



**True Love Waits 2010
Parents' Meeting**

Part One: Understanding the Need

The Sexual Attitudes of American Youth

Acceptance of sexual activity

- Only 21% of American girls age 14-21 would say premarital sex is a “bad idea” for everyone
- Only 19 % of boys

The Disparity between Values and Behaviours

- 96 % of female teenage American virgins say it is important to be “in love”
- 76 % of non-virgins agree
- Only 56 % claimed to have been in love their first time
- 45 % said their partner was in love with them

YM asks non-virgins: “Why did you have sex the first time?”

- 58% Curiosity
- 47% Love
- 40% Attraction
- 24% To lose their virginity
- 20% feeling pressure

The Sexual Attitudes of American Youth

High Rates of Sexual Activity

- 49% of Hoosier High Schoolers are not virgins
- 62% of US High School Seniors are not virgins
- 34% of US High Schoolers are “sexually active” (that is they report having had sex in the three months prior to the study)
- 49% of US High School Seniors are “sexually active”

Number of Students Reporting Age at First Sex			
Ages	All Students	Males	Females
12 and under	13.1%	20%	7.3%
13-14	43.3%	46.6%	40.4%
15 and older	43.6%	33.6%	52.3%

Average Age for Onset of Sexual Activity:

Virgins and Non-Virgins:

- 15 for girls
- 14 for boys

Non-Virgins only

- 14.6 for girls
- 13.2 for boys

Student reports of location of first sex			
Location	All Students	Males	Females
Own Home	20.4	18.7	21.9
Partner's Home	36.8	35.8	37.7
Friend's Home	17.5	17.2	17.9
Other	25.3	28.4	22.5

The majority of adolescent sexual activity occurs between 3 pm and 5 pm.

“Thank goodness our kids are church kids”

- Church Involvement is an important predictor of sexual abstinence
- 1 in every 4 churched teenagers will have sex by age 19
- 1 in every 2 will participate in inappropriate sexual activity such as the fondling of breasts by age 19

The Problem of Pornography

- “Adult” bookstores outnumber McDonald’s 3 to 1
- 91% of Jr. High guys, 82% of Jr. High girls report having been exposed to hardcore pornography
- In 1987, 70% of pornography found its way into the possession of minors (and this was before the age of internet)

The Sexual Consequences for American Youth

Teen Pregnancy:

- A sexually active teen that does not use contraceptives has a 90% chance of getting pregnant in the first year after sexual debut.
- Most teen pregnancies occur within 3 months
- 25% of teenage mothers will have their second child within 2 years
- In America there are over
 - 900,000 teen pregnancies a year
 - 420,000 of these result in births
 - 137,000 of these result in reported induced abortions

Conservative estimates indicate there are 2.5 million new cases of teens with STD’s every year.

The Emotional and Relational Toll of Teenage Sexual Activity

Sex Changes:

- Our Current relationship
It weakens the dating relationship as time spent developing a relationship is spent instead on physical intimacy. It also adds the weight of guilt and fear to the feelings about the other person and our self
- The length of our relationship
- Our future relationships
We progress up the ladder of physical intimacy faster and we carry with us memories and expectations of past relationships. Furthermore we enter relationships feeling the guilt and shame of keeping secrets.

Part Two: Understanding the Causes

1. Sex is part of God's Plan

Then the Lord God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper who is right for him." From the ground God formed every wild animal and every bird in the sky, and he brought them to the man so the man could name them. Whatever the man called each living thing, that became its name. The man gave names to all the tame animals, to the birds in the sky, and to all the wild animals. But Adam did not find a helper that was right for him. So the Lord God caused the man to sleep very deeply, and while he was asleep, God removed one of the man's ribs. Then God closed up the man's skin at the place where he took the rib. The Lord God used the rib from the man to make a woman, and then he brought the woman to the man. And the man said, "Now, this is someone whose bones came from my bones, whose body came from my body. I will call her 'woman,' because she was taken out of man."

So a man will leave his father and mother and be united with his wife, and the two will become one body (Genesis 2:18-24; NCV).

So God created human beings in his image. In the image of God he created them. He created them male and female. God blessed them and said, "Have many children and grow in number. Fill the earth and be its master (Genesis 1:27-28a; NCV)."

2. Teen's relational needs

- A need for love/intimacy
- A need for security
- A need for acceptance

3. Peer Pressure

- The Pressure to fit in
- The Pressure to grow up
- The Pressure from a boyfriend or girlfriend

4. The idealized self
 “It won’t happen to me.”

5. Family Structures
 - Parental divorce
 Study of college students showed that those from divorced families were more likely to 1) be sexually active 2) have 4 or more partners 3) prefer recreational sex to committed relationships
 - Parental permissiveness
 - Silence
 One study showed that 80% of the mothers of teenage daughters had spoken with their daughters about menstruation, but only 4% reported having discussed it’s relationship to sexuality
 - Parental absence
 - Abuse

6. Substance Abuse
 - Among teens 15+ those who use alcohol are 7 times more likely to be sexually active
 - Those who use drugs, 5 times more likely
 - In 50% of cases of “date rape” alcohol was a factor

Part Three: Making a Difference

1. Understand the Predictors of Sexual Abstinence

- Avoids risk behaviors
 - Behaviors that contribute to unintentional injuries (seat belts, protective equipment)
 - Behaviors that contribute to violence (carrying a weapon, getting into fights, committed theft or vandalism)
 - Tobacco Use
 - Alcohol Use
 - Drug Use
- Academic achievement
- Future aspirations
- Involvement in religious activities
- Community involvement
- Parental monitoring
- Family cohesion
- Positive non-related role models
- An understanding of the beauty of romance

2. Create a strong relationship

Josh McDowell’s Five “A’s” critical to the parent/child relationship

- Acceptance (Develop a sense of unconditional acceptance by praising effort rather than achievement)
- Appreciation (Catch them doing good and praise them for it)
- Availability (Create time and be interruptible)
- Affection
 We tend to show less affection as our children age:

Parents who showing verbal affection to their children every day

Dads	Child's Age	Moms
40%	5	61%
24%	9	37%

Parents who hug and kiss their children every day

Dads	Child's Age	Moms
64%	5	83%
33%	9	49%

- Accountability

3. Build self-esteem

Three components of a healthy self-esteem

- A sense of belonging
- A sense of worth
- A sense of competence

4. Establish guidelines for dating

- When do I date?
 - 91% of girls who started dating at age 12 had sex before graduation
 - Age 13: 56%
 - Age 14: 53%
 - Age 15: 40%
 - Age 16: 20%
- Who do I date?
Those who share my convictions
- What do we do on a date?
 - Set goals for dating
 - I want to have fun
 - I want to learn more about the other person
 - I want to learn more about myself
 - I want to honor God
 - Set boundaries early on
 - Make definite plans
 - Avoid being alone
 - Emphasize the relationship not the physical
- How do I escape a bad situation?
 - Practice saying "no"
 - Anticipate the temptation
 - Provide an escape
 - Break off the relationship

4. Communicate about Sex

- Teach them God's design for sex
- Teach them good reasons for waiting

- Decide about teaching about contraceptives
Important Considerations
 - Studies demonstrate that information about contraceptives, when coupled with value based instruction regarding abstinence does not lead to increased sexual activity
 - Church kids are the least likely demographic group to use contraceptives when they do have sex
 - Don't exaggerate to make contraceptives seem less effective than they really are
 - Don't exaggerate to make contraceptives seem more effective than they really are
 - The lesson from Jesus in Matthew 19: protection does not imply permission
 - The most important consideration is not the efficacy of condoms in protecting one's body, but their complete inefficacy in protecting one's heart, mind and soul.

Part Four: TLW 2010

The Lessons

- September 12: Beyond Virginity; Chastity
- September 19: Chastity begins between the ears
- September 26: The Problem of Profanity
- October 3: Truth and Consequences
- October 10: The TLW Pledge

Truth and Consequences

- God doesn't want you to have sex
- The primary reason God created sex is for reproduction
- God designed sex for people in mature, loving relationships, not casual encounters
- If I have sex, I have to worry about pregnancy and STD's
- Condoms have a failure rate of 15% when used to prevent pregnancy. But the HIV virus is 500 times smaller than a sperm, so condoms are even less effective in preventing AIDS.



The TLW Pledge:

Believing that true love waits, I make a commitment to God, myself, my family, my friends, my future mate and my future children, to a lifetime of purity including sexual abstinence from this day until I enter a Biblical marriage relationship

The TLW Ring Ceremony

- Sunday, October 17, 2006, in the 10:30 service
- Teens will have the opportunity to reaffirm their pledges (Including those who participated in the ring ceremony previously.)
- Parents will be invited to give their children an emblem of their commitment
- Possible sources:
 - Factory 79 Inc. offers several gold and silver jewelry items for True Love Waits. Prices vary. Contact at P.O. Box 22839, San Diego, CA 92192-2839 (1-800-677-0832), or at www.factory79.com
 - JR Design offers many different True Love Waits jewelry pieces. Contact JR Design at P.O. Box 3301, Escondido, CA 92033-3301 (1-800-613-0266; 760-233-9717), or at www.scripturejewelry.com
 - Family Christian Bookstore can special order TLW specific jewelry