

The Lakeview Lamp

“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.” - Psalm 119:105

April 29, 2007

Teaching Your Children about Sex

Rick Lanning (written in 1996)

By the time you read this I will have had that birds-and-bees, heart-to-heart, man-to-man talk with my oldest son. While I have already talked bits and pieces with him over the past months, this one is the one both parents and kids seemingly dread. To be honest, I have too. But then I stopped to ask, “Why do I hesitate to talk with my own son about one of the most important areas of his life?” While he has no doubt heard much street talk and gutter language at school on the subject, I know he has not heard “the facts of life” from the proper perspective – God’s. That is my job, and mine alone, to do. And do it I will. But how? Where do I start? How much do I say?

First, I will not leave it up to the sex-ed classes at school to do it. That is a cop out. If you as a parent opt to let others who are humanist teach your children about sex, don’t be surprised if your teen goes the route of the world. Have you viewed the films and read the books they are offering in fourth through seventh grade sex-ed classes? My wife and I have, always insisting our children be excused from such classes. In co-ed classes they show scenes and use language not appropriate for boys and girls that age to see together. The booklet they used in my son’s sixth grade “family living” (i.e. sex-ed) class subtly hinted that pre-marital sex could be okay. They always used the word “mature” when it came to engaging in sex. Consenting adults was the concept, not married adults. So, parents, don’t do your job by proxy, letting the schools teach your kids.

Second, before you talk with them, get the facts, as well as all the other information you need to do it right. Presently I’m reading the tried and true classic *Preparing for Adolescence* by James Dobson. There are many other good ones in your religious bookstore. Take the time to read one or more. Then read the books of **Proverbs** and **Song of Solomon**, highlighting God’s manual where appropriate. Let your child read what you have highlighted, then ask him or her to offer their interpretation. It will be a great starting place for your discussion. Plus, it will give you knowledge, which will in turn give you courage.

Third, pray to God for wisdom so that you will be able to do your job right, and be able to answer his or her questions correctly. Our children are being bombarded with all the wrong information. From the schoolyard, to the television set, to the movie theater, to the sex-ed classes, to the magazine and book racks, to the examples of peers and adults they see everyday – they cannot possibly understand the true meaning of sexual love! You and I both know all of these avenues pervert true intimate love as God intended.

Fourth, set an appointment with your child to be alone together to talk. Go somewhere special, then, with the right environment created, open up to your son or daughter. Don’t be intimidated by his feeling that he already knows about this “stuff.” He doesn’t, and you know it. Even if he knows the basics, he still needs to hear all the facts from you. He needs to know it from God’s perspective. He needs to hear it from his dad, and she needs to hear it from her mother. Read the **Song of Solomon** together. Stop where it is needful to explain things. Ask them if they know what that means. If they cannot explain it, step in and do so yourself. Yes, it will perhaps feel awkward, but it will be a discussion they will remember for life (I sure do – on the way home from church I asked my dad what “fornication” meant. When we got home, my brother and I found out from dad in a closed door discussion.). It will also offer them an example of how to teach their own children someday. They will learn how a parent shoulders up to their parental duty.

Fifth, do follow up. In other words, use this talk as a way to either open lines of communication, or, to keep it going. Your child will need you many times in the teen years. He or she will need to know that you are always there for them – that you are not too embarrassed to talk about any subject that you, even intimate ones like sex. Then, and only then, will they know can be their source of correct information.

Dad and Mom, don't leave it to chance. Don't let their peers or sex-ed teachers be the fountain they drink from to learn about intimate love. The statistics are gruesome, revealing that teenage sexual activity (read that "fornication") is incredibly high. It is time we accept our responsibility to teach our own children. Failure to do so might possibly result in your child asking you, through tear-stained eyes and a burdened heart, to have a "talk." Don't let it come to that. Do your job.



“Marriage is to be held in honor among all, and the marriage bed is to be undefiled; for fornicators and adulterers God will judge” (Hebrews 13:4).

“Clouds and thick darkness surround Him; righteousness and justice are the foundation of His throne.” – Psalm 97:2

Family News

Elvin Brock, John Moore IV's uncle, died last Monday morning.

Mary Burnett was in Sumner Regional a few days last week with breathing problems but is now back home.

Betty Chapman has one more chemo treatment on May 7 and then a scan to see what is next.

Quinton Coppage is going to his heart doctor tomorrow.

Metty Fain is in Room B2; 215 Highland Circle Dr; Portland, TN; 37148.

Bruce Jones, Karen Moore's dad, is still in CCU at St. Thomas Hospital. He is showing signs of improvement in some ways (slowly backing off on sedation, opened eyes, turned head, infection getting better) but still has a long way to go.

Cotton Read is still having trouble sleeping.

Robert Wray is not feeling well. He is having pain in the right side of his chest. He has a doctor appointment Monday at 10am.

New Reports: None known.

Out of town, traveling, or visiting: None known.

Note – If you have any news for the bulletin (out of town, sick, etc.), then please let me know. I will be printing it most weeks on Saturday night, so please get the news to me by then. Thanks! – Troy

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"Rejoice always; pray without ceasing; in everything give thanks" (1 Thes 5:16-18).