

Teach Your Teen to Take a Pledge of Purity

Throughout life we make many decisions. Some decisions can be made before temptation comes. One decision that will make a great difference is to take a pledge of purity. The pledge of purity says to a teen:

"I will keep my body pure and I will not have sex outside marriage. I will not put myself in situations of temptation."

We need to instruct our teens in principles set forth in God's Word. Help your teen write down these standards of dating before he begins to date. Any potential date who would violate God's standards in any way is not God's choice to date.

As your teen dates and you see them violating God's principles they have written down, you may want to help them get back "on track".

The important thing is for your teen to write his own pledge of purity based on God's Word. If it is in your words, it will not be as effective.

God wants us to teach our children to be pure and holy. Sex outside marriage violates this principle.

Josh McDowell has written an excellent book, Why Wait. Some of the chapters include: Reasons to Wait, How to Cope with Pre-marital Pressure, and Reasons Youth Have Pre-marital Sex. This is an excellent resource for your home. Share it with your teens and pre-teens before they begin to date.

Why Teens Have Pre-marital Sex

In his book, Why Wait, Josh McDowell states that 60% of our teens from Bible-preaching churches are having pre-marital sex.

Why? It has been said that the typical high school student faces more sexual temptation on his way to school each morning than his grandfather did on Saturday night when he was out looking for it.

Times have changed. Teens today are believing a lie! They are told throughout the media, "It's your body; no one can tell you what to do with it." "If you love someone, sleep with them." Teens can not watch T.V. without being confronted with promiscuous sex.

Ask the ordinary teen, "What is true love?" He will tell you, "Sex". Our teens are being conditioned to believe this lie.

God says in Colossians 3:5, "We must make no provision for the flesh." In fact, God says when we keep ourselves sexually undefiled before marriage it is an act of glorifying God with our bodies. In Corinthians 6, God says, "Therefore, glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's."

Pre-marital sex is sin. We need to teach our teens the true meaning of sexual relationships. Provide your teen with Christian resources to help him understand a healthy view of sex.

Power Sheet by Mark Witt
Teen Quest
293 Rich Road
Somerset, PA 15501
Phone: 814.444.9500 Fax: 814.444.8664
Email: quest@teenquest.org



A TEEN QUEST POWER SHEET

TEENS AND SEX

Promoting Purity Among Our Teens

America's teens have been infected by the sexual revolution; and not just with deadly sexually transmitted disease and unwanted pregnancy. Long lasting effects of guilt and breakdown of trust in future marriage are also negative outcomes of pre-marital sex.

Most teens confuse love with sex. What can we do as parents to help our teens remain pure?

1. Do not promote early dating. Teens automatically have an attraction to the opposite sex in God's timing.
2. Spend time with your children. Get to know them. Show them love. Communicate with them.
3. Talk to your children about sex. Your children will begin hearing all kinds of stuff about sex from their friends during their pre-teen years. Show them what God says about sex.
4. Sex education begins at home. Let your children see you caring about your spouse. Your children need to see Dad in love with Mom, not in the act of sex but communicating love and concern for one another.
5. Teach your children what kind of person they should date and what they should do on a date.

What is a Parent to Do About Sexual Pressure

Sex is being promoted in the media to sell everything from cars to soft drinks. Our teens today are bombarded by a constant diet of the glorification of sexual promiscuity, permissiveness, and perversion. Everywhere teens go they hear about sex, sex, sex.

What is a parent to do? God created sex to be a wonderful experience in marriage. God says, "Rejoice with the wife of your youth." When your teen gives into the pressure of our society and engages in sex outside of marriage, guilt and lack of trust occur which causes a major breakdown.

I believe most Christian students play around with sex because they are not receiving some really important ingredients at home. Your children want a happy home life more than you may realize. Sex education begins in the home. Teens need to know Mom and Dad love each other. I always made a point to let our boys know their mom is the greatest mom and wife in the world.

Create a sense of security in your home. Your teen will learn what true affection and intimacy really are. Most teens are told that having sex (the world calls it "making love") is love and intimacy. The real truth says that intimacy is sharing your hopes and fears and making yourself vulnerable.

Teaching Your Teen to Say "No" to Sexual Pressure

Ann Landers once said, "Only a fool would tell a teenager to stop thinking about sex." Today's teens are greatly pressured to engage in pre-marital sex. Some call pre-marital sex fun; God calls it fornication. Some say it is unavoidable; God calls it fornication. God says, "Whatsoever a man sows, that shall he also reap."

Parents, pastors, and youth leaders must teach teens that sex is not a dirty word, but in marriage, a wonderful experience. Pre-marital sex causes guilt and a lack of trust years later in your marriage. It is sin.

How do we help our teens cope with all the sexual pressure surrounding them? One of the best ways to help in any area of temptation is to have a strong family unit where there is stability and security. Many times a guy or gal will become physically involved because they only have each other. The added pressure of sexual temptation in our society tempts them further.

The longer I am in youth work, the more I realize the need to encourage parents to strengthen their home life. The home is the foundation for teaching all biblical concepts.

Your teenager needs to see a balanced view of love. The average family does not spend much time together. In fact, it's rare I find a teen whose family eats at least one meal together a day.

A strong family unit is the first step in teaching your teen to say, "No" to sexual pressure. Spend time together talking, sharing, crying, and laughing. You can help your teen to say "No" to sexual pressure.

Is Illicit Sex the Unpardonable Sin?

Matthew 12:31 says, "The blasphemy against the Holy Spirit is the unpardonable sin." When an unsaved person rejects the calling of the Holy Spirit in his life over and over he could be committing the unpardonable sin. If he rejects Christ time after time he could be committing the unpardonable sin and will never be saved.

What about a person who commits illicit sex? There is no sin God can not and will not forgive. You, your mate or your teen may be living outside God's laws and standards. God will forgive completely if you ask forgiveness and ask Him to be your Lord and Savior. He is the God of brand new beginnings.

How to Help a Teen Who is Sexually Involved

Parents need to teach their teens that love for a boyfriend or girlfriend will only grow stronger and deeper as they build their personal relationship with the Lord. Sex needs to be saved for its proper context of marriage.

You can help your teen who has been sexually involved to decide for herself to break off her wrong relationship. She needs to understand God is forgiving and wants to help. Many times a girl will continue to give herself to a guy because she feels she is bound to him. You can help her find true forgiveness from a loving God as she repents.

Breaking off from dating for a time will help your teen recover. Teach your teen that obedience to God is much more important than a relationship with a person.

Yes, there is hope for a teen who has been sexually active. Parents can be a great help in the area of forgiveness and the in the process of healing.