

## ESPECIALLY FOR PARENTS AND PASTORS

### TEACH PARENTS TO TEACH EFFECTIVELY

It is up to godly parents and the church to lead the way in this, to be the first watchers (Ezekiel 33), to warn our children and youth about impending disaster. How many of our kids are experimenting with sex that they learned about on the Internet, magazines, sex ed, or from their friends? How many have learned about it from the porn we have watched with them present? (Remember the definition of porn?) How involved are we in their lives to even know? Many of us are not involved enough. Instead, we just keep our fingers crossed hoping that our young people will get through without making the same mistakes that we made or worse. However, you know that simply crossing our fingers and hoping is not going to help them. At. All.

Unless we pay sincere attention to living and teaching according to the guidelines in the Word, given for our protection, the world will have its way with us and our children and grandchildren and their children. Parents often feel awkward talking about sex with their children. In some cultures, it is taboo to talk about it. Parents who made mistakes with sex (and abortion) in their own experience are often hesitant or afraid to talk about these things with their children, fearing that their children may disrespect them and feel it's okay to do the same things.

The truth is, as David Galvan (former Director of Education for a Lifetime in Colorado Springs<sup>1</sup>) points out, teens *want* to hear their parents' stories, just as we want to hear about theirs. Vulnerability begets vulnerability. If we failed in our younger years in specific ways from which our children can learn, we don't have to give all the dirty details, but be real with them in an age-appropriate manner. We can talk about the consequences we experienced. They *need* us to talk about these things with them. In fact, a recent secular study showed that fifty percent of teens *want* their parents to talk with them about sex.<sup>2</sup>

If we do not talk to our kids about sex in a healthy and biblical manner, they are not going to learn anything from our mistakes or from what we've learned from our mistakes. They are not going to automatically subscribe to godly values if we do not clearly communicate and demonstrate them. On the contrary, they *are* learning according to worldly principles right under our noses and will face devastating consequences because of our silence!

I had someone tell me that we should not tell our children about our sins. My response to that is that the Bible is full of stories of the sins of God's people. I am thankful for this. Each time I read the Bible through, I am reminded anew of the sins and consequences of God's people. Each time I read it, I am more disgusted and more determined to teach the importance of telling the stories.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://educationforalifetime.com>.

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.cnn.com/2017/05/24/health/sex-parents-talking-to-kids/index.html?inf\\_contact\\_key=b320bab7](http://www.cnn.com/2017/05/24/health/sex-parents-talking-to-kids/index.html?inf_contact_key=b320bab7). Accessed 8/2/19.