

CPYU PARENT PAGE

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"In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world." - John 16:33

SEXUAL STANDARDS

If there's one sentence I've consistently uttered more than any other over the last 22 years of my work with CPYU, it's this: "The world is changing. . . and changing fast." It seems like not a day goes by without the TV, Internet, or Newspaper reporting on some unfolding trend in the world of human sexuality. Just last month, "Dear Abby" featured some guest advice from a supporter of "Polyamory," defined as "having more than one open romantic relationship at a time." This advisor recommended the practice within marriages, encouraging couples and other family members to consent and approve. Have you ever asked your kids what they think of the practice? I'm guessing many wouldn't like it, but don't be surprised if those attitudes quickly change over the years in our culture as standards continue to loosen in a direction that's moving away from God's gracious and good parameters for His gracious and good gift of sex.

While these stories may leave us shaking our heads, we need to respond with something more than disbelief and a nod of disapproval. We must fulfill our parental calling and responsibility as sex educators! The sex education that our kids so desperately need will lead them into understanding that God created sex to be marvelous, wonderful, and fulfilling when experienced within the bounds of his plan. Research has actually shown that teens want to learn about sexuality from their parents! Here are some suggestions on how and what to teach your children about sexuality.

First, give your children truthful answers to their questions in an age-appropriate manner. Discuss reproduction using accurate and correct terminology. Even though you might feel uncomfortable with the types of

questions young children are asking these days, you must give them answers. If you remain silent, you risk being the last to be heard. Studies show that the more parents talk to their children about sexuality, the less sexually active their kids are.

Second, take time to understand and discuss God's design for sexuality. Spend time reading and studying God's Word, making note of passages dealing with sexuality that you can discuss with your kids. Be sure that they know that the Bible affirms sex as a beautiful gift from God for a man and woman to experience within the context of marriage. Sex is not dirty! God created sex and gives it to married couples as a way to pleasurablely enjoy themselves, show their love for one another, and have children.

Third, teach your children that God's guidelines for sex don't result from some divine desire to take all the fun out of life. Rather, they are given to make our sexual lives as fulfilling, safe, and enjoyable as possible. God has reasons for condemning fornication, adultery, and homosexuality, and those reasons flow from his perfect love. Teach them that living a pure life is pleasing to God.

Finally, remember that the most effective teaching tool of all is modeling. Provide your children with an example of living out God's sexual will and way. If you are married, remain faithful to your spouse and work at building a strong marriage. If you are a single parent, don't give in to sexual temptation. Avoid engaging with media that promotes sexual values and practices that are beyond the bounds of God's plan for sex and sexuality. Kids need to see that it is possible to live a life that is faithful to God's sexual plan.

CPYU TREND ALERT: THE CHOKING GAME

Law enforcement officials are warning parents that we need to be aware of a very dangerous and potentially deadly game that's being played by kids. The choking game, popular among middle school students, is a "game" where kids willingly choke others or themselves to cut off blood and oxygen flow, allowing them to pass out. The light-headed feeling is equated to a kind of high. Of course, kids justify the game as being safe because the high is coming from something other

than drugs or alcohol. The problem is that this very risky behavior is known to kill and damage brain cells. In some cases, the game has turned deadly. Some of the signs you should look for are locked bedroom doors, kids who seem disoriented, and bloodshot eyes. You might also monitor your kids text messages, Facebook pages, and YouTube accounts as technology has become a way to spread tutorials on the choking game. Be aware, and warn your kids.

TOP 10 SWEET TREATS AMONG 8-24 YEAR OLDS (SOURCE: 2012 YOUTH EQUITREND SURVEY)

1. Hershey's Milk Chocolate Candy Bars
2. Reese's Peanut Butter Cups
3. Hershey's Kisses
4. Kit Kat
5. Starburst
6. M&M's
7. Skittles
8. Snickers
9. Twix
10. M&M's Peanut

YOUTH CULTURE HOT QUOTE

"The characters pop. Somehow, you get more out of it than you put into it. There was a conscious decision to have nobody grow or learn much."

- Mike Judge, creator of *Beavis and Butt-Head*, discussing bringing the show back to air and the decision to bring the boys back with their worldviews unchanged, www.rollingstone.com, October 27, 2011



