

Family Legacy Institute

Tools For Families Building Godly Legacies

Raising Kids In A XXX Culture

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Teaching copy

Most church people today are used to a half-hour sermon and then lunch. So I want you to change your mental paradigm to a university setting. You're going to be in class for 45 minutes. I'm now your professor. You have note-pages that will help you recall much of what you'll learn in this class. After class, we'll have time for Q & A if you want to hang around.

Today we're going to look at four aspects of raising kids in a XXX culture:

- 1) The culture itself
- 2) The impact on teens in this culture
- 3) How to help our kids have a world-view of truth, sexuality, and the Gospel
- 4) Fifteen tips to help you "Win the Day"

The Culture Itself

It's Everywhere:

We live in an incredibly sexualized culture today. You don't have to look for it ~ it looks for you. And the level of sexuality in our culture has changed dramatically in our lifetimes.

Some say it's always been this way ~ they say there have always been sexual overtones, and that it's not much worse today than it was when we were kids. They're wrong.

A. Television

Today, 75% of primetime network TV has sexual content of some sort or another. Research finds that the typical teenager receives 14,000 sexualized messages every year, and a large percentage of them come through TV. Research finds the average teen in America is influenced by advertising 35 hours a week.

Hardees made a highly sexualized ad for TV, basically miming a woman engaging in sex with a hamburger. Abercrombie and Fitch developed an advertising campaign that was so

pornographic that one national Christian organization went after them, and they backed down, for a while.

B. Magazines

Magazine covers today are all about sex, and it's not just "men's magazines." Next time you're standing in line at the grocery store, look at the magazine covers. And if you have kids, when was the last time you browsed a magazine marketed to teens?

C. Computers

It's really been in the **last ten years** or so that the Internet has become such a cesspool for porn. Today there are 240 million porn pages on the net. Today, the Internet porn industry is a billion dollar per month industry in the USA alone (\$14 billion annually). That means its revenues are greater than the revenues of the NFL, NBA, and professional baseball, combined. It is a massive business that is morally destroying us from within.

D. Cell Phones

Today most of us carry cell phones with screens. Increasingly, these phones are capable of linking us to the net. Any Internet capable cell phone today is porn-capable, mostly for free. Some now call these phones, "pocket porn."

E. Social Networking Sites

In the last five years we've seen the rise of social networking sites (e.g., "Facebook") that are especially friendly to young people and children. Kids are quite familiar with these locations on the net. Parents, what's the one thing you know about anyone who gets onto these sites and talks with your kids? (*Ans: They're breathing.*) That's all we know about them. Social networking sites are now the place where predators hang out.

NBC's *Dateline* series called, "**To Catch a Predator,**" has shown that the "17 year old from down the street" talking with your son or daughter in a chat room, often turns out to be a 43-year-old pedophile willing to drive hundreds of miles to have a sexual encounter with your child.

We're talking about our culture. We've been desensitized through these numerous avenues that stream into our lives every day. *It's the frog in the kettle syndrome.* We commonly accept stuff on TV today that 15 or 20 years ago we'd have rejected.

And children are affected more than adults in these matters. Let me repeat something: *The typical teenager today receives 14,000 sexualized messages every year.* And almost **none** of them have to do with cautions regarding STDs, unwanted pregnancy, the struggles of single moms, or the depression inherent in broken sexual attachments. Virtually all of the sexualized messages today are driving our kids in the wrong direction.

F. MTV

The show many our kids regularly watch has become a quasi-pornographic show that's mainly about sexuality. If you think MTV is about music and dancing today, you're wrong. You probably haven't watched it for 10 years. Today it's all about dressing for sex, dancing for sex, sexual relationships, and it is teaching our kids the wrong messages.

The typical teen watches MTV five hours a week ~ as contrasted with a kid being in church an hour a week, maybe two. Two years ago the president of MTV said, "I don't entertain teens ~ I own them." Does he own your kids?

G. Lies

Let's talk for a moment about some of the sexual **lies** that are being driven into our children's minds today. Here are seven:

1) We need absolute sexual freedom. Absolute sexual freedom is what makes us "adult," and "free," and "modern." Believe it or not, this is the philosophy being taught in many of our **public schools** today, under the rubric of "sex education." This lie was initially developed by a man named **Alfred Kinsey**, claiming to be a researcher. His research sample was as biased as you could possibly find: prisoners and prostitutes. And his research methodology if used today would land him in prison for the rest of his life. One example: He "studied" whether or not infants could have orgasms, by masturbating baby boys and girls.

Yet his research was accepted by many as being valid, and today that dishonest research provides the basis for much of what is taught as "*sex education*" in public schools. If you want to read an excellent book on this topic, buy Dr. Judith Reisman's book, *Sexual Sabotage*.

2) Sex, any way, with any one, is not harmful. Rather, it's beneficial. It's the way to really "grow" as a person. Again, this is part of the philosophy being taught in many public schools.

3) Women have one value ~ it is to meet the sexual desires of men. Listen to pop songs today, especially Hip-Hop and Rap songs ~ see how the lyrics call females "bitches" and "hos" (whores). One educator in an upscale Christian high school told me recently that he's seeing a profound level of disrespect on the part of male high school students toward female teachers. He attributes this attitude to one factor: adolescent use of pornography.

4) Marriage and children are obstacles to sexual fulfillment. If you want to understand why abortion makes sense to so many people, part of the reason is that movies and TV tell us that people who are married and have children, never have sex ~ and that people who are single or having affairs are always having sex. Yet research has found that the people who have the **most sex**, are married and faithful ~ and people having the **most satisfying sex**, are married and faithful.

5) Everyone's doing it. TV and movies tell us that all married

people are unfaithful, and that all teens are sexually active. This is downright dishonest information, yet movies imply that if you're not sexually involved, you're boring, out of the main stream and prudish, because the really sharp people are sexually active.

6) Homosexuality is an acceptable alternative lifestyle.

Scripture says it is not acceptable to God. The Greek word for homosexual is a grossly descriptive compound word ~ ἀρσενικοὶ τᾶς (arsenokoitas). And every time the word "homosexual" is used in scripture, it is described as being displeasing to God.

But you need to understand how effective the homosexual community has been: 85% of teens in our society today believe that homosexuality is an "acceptable alternative lifestyle," and in spite of research to the contrary, 86% believe that people are born that way and cannot change.

As Christians we're called to love homosexuals. We are not called to love the sin, but the person. In my experience, Christians are sometimes quick to condemn homosexuals because homosexuality is not their sin. But we're called to love all of God's children, no matter what their struggles.

7) Pornography is a victimless crime. Research now finds that between 50 – 70% of men in churches use porn. Many excuse this sin by saying, "*Hey, this is what men do ~ it's not hurting anyone.*" Research also finds that as high as 35% of women in the pew are using porn as well. Even if people don't believe it hurts anyone, it does hurt both men and women. Research has shown that male use of pornography leads people in the direction of greater sin. It's a vortex leading downward into acting out what they see in pornographic pictures ~ going into increasingly hard core porn ~ seeking multiple partners. Ultimately, porn use becomes as addictive as cocaine.

And pornography is particularly destructive to women:

- It increases the probability of their being raped or abused.
- It decreases the probability of their having friendships with men.
- It increases the probability of divorce.
- It destroys human intimacy and trust.
- It demeans women.

Christ said that a man looking at a woman lustfully is the same thing as committing adultery. ***Matt 5:28-29 ~ I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart.*** Porn is **not** a victimless crime. It's a destructive and controlling sin.

Well, we've looked at our culture. Now let's look at the impact on teens.

The Impact On Teens In Our Culture

American teenagers have become the most sexually active teenagers in the industrialized world. Our teens lead the world in all three categories of: sexual activity, unwanted pregnancy, and sexually transmitted diseases.

- 26% of American girls under 19 now have at least one STD
- There are three-to-four million new cases of STDs every year in the USA. Some are curable, some are not, and some will kill you.

This is not a medical problem. The medical community cannot solve the STD rate in our country. It's a moral problem, a spiritual problem. Managing it begins in the church, the home, and the heart.

Our skyrocketing STD rate is easy to understand using simple math. If I have sex with only three people, and each of them only had sex with three others, who only have sex with three others, there are now up to 39 people's sexual histories affecting my sexual history. Research finds that today, 21% of high school graduates have had four partners. In one study in a Midwest high school, one kid only had sex with one partner, but that one partner was "mapped" sexually to 286 others.

There used to be two primary STDs: syphilis and gonorrhea. Today there are 25-30 different STDs in our culture, so it's a no-brainer that with this level of sexual activity among our young people, STDs are spreading at geometric rates. Research shows that a kid who is sexually active today has a 50% probability of getting an STD.

- Seventeen Magazine, July 2003, found that 42% of guys and 33% of girls ages 15 – 17 have had intercourse.
- Ladies Home Journal, March 2004, found that one-in-12 children are no longer virgins by their 13th birthday. And many more have participated in oral sex and mutual masturbation.
- 21% of American ninth graders have had sex before leaving junior high.

We're talking about the impact on teens. The realities of the teen culture have changed. Thanks to one of our former Presidents, our culture's view of certain sexual practices has changed. Oral sex is no longer seen as "sex." Of kids 15 – 17, 44% of boys and 42% of girls have had oral sex. (Readers Digest 03/08)

Despite the fact that American teenagers are the most sexually active kids in the world, the average relationship between teens today lasts six weeks. Yet our kids are engaging in this level of sexual activity. This is because for the first time in history, sexuality has been divorced from intimacy. It's viewed as a recreational activity, and there has been a complete redefinition of sexual purity. And there's been a switch in gender roles ~ females have now become the sexual aggressors. Young girls now know how to use sex as a way to control boys.

Some parents try to help their kids by establishing "purity covenants," and having them wear "purity rings" or "purity bracelets." We support this, yet research finds that this delays intercourse by 18 months. That's all.

Mothers, father, unless you process this whole sexual thing with your kids at home, you are actually encouraging them to find out about sex from their peers and from the culture.

Research finds there is no statistical difference between Christians versus non-Christians, regarding their beliefs and behaviors in the area of sexual activity. In fact, one study found the children of evangelical parents become sexually active at a younger age than those of non-evangelical parents.

Our sexualized culture is dramatically affecting our children. The impact on teens is frightening. Research by the Heritage Foundation found links between teen sexual activity and depression leading to suicide. (Heritage Foundation, USA Today, April 2008)

Our kids are living in an incredibly sexualized environment. And right now, parents and the church are losing the battle.

Sex education is taking place with our kids all the time ~ 14,000 times a year. The only question on the table has to do with the source of that education. Is it going to be you and the church, or is it going to be MTV, the Internet, and the locker room?

How To Help Our Kids Develop A Christian World-view

The issue of sexuality is not just about behavior. If all we talk about with our kids is about their behavior while on a date, we'll lose. We need to teach our kids a Christian worldview. Our objective has to be to teach our kids the real connection between God, faith, truth, mental health, physical health, marital success, sexuality, and life's purpose.

Teaching a Christian worldview is hard today, when public education teaches the doctrine of Postmodernism, seeking to establish in our children's minds that there is no such thing as truth, and that faith in Christ is really not much different than faith in Buddah, or Mohammed. *As parents, we have a responsibility before God to teach God's truth to our kids.*

We must be able to articulate why God's Word is truth, and why God's Word is relevant. We need to help our kids link truth, faith, sexuality, and the Gospel. We need to help our kids understand how God's truth relates to our values and impacts our sexual decisions.

Kids in our churches today may learn what the Bible has to say, but most are not buying it. They don't believe it's true, and they don't accept that it's relevant in their lives. So they're engaging in sexual behavior that the Bible clearly teaches is sin ~ but they don't believe it's sin ~ they don't believe God's Word is truth ~ they don't believe truth exists.

This is a worldview issue. Christ said that sexual immorality flows out of the heart (*Mt. 15:19*). What we think about, sexually, is not just a silly personal secret ~ it's an issue of the heart that affects and even governs our personal worldview.

One of the great parenting texts is found in *Deut. 11:18-20*. **Fix these words of mine in your hearts and minds; tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Teach**

them to your children, talking about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates, so that your days and the days of your children may be many (NIV).

Parenting has never been more difficult than it is today. There has never been a time when teaching our children a Christian worldview has had more serious consequences. In today's world, faith in Christ is being challenged by hedonism, materialism, and relativism. Mom, dad, how are you integrating your faith with your careers, your relationship, and your values?

Tools For Parents

Well, everything up to this point has been pretty somber ~ and it should be, because the lives of our children are at stake. So I want to now give you fifteen thoughts regarding how to win the day in your home.

Tool #1: Recognize and use your own influence

Your influence as parents is critical. Research finds that the two most influential components in children's lives, are in this order: parents and peers.

- Parents are the #1 influence. Don't ever give up. When your kids are thinking about things like smoking, drinking, drugs, and sex, the opinions and influence of mom and dad are #1. Take the time. Talk with them frequently.

88% of teens say talking with parents, helps delay sex.

Research finds that Christian parents are more likely to talk with their kids about drugs, booze, and smoking, than about sex. But in today's world, sex is potentially the most lethal of all of these. Talk to your kids about sex.

If you are not taking the lead in teaching your kids about sexuality, then you are abandoning them in one of the greatest challenges they'll face in their lives. Remember, sex education is constantly happening in their lives. The only variable is the person interpreting what it means, and what its purpose is.

- Peers are #2 ~ right behind parents, which leads to the next point.

Tool #2: Know your kids' friends, and their parents

It's important to know your kids' friends ~ and the parents of your kids' friends ~ and what they believe. Your kids' friends and their parents will have a huge influence on how your kids think and act. What are your kids' friends, and their parents, going to teach your kids?

Tool #3: Maintain open and honest dialogue with your children

How many of you had "the sex talk" with your parents? I never did. *The impact of the "sex talk" is important, but it's miniscule as contrasted with the impact of 14,000 sexualized messages every year.* Don't think that one "talk" will do it with your kids. Have hundreds of sex talks, starting when they're three years old and continuing until they leave home.

Openness: Openness to talk about sex and sexual issues is critical. You might feel awkward talking with your kids about sex. Get over it. They talk about it openly with each other all the time.

Consistency: This is one area in which mom and dad must be on the same page. Kids are prone to pitting mom against dad. You can count on this in the area of sexuality if and your spouse are divided on the issue. The same message, repeated frequently, and consistently, is what's important.

Here are four tips:

- a) **Speak with respect** ~ keep the tone positive ~ don't put them down ~ be respectful as you chat
- b) **Set high expectations** ~ chastity and purity are achievable and should be sought after. Randy Alcorn wrote a book titled, "*The Purity Principle*." The thesis of this book is that purity is always smart. Impurity is always stupid. And there are no exceptions.
- c) **Encourage** ~ build on strengths and successes
- d) **Applaud** right decisions

For a more comprehensive study of how to talk about sex with your children, download our article, "*How To Have That Pesky Sex Talk With Your Kid*" available at www.family-legacy-institute.com, click on "Parenting 101.)

Tool #4: Be Alert To Teachable Moments

The time to teach about sexuality is **not** five minutes before your kid goes on their first date. Rather, it's in the **scores of times each month** starting at age three, when issues of sexuality arise. Here are a few examples:

- You're watching a pro football game, and the camera man shoots a few seconds looking up a cheerleader's skirt while she's suspended at the top of a pyramid. That is the moment to talk about the camera man's values, the value of women, and your value as a parent.
- You're reading the newspaper and find an article about a 14-year-old girl who was in her "**chat room**" when a 40-year-old pedophile pretending on-line to be a 17-year-old, talked her into sneaking out at night and meeting him in his car, where he raped her. That's the time to talk about chat rooms and secret conversations with strangers.
- You're watching a movie and the **characters kiss**. That's the moment to talk about how long one should know someone else before kissing, and what kissing means.

Look for teachable moments. Here's another arrow for your quiver.

Tool #5: Have occasional intentional talks about sex

It's the thousands of ten-second-mini-chats that help shape your child's heart and worldview. Research by the *Journal of Pediatrics* found that talking with your kids regularly is far more effective than having the "sex talk."

As a dad I used to wish I could build a protective bubble around my three daughters until they reached adulthood. It's impossible to build that bubble, but there is favorable research that you need to know. The *Journal of Pediatrics* found that:

- *Your kids respect you.*
- *They want to please you.*
- *They want your thoughts and input.*
- *They appreciate your efforts at helping and protecting them.*

Granted, because they're kids they may push back against what you have to say. But this is what research found. So even if it's uncomfortable, have these discussions with your children. Make sure the discussion is a dialogue. Avoid the parental temptation of giving a lecture that your kids will tune out.

Here's a tip worth knowing: Make dinner time, "talk time." The University of Virginia found that kids who eat meals regularly with their parents at home are 61% less likely to become involved in smoking, drinking, and sexual activity.

When talking about sex, use **terms** including genital intercourse, oral sex, anal sex, masturbation, and the like. Naturally, you must be wise in speaking at **age-appropriate** levels with your children. But sex education should start at about age three and continue until your kids are married. Have occasional, intentional talks.

Note To Single Parents: If you're a single parent the challenges of teaching your children about sexuality may be even **harder**. But it is possible. Have conversations about sex with your kids. Point out role both positive and negative models for your kids to see. You might seek other Christian parents to come along side and help from time to time.

And let your kids see you praying. From the time I was 13, I grew up in a single parent home. Today the most formative memories I have of home, are those of my mother on her knees, praying for me every night. God promises to be a father to the fatherless (*Ps. 68:5*) ~ He certainly was that for me.

Tool #6: Demand that your church teach about sex

Christ, and the Apostles Paul, Peter, and James talked about it. The Old Testament and the New Testament teach about it. And it's a massive component in our culture. But most churches fail to teach about sexuality in any way. So ask your pastor to do a series on biblical sexuality, every year! Ask him to have someone teach our "Developing A Biblical Sexual Worldview" curriculum, available at www.family-legacy-institute.com, click on "Church Leaders" and then go to "CURRICULUM."

Ask your youth pastor, and your Sunday School teachers, to teach about biblical sexuality, every year. Remember, we are competing with 14,000 sexualized messages each year.

Tool #7: Use Family Legacy Institute teaching materials

The **Family Legacy Institute** website provides many tools for parents. Here are a few.

- *Having That Pesky Sex Talk With Your Kid*
- *So Dad, Mom, Why DID God Create Sex?*

- *Tips For Parents And Grandparents*
- *So How Far Can I Go?*
- *Why Purity Works*
- *It Takes A Man To Raise A Boy*
- *What It Means To Be A Man*

You can get all of these at our website: www.family-legacy-institute.com. We have a lot of excellent training material for parents. We want you to download it and read it.

We encourage you to learn this material, and then when appropriate, process it with your kids. In 2003, *Better Homes and Gardens* published research finding the more time teens spend interacting with parents, the less likely they are to be influenced by peers regarding sex, drugs, drinking, and other risky behaviors.

Tool #8: Tell the whole truth

It's unfortunate that many parents, and many churches, have somehow communicated the notion that sex is dirty and evil, so save it for marriage....??? Here are eight messages to teach out kids about sex:

a. **Sex is exciting, fun, wonderful, and bonding.** If you save it all for marriage, it's a blast. But you'll never get back anything you give away on the road to marriage.

In the Song of Solomon there's a fun place in which the groom is looking at his bride. This is such a "man" text. Let me read it ~ ***SOS 7:6-8 ~ How beautiful you are and how pleasing, O love, with your delights! Your stature is like that of the palm, and your breasts like clusters of fruit. I said, "I will climb the palm tree; I will take hold of its fruit." (NIV)***

b. **Sex is powerful, controlling, and can be very destructive.** *This* is why God cautions us to keep it in the only container that can handle it: marriage. (e.g., Samson, Jg. 16)

c. **Sex is God's creation.** ***Genesis 1:27 ~ So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. NIV*** God created sex ~ it was His idea!

d. **Sex communicates deeply** ~ or at least is supposed to. When the Bible says that Adam "knew" Eve, it's not talking about her IQ or her sense of humor. It had to do with knowing her intimately, body and soul.

e. **Obedience to God brings blessing from God.** God created sex not only for procreation, but for husbands and wives to have a great time together enjoying it. Scripture describes Adam and Eve as being ***naked and unashamed Gen. 2:25***). Within the context of marriage, sex is beautiful, wonderful ~ to be enjoyed and celebrated ~ an enormous blessing.

f. **When used outside of God's plan, sex can become harmful, destructive to relationships, and abusive.** As is true of any disobedience, sin always brings pain and suffering. Here are a few examples of the pain and suffering that wrongful sex brings:

It creates depression. It spreads STDs. It destroys marriages. It causes unwanted babies. Indeed, sex is responsible for creating a whole new sub-class of poverty in the United States: the single mom.

g. God desires our very best. Christ said, *The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full (John 10:10 ~ NIV).* Our loving Father desires only the best for us. That's why He provided guidelines around sex.

h. Defying God is foolish and painful. St. Paul wrote, *Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. (Gal. 6:7 ~ NIV).*

The truth is that sex outside of marriage can be hugely destructive. Research finds:

- i) People who were sexually active before marriage, are more likely to have affairs after they're married.
- ii) Kids who are sexually involved and then break up, tend to commit suicide at higher rates: 3X higher for girls; 8X higher for boys.
- iii) 87% of teens in the USA who had sex before marriage, say they wish they'd waited.

The "Principle of Harvest" says we reap what we plant. And that works in both directions – for blessing, or for sadness.

Tool #9: Teach your kids to ask, WWJD

This is a worldview question. The acronym stands for "What Would Jesus Do" and it's a question to implant in our kids' hearts. It provides an "inner moral compass." It represents the work of the Spirit of God in our children's lives, providing guidance and direction, helping them avoid the landmines that destroy the lives of others.

Parents, unless you have instilled this moral compass in your children's hearts, then when they leave the supervision of home and enter the big world, they'll very likely test the outer limits. And if they go to college, they'll encounter an atmosphere that is as hedonistic as one might imagine. Our kids must be able to think, and articulate, "What Would Jesus Do?"

Tool #10: Set parameters

It's becoming more popular these days to be your child's best friend. But that's a very silly and very serious mistake. Your children need for you to function in their best interests, and that means there are times when you must set limits and say "no." ***You must function as your kids' parents. You are not their best friends.*** The "best friend" stage will come when they reach adulthood. But when they're kids, they need you to:

- Guard what they watch on TV
- Guard their access to the Internet
- Guard what movies they attend, or rent
- Guard where they go
- Guard with whom they hang out
- Guard how they dress

When they grow up the friendship will develop. But when they are in your home as children, they need you to be parents.

*You are called to **disciple** your children ~ to raise them in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. Don't leave this task to the church. The church has your kids one hour a week. The remaining 167 hours of each week are on your watch. Teaching a Christian worldview is your responsibility, at home.*

Don't focus your primary parenting on teaching them how to be successful at sports, or business, or academics. *Those things are low on the priority list as compared with eternity with Christ.* All that "other stuff" is going to burn. Your goal is to lead them in the ways of Christ, to "make disciples" of your children, and then enjoy eternity together with them.

Tool #11: Have no ungodly sexual content in the home

You must tolerate absolutely no **pornography** in your home. If you subscribe to *Sports Illustrated*, write them and tell them not to send the swimsuit issue. Don't watch R-rated movies, and if PG-13 movies become pornographic, turn them off.

Get rid of those "premium" movie channels (HBO, Cinemax). They just bring garbage into your home.

You can't watch "Desperate Housewives" and not have it affect your kids. This program is now the #1 show in America, for 9 – 12 year old girls. What do you think they're learning at home?

For an excellent guide to creating a sexually pure home, download our "Purity Checklists." Go to www.family-legacy-institute.com, click on "Parenting 101," and then scroll to "Home Purity Checklists."

Tool #12: Monitor the danger points

If you knew a neighbor's dog had rabies, you'd never let your kids go near the dog. All parents understand that when danger is present, they must protect their kids.

The same principle applies to raising your children. *Anything that can reach the Internet is a mortal threat to your home.* Depending on which research you cite, the average age today at which children are exposed to pornography, is either eleven, or eight. Eight!! Kids find it by accident while they're doing other child-related things on the net.

Here are a few ways to monitor the danger points:

- No TVs in the kids' bedrooms. It's a mistake to do so.
- No computers in the kids bedrooms. Huge mistake.
- Cell phones should be left in the kitchen overnight.
- Think through things like iPods, PDAs, Play Stations, etc., that have Internet capability.
- Computers stay in the kitchen where everyone can see what anyone else is doing.
- Put porn blocking filters onto all computers.
 - Safe Eyes
 - Covenant Eyes

- Monitor your computer's history regularly
- Monitor all cell phone numbers each month

If your kid asks, "Don't you trust me?" respond, "This is not about trust. It's about putting you at risk. And I will not do that."

It's not a matter of if your child will stumble across porn. It's only a matter of when. 80% of first exposure to porn is accidental. But today there are millions of porn sites on the Internet, and children between ages 5 and 9 are being targeted, because porn is extremely addictive ~ found to be just as addictive as heroin and cocaine. Parents, monitor the danger points.

Winning the Day #13: Set the example

Vince Lombardi once said, "Leading by example isn't the best way to lead ~ it's the only way." Anyone with marriage systems training knows that the most influential component in marriage, is what we saw our parents do in theirs. So let me give you the best biblical model. It's found in Ephesians 5:21 - 25. This text teaches about wives submitting, and husbands serving.

If your pastor has a sermon in his repertoire based on this text, get it and study it. It's the best model for marriage in the world.

From the field of psychology I can tell you with some authority, your kids are going to select their mate, and at least begin their own marriages, based upon what they see in your marriage. The best thing a kid can see, is for mom and dad to prioritize and value their own marriage.

Winning the Day #14: It's all about grace

All men struggle with sex, and not all men are successful in beating it. So I want to tell you something from God's Word. Sexual sin is not the unpardonable sin. It may be painful. It may represent slavery. It may be discouraging and perhaps even humiliating. But sexual failure is not the unpardonable sin.

Fortunately, our loving God has given us **tools** like confession, repentance, forgiveness, and restoration. Those are some of the most difficult things in the world, but they are effective measures in spiritual healing. One of the most precious verses in the Bible is ***1 John 1:9 ~ If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness (NIV).***

Another precious thought from the teaching of Christ also has to do with forgiveness. Christ said, ***"If (a person) sins against you seven times in a day, and seven times comes back to you and says, 'I repent,' forgive him."*** (Lk. 17:4 ~ NIV). If this is the standard taught by Christ, then he won't use a different standard with you.

Winning the Day #15: Never forget that the battle is spiritual

If God's enemy can get us to forget that the sexual battle is spiritual, then he wins. In fact, as a psychologist I'd say that especially in the area of human sexuality, the battle is spiritual. It's all about what goes on in our minds and hearts: What goes on there, eventually becomes acted out in our lives.

Scripture is absolutely on track when it says, *Our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms (Eph. 6:11-12 – NIV)*. This is never more true than in the area of human sexuality.

Wrap

Well, enough for now. I am aware that for many of you, this may have been a bit like drinking from a fire-hose. May the Lord help you retain much of what you've learned this evening.

As parents, as Christian educators, and as Christian leaders, *you simply must become involved in this battle. You cannot leave it for the public schools, or for MTV, or for the Internet. If you love your children, you must become active in this battle.*

May the Lord bless and guide you as you guide your children in the ways of Christ.

Resources:

* Credit and thanks for this presentation are given to Rick Schatz, CEO of pureHOPE. The “bones” of this presentation are his. I have made some changes, added a few thoughts, and included a little extra research.