'ts"

- 1) Don't---be age inappropriate
- 2) Don't---Forget to ASK questions
- 3) Don't---Forget to pray, pray, pray and then repeat.

Points to Highlight

- Sex is a beautiful thing—a God-given gift for procreation and expressing love and servanthood to our spouse
- Marriage is boundary that God gives us for sex. God is helping us with the confusion before it arises.
- Marriage is not about love, it's about commitment.
- Discuss consequences of living outside of God's boundary for sex—pregnancy, STD's (physical danger), emotional heartache, spiritual decay.

James 1:2-4

Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have its perfect result, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.



You have incredible beauty and purity. . .

In your baptism YOU are precious!

YOU are the expert
on your kid!



http://worldrelief.lcms.org



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Notes for Life

A man and a woman do not become "one flesh" by getting married, but by sexual intercourse. Marriage exists to protect and preserve the "one flesh" union that occurs when man and woman are united sexually. Outside of marriage and apart from "male and female," sexual activity is called porneia (from which we get "pornography")—immorality.

—Rev. William M. Cwirla, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Hacienda Heights, California

What's a Parent To Do?

By Maggie Karner
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"So, how far *can* we go?" asked the e-mail I received from a participant in one of my teen chastity talks. I've responded to this question numerous times and I've even grown to expect it following my talks. But this time, it suddenly hit me that this question is a symptom of a much larger phenomenon in our culture today.

Consider the 1960's and even the 70's, when we were surrounded by a radical generation of idealistic youth that wasn't about to be told how to live their lives, especially by anyone of the older generation. I grew up with that former generation that believed if their

folks knew about something, it wasn't worth knowing.

Contrast that attitude with those of today's young people. Marketers have labeled them the Millennial Generation—children born between 1982 and 2002. In the midst of a new cultural revolution—where sex sells everything, basic morality is up for discussion, and truth is relative, or not an issue at all—our young people have somehow settled into a more conservative, traditional group than the previous "Generation Xers," or even most of their parents.¹

Millennials are not what we would expect. Generally, they are optimists, respect authority, value education, and think of themselves as being on the cutting edge of the future. Surprisingly, most of these teens say they trust their folks and identify with their parents' values. When asked in a recent Roper survey, "What is the major cause of problems in this country?"

teens blamed selfishness more than anything else.²

Our Lutheran kids seem to follow this same pattern. Polling data from the most recent 2004 Lutheran Youth Gathering in Orlando tell us that 79% feel they have good or excellent communication with their parents, 75% consider themselves pro-life, and, selecting from a list of 26 topics, the number one concern of both boys and girls was "my own faith".³

It all sounds too good to be true! Does this mean we have nothing to worry about as parents? Think again. What it simply means is that our kids are looking to us to help them find their way through a cultural maze of deception, sexual propaganda, and difficult choices. They are looking at our values, lifestyle, and opinions as they shape their own.

But in an MTV world, where Hollywood knows that sex succeeds at selling virtually everything, we need to remember that our children are their target audience. In the virtual reality that the media has created on television and in pop culture, young people are encouraged to abandon inhibitions and become numb to the sexual references and behavior they see everywhere around them. Even same-sex experimentation is seen as wholesome and normal when it appears on popular teen television shows.

Media messages (usually produced by older, more liberal generations)

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In HIS Service. . . .

THANKS!

