

Point Man
Chapter 10

Telling your kids what you don't want to tell them

It's your **responsibility** (men/fathers) to teach boys the "fundamentals of sexuality" and "how everything works." It is essential, especially in our culture, that children get their information about sex from their parents. The reason it is so essential is that there are quite a few others who want the job and will misinform them.

Maybe the thought of talking to your son about sex embarrasses you. Allow me to suggest that although you may feel some embarrassment, there is nothing to be embarrassed about and let me tell you their friends are not embarrassed to talk or tell them about it. As Dr. Howard Hendricks expresses it: 'We should not be ashamed to discuss that which God was not ashamed to create.' They need to know sexual relationships are designed for a husband and wife in a committed relationship.

I'm convinced that the reason most people don't educate their children about sex is that their parents did not educate them. As a result, sexual ignorance is passed from generation to generation. It's time to put a new link in the generational chain. If you teach your kids about sex, they will teach their kids, and their kids will teach theirs, and so on down the line.

A man/father is responsible to teach his children about sex. As a rule of thumb, fathers should teach their sons and mothers should teach their daughters. But the father, as head of the family, has a responsibility to make sure that each child is given the proper and correct instruction by the appropriate parent at the right time.

As you read sections in Proverbs about sex, notice that the father is clear, direct, and takes the initiative. He describes sexual situations that probably will come up in his son's life, then offers the wisdom needed to handle the situation correctly. Solomon practiced preventative medicine. He wanted his son to know what steps to take in the event a tempting circumstance arose.

Proverbs 5 shows us that a father is to talk straight with his son about the boundaries God has put around the gift of sex. Notice that the father doesn't mince any words. He attempts to prepare his son for what might occur long before it happens. This is precisely what we are to do as leaders of our homes.

If you are a 'one-woman kind of man', you should be equipping your sons to enter the marriage covenant with sexual purity and truly be a 'one-woman kind of man' from the first day they are married.

The policy is easy to remember: *Get to your kids before their peers do!*

Whatever you do, create an atmosphere where they feel comfortable in coming to you. If you don't, they will go to someone else.

You never know when a teachable moment is going to show up. When one does, make sure you teach...take full advantage of these times. They are gifts from God.

Let them know that they can ask you anything and get a straight answer. This is the cardinal doctrine of parental sex education. If you establish this, it doesn't matter what they hear somewhere else, they will come to you for clarification. At certain points, you may have to swallow hard before you answer, but whatever you do, don't skirt the issue. Deal with it head-on. This kind of honest dialogue will be the greatest investment you will ever make. It will pay dividends in your relationship for the rest of your life.

The key word in all of this discussion about sex is not rules, it is relationship. Our children should know that there are rules, but they should learn about them only from the context of a relationship that is open, warm, and loving... **'Rules without relationship equal rebellion** - either active resistance or passive indifference.'

Bible references:

Proverbs 1 and 5, Matthew 7, 1 Corinthians, Joshua 24