

ESPECIALLY FOR PARENTS AND PASTORS

TEACH PARENTS TO TEACH EFFECTIVELY

Consequences

Galvan mentions something important about consequences. Life is full of choices, and all choices have consequences, some negative and some positive. We must also stress the positive consequences of good choices. Sex is a beautiful gift from God, and choosing to save it for marriage, according to His instructions, has many good consequences. Here is a quote from the Education for a Lifetime (EFL) website that shows how *avoiding sexual risk tends to be a protective factor in the lives of teenagers*:

Research has shown that students who avoid sexual risk, when compared with high school students who are sexually active, are

- more likely to graduate from college (Adolescence, 2001),
- less likely to be depressed and attempt suicide (Archives of Women's Mental Health, 2006; National Longitudinal Survey of Adolescent Health, 1996; The Heritage Foundation, 2003),
- less likely to experience dating violence (Journal of Adolescent Health, 2005; National Youth Risk Behavior Survey)
- less likely to experience divorce in their own marriages in the future (The National Longitudinal Survey of Youth; Journal of Family Issues, 2002).¹

Rather than the term "abstinence" the younger generations can relate better to the term "sexual risk avoidance" Many youths think they can do anything sexually except intercourse and still be considered a "virgin." However, any engagement in sexual behavior of any kind is a risk of missing out on all these positive consequences.

How to Respond When Someone Fails

This begins with humility about our own failures in this area. When we recognize that all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God we will not act shocked when someone else falls short. There is a balance between teaching the truth and addressing sin with grace. If we are humble about our own sin and give testimony to God's redemption of it, others will feel safer coming to us for help with overcoming their own sin. When we are arrogant and pretend we have not failed, only those who are equally dishonest will feel safe around us.

Be Proactive

When we become proactive in this area, rather than reactive, we will see results most churches have never witnessed before now. All young unmarried men of reproductive age need to clearly understand the dangers of sex outside of marriage. Young men hold a great responsibility in protecting young women from their own sexual advances. Choosing to have sex with a girl is choosing to get her pregnant. There is no way to be sure that it will not happen. They need to hear about the risks of sex outside marriage to them and to any girl they put in that compromising position. They must be taught,

¹ [http://educationforalifetime.com/information-for-educators/..](http://educationforalifetime.com/information-for-educators/)

Get EQUIPPED: Redemptively Overcoming Abortion in the Church
SESSION 3 – PRE-CLASS READING
GOD’S WORD ON SEX

in word and example, to stand up and be a man *before* they consider making such a risky choice. They can learn to respond in a healthy and godly manner to a girl’s advances and their own desires.

Teen girls are sometimes the aggressors when it comes to relationships with boys. As with boys, girls need to recognize their great responsibility in protecting boys against their own sexual advances. They need to know that their sexual advances toward boys defraud them of the blessings God desires for them in marriage. They also need to be taught these things in a way that they will deeply understand the blessing of sex within marriage and the consequences of sex outside marriage. Teach girls how to stand strong against the advances of boys with strong, God-given hormones. Teach the boys and the girls that love means saying, “No!” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in this present age.²

Instead of just teaching about the consequences, we should walk teens through what they would do if they ended up with a pregnancy outside of marriage or an STD. Engaging in premarital sex and pregnancy affects all aspects of life – physical, emotional, mental, relational, spiritual, and societal. There are positive and negative consequences of different choices. When one of them ends up in this situation (because some will still make poor choices), the awkwardness of talking about this subject will be in the past, and they will feel safer to share their situation with their parents and youth leaders, rather than going to Planned Parenthood, school counselors, or friends who may give them advice that parents don’t want them to have.

The saying, “An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure” is quite applicable here. If the first time these discussions occur at length is during a crisis, the crisis is going to be much more severe, and poor decisions will be made.

Part of being proactive is endorsing godly sorrow. This can be an awkward subject, but when approached humbly, through God’s eyes and not our human justifications or judgment, it becomes readily doable.

THOUGHT QUESTIONS

1. What areas/experiences of sexual immorality do you need to address personally?

2. How has your church, past and current, addressed sexual immorality, and what have been the effects?

² Titus 2:11.

Get EQUIPPED: Redemptively Overcoming Abortion in the Church
SESSION 3 – PRE-CLASS READING
GOD’S WORD ON SEX

3. What are your thoughts on Carolyn’s story from Memoirs, chapter 16?

4. How can the gospel make a difference in how our church leads and teaches regarding sexual immorality and chastity?
