



This booklet is one of the equipping tools of The Moral Compass Strategy. This strategy is designed to:

1. Help teens build a strong moral compass. (Matt. 22:37)
2. Help teens develop healthy relationships. (Matt. 22:39)
3. Help create lasting marriages by building strong character through positive choices now. (Psalm 119:9)

The Moral Compass Strategy was developed by the BGCO Student Ministry Team. For more information about The Moral Compass or other Oklahoma Youth Ministry needs contact:

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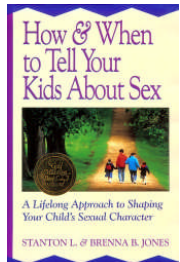


Biblical Responses to the Questions Youth Ask About Sexual Purity

Paul Abner & Andy Harrison



Recommended Reading



How & When to Talk to Your Kids About Sex; Stanton L. & Brenna B. Jones; NavPress

Sexual Resolutions; Paul Kelly; LifeWay

True Love Waits Takes A Look at Courting, Dating, and Hanging Out; David Payne; LifeWay

Pure Joy: God's Formula for Passionate Living; Paul Turner, Matt Tullos, and Kristi Wyatt; LifeWay

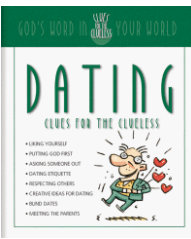
Until You Say I Do; Jay & Diane Strack; LifeWay

Worth The Wait; Paul Abner; Worth The Wait Ministries, 405-728-0916

Dating, Clues for the Clueless; Christopher D. Hudson, compiler; Publishers Promise Press

You Want To Pierce What?; Walker Moore; Albury Publishing

How To Stay a Christian in College; J. Budziszewski; NavPress



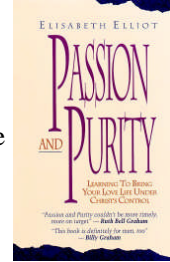
Raising Them Chaste; Richard C. & Renee Durfield; Bethany House Publishers



When True Love Doesn't Wait; D. Tony Rankin & Richard Ross; LifeWay

Passion & Purity, Elizabeth Elliot; Fleming H. Revell Co.

Raising a Modern-Day Knight; Robert Lewis; Focus on the Family Publishing



Sexual Terms & Definitions:



Virginity — *n.* [U] the condition of never having had sex: *Many teenagers value their virginity.* -*adj.* **virginal**

Masturbation — verb [I/T] to rub the sex organs of (yourself or your sexual partner) in order to give sexual pleasure

Sexual Intercourse — *n.* the act of having sex

Oral Sex — the activity of using the tongue, lips and mouth to give pleasure to someone's sexual organs

Petting/Foreplay — 1. where two people kiss, hold and touch each other in a sexual way, but do not have sex. 2. *n.* [U] activities such as kissing and touching that come before sexual intercourse

Homosexual — *n.* a person who is emotionally and sexually attracted to people of the same sex

Bisexual — *n. adj.* attracted to both sexes

French Kissing — *n.* a kiss where one partner's tongue enters the other's mouth: *He gave her a French kiss.*

TABLE OF CONTENTS:



<i>An Explanation of True North Living</i>	4
<i>How To Use This Resource</i>	5
<i>How Far Is Too Far?</i>	6
<i>How Do I Deal With Temptation and Pressure?</i>	7
<i>How Many Christians Are Really Waiting?</i>	9
<i>What Kind Of Relationship Do I Need To Have With The Opposite Sex?</i>	10
<i>Why Wait?</i>	12
<i>Can I Become A Virgin Again?</i>	14
<i>Is It Hard To Remain Pure?</i>	16
<i>Why Are Parents Afraid To Talk To Us About Sex?</i>	16
<i>Is Masturbation A Sin?</i>	18
<i>What's Wrong With Homosexuality? What About Bisexuality?</i>	19
<i>Is Abortion Wrong?</i>	20
<i>Will There Be A Woman (who is pure) For Me After I Wait So Long To Meet Her?</i>	21
<i>Sexual Terms & Definitions</i>	22
<i>Recommended Reading</i>	23



An Explanation of True North Living...

All of us have a “true north” to our lives — a magnetic pull of certain priorities, beliefs, and values.^{*} Working with others to remain morally pure requires a distinct set of true north virtues.^{*} This booklet is a reminder to check the direction of our true north virtues and serves as a biblical guideline for the most frequently asked questions that youth pose in the discussion of sexual issues.

A Self-Assessment to Stay True North

Keep the first commandment. Loving God is a passion that requires cultivation, discipline, and renewal. (Matthew 22:37-38)

Stay focused on a vision. A shared vision or mission keeps me focused on what is important and that which ultimately bears lasting fruit in my life. (1 Thessalonians 4:1-3)

Live in community. I need help for true north living. I will find a friend or friends who will keep me accountable to stay on true north. (Ecclesiastes 4:9-12)

^{*}The difference between a *value* and a *virtue*:

Value:
The social principles, goals, or standards held or accepted by an individual, class, society, etc.

Virtue:
General moral excellence; right action and thinking; goodness and morality.

Values may shift. If society deems a particular activity as acceptable, then whatever that activity may become an accepted value of that society. *Virtues do not shift.* They remain constant despite the shifting mores of society. We must set our sights on unchanging virtues and pursue the moral excellence to which God has called us.

weave me in my mother's womb. I will give thanks to Thee, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Wonderful are Thy works, And my soul knows it very well. My frame was not hidden from Thee, When I was made in secret, And skillfully wrought in the depths of the earth. Thine eyes have seen my unformed substance; And in Thy book they were all written, The days that were ordained for me, When as yet there was not one of them."

"I am totally opposed to abortion, even in the cases of rape and incest. It is not because I find these crimes minimal or insignificant or because I have no sympathy for women; it is because I know my God is God, and He is greater than these situations and from the depth of the abominable can come the beautiful and the magnificent with His touch."

— Andy Harrison

Life begins at conception. Once the female egg has been fertilized, a life has been formed. Taking that life, even in difficult circumstances, constitutes the aborting of a human being.

Pregnancy is not an inconvenient complication of sexual intercourse. It is God's plan for human reproduction. Terminating a pregnancy because it doesn't fit into our plans is to terminate another person's life because we think that it will make our life more comfortable.

Once *The Moral Compass* again, remember, God can heal our past failures and forgive our sin. That truth is not diminished. However, if we are searching for a biblical response to whether abortion is right or wrong, it is wrong, and its scars can be physically, emotionally, and spiritually devastating.



Will There Be A Woman (who is pure) For Me, After I Wait So Long To Meet Her?

Biblical Reference:
Psalm 37:4

Biblical Response:
If you keep your heart pure before God and wait for Him to bring that person to you, yes, we believe that there will be. The only way that you can find someone perfectly compatible with you is through Christ. He created you *and* the person He will bring into your life; and He, as the master of the universe, has it all under control. The problem is that too

Despite what Hollywood says, despite what the news media indicates, despite what your friends may believe, homosexuality is wrong. It is sin. Romans 1:26-27 says, *“For this reason God gave them over to degrading passions; for their women exchanged the natural function for that which is unnatural, and in the same way also the men abandoned the natural function of the women and burned in their desire toward one another, men with men committing indecent acts and receiving in their own persons the due penalty of their error.”*

Homosexuality is not to be accepted as an “alternative lifestyle” it is perversion of God’s gift. This is not to say that homosexuals should be hated and ridiculed. If there is one aspect of our response to homosexuality which needs to be changed, it is, in general, how Christians respond to homosexuals. Christ went to the cross for homosexuals and heterosexuals alike. His love is for everyone and so is His forgiveness. He *will* forgive and restore if we seek His forgiveness. But the scripture is clear...practicing homosexuality is a *choice* and it is a sinful one.

The same can be said for those who seek to justify bisexuality. God intended for the sexual union of two people to be within the boundaries of a committed marriage relationship between a man and a woman.

(Gen 2:24) Any deviation from that design is outside of God’s design and intentions. *True North Living* intention for His creation.

Just because someone desires something, that desire doesn’t make it right. You may want to drive your car 100 mph wherever you go, but it doesn’t make it lawful and it certainly doesn’t make it safe.

Is Abortion Wrong?

Biblical Reference:

Psalm 139

Biblical Response:

The overwhelming majority of abortions in this country are performed for the purpose of getting rid of unwanted pregnancies. This is plain and simply the taking on an innocent life. Listen to what God says in Psalms 139:13-16, *“For thou didst form my inward parts; Thou didst*

How To Use This Resource



This booklet is designed to be a resource tool for parents who seek biblical responses to the questions youth ask about sex. The questions that appear in this piece represent the most frequently asked questions by today’s students concerning sexual morality. Over 1100 Oklahoma students were surveyed about sexual issues and asked to submit the question(s) they most wanted answered. The following material is a response to those questions. Although nearly a hundred different questions were asked, they all fell into similar categories. In fact, it would be more proper to say that the students surveyed asked only a handful of questions, but in a hundred different ways. We noted 12 major categories or questions which youth asked and have responded to those within these pages. Each of our responses were written as if we were addressing the youth who asked the question. We hope this helps you as you address these issues with your children.

The information contained in this booklet is not all-encompassing; much more could be written. However, we feel that we have chosen the biblical heart of the issues in our responses and that these answers will serve you well in helping your students know what the bible says about each topic. For more reading and deeper discussion of these issues we have included a reading list of fine books on the subject of sexual purity for you to use as you wish. This list can be found on page 23.

May God bless you as you relate to your children God’s wonderful plan for sex.

How Far Is Too Far?

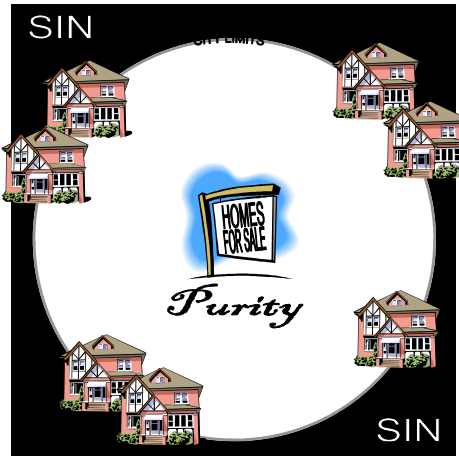
Biblical References:

Song of Solomon 2:7, 3:5; Matthew 5:8; Ephesians 5:3; 1 Thessalonians 4:3, 7; 1 Timothy 5:2; Hebrews 13:4

Biblical Response:

It has become unfortunate, but true, that since we (Christians) call ourselves God's children, we have acted like children and have become bound and determined to see just how far we can push God on His principles for sexual behavior. We refuse to call sin, SIN.

First Timothy 5:2 states that we should treat "younger women as sisters, in all purity." If the standard is purity, why do we even ask the question of "How far is too far?" If purity were our aim wouldn't we instead be asking, "What type of behavior is pleasing to God?" Purity is a commitment "to" something, not "from" something. First Thessalonians 4:7 says, "For God has not called us for the purpose of impurity, but in sanctification." That is, we have been set apart for the purpose of pursuing holiness. We will not end up chasing holiness because we were committed to discerning what is or isn't sin, but rather we will run from sin because as we pursue holiness we will inevitably be putting distance between ourselves and the things that are not of God.



Are you seeking to live in the center of God's will or on the edge of it?

"If God's will (for purity) were a city, it seems most Christians would build their houses on the city limit line hoping that that the adjacent outlying property would soon be annexed, but God wants us downtown."

— Andy Harrison

Kissing, foreplay and even oral sex have frequently been viewed as inconsequential because they don't have the stigma of or are not strictly defined as "going all the way." Foreplay is a sexual behavior, which isn't designed to satisfy in itself, but rather foreplay's function is to lead one up to the fullest expression of physical involvement...sexual intercourse. It doesn't satisfy in and of itself, but is part of a process. It is a

adultery with her. He was saying that what we allow our minds to dwell on will eventually become more than thoughts, it will be our behavior.

♦ **Dwell on God's purpose for your life.** If God is able to do above what we even ask or imagine (Eph. 3:20), and He is, then whatever we could dream up in fantasy will not compare to what He has in store for us in reality. This applies to all facets of our life and certainly to our sexuality. Knowing this then, we can concentrate on issues of greater eternal concern (Phil. 4:8) for we know He holds the details of our lives in His hands.

♦ **Accept God's forgiveness.** Sexual urges are powerful and you may at times give in to lust and allow temptations to grow into sin (James 1:14-15). Let God know of your desire to follow Him and ask for forgiveness. God stands ready to forgive you and to assist you in waiting for His best. (1

John 1:9)

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What's Wrong with Homosexuality? What about Bisexuality?

Biblical References:

Genesis 2:24; Romans 1:26-27; 1 Corinthians 5:9-10

Biblical Response:

Today's societal views are changing toward homosexuality and homosexuals. More and more television sitcoms are based on or have significant roles for gay characters and their message is clear: "We are here. We are normal. Accept it." But as Christians we are not called to follow the common flow of society or the moral leanings of our entertainment capital, we are called to follow Christ. The scriptures are decidedly clear on the subject. 1 Corinthians 5:9-10 says, "Or do you not know that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God. Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, **nor homosexuals**, nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers shall inherit the kingdom of God."

7. Take your kids on occasional “dates” to make talking comfortable.

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Is Masturbation a Sin?

Biblical References:

Matthew 5:27-28; Philippians 4:8; James 1:14-15; 1 John 1:9

Biblical Response:

There are no direct references to masturbation in the scripture and so this question has been much debated over the years. However, just because the Bible does not directly reference an issue and make an obvious judgment concerning it, does not mean that it is silent on how to deal with the issue. The Bible gives precepts and it gives principles. Precepts are hard fast rules. (Example: Road sign says: 65 MPH. You know you break the speed limit when you go 66 or more. It is a clearly drawn line.) Principles are governing boundaries. (Example: Road sign says: Drive Safely. There is no clear line drawn, so you must evaluate the condition of the road, the surface type, the level of traffic, weather conditions, etc. and adjust your driving style and speed in order to be safe.)

There is no clear precept concerning masturbation, but there are many applicable principles. If you were able to masturbate without allowing your mind to fantasize on the sexual images of a person or persons you are not married to, then the simple answer would be, yes, you can masturbate without it being sin. The problem with that situation is that it is virtually impossible.

You should know that sexual urges are normal and masturbation is a psychologically and physically normal response to those urges. And it would seem rather irrational to drop a boat load of guilt on you for being normal.

The issue for a Christian then, is how do I deal with these urges without building for myself a habit of destructive thought and behavior. It would be wise to follow these principles:

- ◆ **Protect your thought life.** Lusting after another person dehumanizes that person and thereby devalues them. We can begin to see people as objects of sexual fulfillment instead of people of value. Jesus said that lusting after a woman was the same as committing

process reserved for marriage (Hebrews 13:4). The philosopher Spinoza once said, "We don't desire things because they are good, we call them good because we desire them." Man will rationalize his behavior because he desires that behavior over God's will for his life. In Spinoza's terminology one might say, "I *want* to kiss and touch my partner so I will *call* it "good" or "right" to do so." But calling something "right" and it actually being "right" are two different things. Would it be right to kiss and fondle your sister? No! Of course not! It's even repulsive to suggest. Paul instructed Timothy to treat the younger women as sisters, "in all purity." Then it is just as repulsive to consider such sexual behavior as permissible with those who would be our boyfriends or girlfriends.

To help yourself in this area it is good to set your standards or limitations before you start dating. If you wait until the moment of passion to determine your limits, you're a goner.

If you are already sexually active, STOP. God forgives, but there are consequences for our sin that can leave lasting scars. Determine to pursue holiness through the power of the Holy Spirit. Solomon knew the value of delayed gratification. When the time was right (marriage) and the act was pure (sex), then the benefits became much greater than just a few minutes of physical pleasure. "*Promise me, O women of Jerusalem, by the swift gazelles and the deer of the wild, not to awaken love until the time is right.*" (Song of Solomon 2:7, New Living Translation)

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How Do I Deal With Temptation and Pressure?

Biblical References:

Proverbs 27:17; Matthew 6:13, 26:41; John 15:9, 17:4; Romans 8:5-6; 1 Corinthians 10:13, 15:33; Philippians 4:8; Hebrews 4:15; James 1:14-15; 2 Peter 2:7-9

Biblical Response:

First, you should know that temptation is not sin. Everyone has been or will be tempted. Temptation is a situation in which we are brought to a point of decision. In relation to purity, that decision will be to follow the Spirit to righteousness or the flesh to sin. Jesus was tempted, yet He never followed the flesh to sin. Hebrews 4:15 says, "*For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin.*"

Pressure is also something we all have to do deal with in regard to remaining pure. The world pressures us to treat sex casually through a constant bombardment of visual, auditory, emotional, and psychological appeals. These appeals connect with our natural desire for sex, but seek to suggest fulfillment of these desires in an immoral or unholy way. Pressure also comes from friends or even from within. A poor self-esteem can lead us to seek unhealthy relationships with others simply to meet our need to be wanted or loved.

"Temptation usually comes in through a door that has deliberately been left open."

— Unknown

We must deal with temptation and pressure the same way Jesus did.

- ◆ He realized that there was not one temptation that couldn't be resisted with God's help. (1 Corinthians 10:13)
- ◆ He kept His mind on the things of God. (Romans 8:5-6; Philippians 4:8)
- ◆ He was secure in God's love for Him. (John 15:9)
- ◆ He had good friends who shared His values. (Proverbs 27:17)
- ◆ He knew the destructive power of the wrong associations. (1 Corinthians 15:33)
- ◆ He purposed in His heart to do God's will. (John 17:4)

Some good tips to remember...

- ◆ Set your standards and boundaries *before* you begin a relationship. Waiting until a moment of temptation to define your standards could be disastrous.
- ◆ When in doubt...don't! This is good to remember when it comes to deciding to go to that party or not, or to hang with certain people, or to spend too much time alone on a date. If there is doubt in your heart as to whether you should do this thing or not, then don't do it. This is not to say that if it feels good then go for it. The Holy Spirit lives inside every believer and prompts us to righteousness and discourages us from sin. The more often we ignore His voice, the more difficult it will

"If you have been tempted into evil, flee from it. It is not by falling into the water, but by lying in it, that one drowns."

— Unknown

- ◆ Their parents never talked to them about sex, so they don't feel comfortable talking to their own kids, or they don't think it's necessary.
- ◆ They are afraid they will have to talk about the "plumbing." That is, they will have to tell the anatomy of it all.
- ◆ They made bad choices, which they now regret, when they were teenagers and are afraid that their kids will ask, "Mom and dad, did you wait?"

The good news is that God didn't make sex dirty. The world did. God made sex to be something healthy; so we can talk about it on a healthy level without having to blush or avoid eye contact.

We need parents to be the primary educators to their children about godly sexuality. God designed moms and dads to be the primary accountability partners. Therefore, for parents not to be the primary sexual educators is to forfeit a God-given responsibility, and give the responsibility to someone who doesn't love their child as much or have as large of an investment in them.

My suggestions to parents:

1. Don't be afraid, God will help you. It will get more comfortable the more you talk about it. But, first you have to start.
2. Study books on positive relationships.
3. Talk to youth pastors, pastors and other people you respect about the things you need to cover.
4. Model positive relationships.
5. Don't expect your kids to be something that you're not willing to be yourself. Model purity in *your* life.
6. Don't worry with talking about the plumbing. The world has tried to make sex merely physical, healthy sex is about healthy relationships.



**Oh, what a tangled web do parents weave
When they think their
children are naive.**
--Ogden Nash

Is It Hard to Remain Pure?

Biblical References:

Proverbs 3:5-6, 4:23; Philippians 4:6-7



Biblical Response:

Sometimes yes, sometimes no. We live in a seductive world and waiting is sometimes nearly impossible. At other times it seems like temptation will never be a problem again.

“The key for me has been having a heart that is set on God and trusting Him. In the times when there have been opportunities to give into temptation, my mind was made up not to give in to the pressure. I had pre-determined that there was no way I would risk so much, for short-term happiness. On the other hand, in the times that I have been weakest, there have almost never been such opportunities. I can only give credit to God for the loving control He has shown.”

— Paul Abner

It is easier to remain pure if you are careful as to what enters your mind, and obey biblical wisdom. It is more difficult if you get lazy in guarding your mind and your heart and in following God’s instruction. Even to the most well-intentioned it is at times difficult. While you may hate these times because of the stress they bring, they are valuable because they will show you how much you really trust God.

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Why Are Parents Afraid to Talk to Us About Sex?

Biblical References:

Deuteronomy 6:6-7

Biblical Response:

Good question! You need your parents! They should be the primary teachers of sexuality. However, for many students, their parents never mention the subject, hoping if they don’t mention it, Mr. or Miss. Puberty will never come to visit. Why?

Some reasons are:

become to hear Him at all.

- ◆ Keep your eye on the goal. The times that you are most vulnerable are times when your mind is on the moment you are living in, and not on the future. Don’t forget the goal is to make it until marriage to become sexually active. About 80% of people who don’t wait later regret it. You can stand at the marriage altar with no regrets if you keep your eye on the goal

“Character would not be the precious thing it is if it could be acquired without effort, without combat and without contradictions.”

— Selwyn Hughes

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How Many Christians Are Really Waiting?

Biblical References:

John 14:15; 1 John 1:9



Biblical Response:

A survey of over 1100 students from Oklahoma was conducted in the summer of 2001. Eighty-nine percent of those students stated that they believed themselves to be born-again Christians. The questions on the survey generally pertained to sexual purity or related areas. Of those surveyed, less than 10% indicated they had participated in sexual intercourse. A greater number had indicated a participation in other sexual activities such as French Kissing (59%), Petting (33%), and Oral Sex (14%); but the evidence suggests that most Christian students are waiting.

To date, over two million young people have signed covenant cards stating: “Believing that true love waits, I make a commitment to God, myself, my family, my friends, my future mate, and my future children to be sexually abstinent from this day until the day I enter a biblical marriage relationship.”

When the abstinence program True Love Waits was introduced several years ago, a shift began in our culture. Students began to communicate with one another their commitment to be sexually pure. They realized that they were not alone in this endeavor as year after year the numbers grew of those who were making a True Love Waits pledge. Now enough time has passed that True Love

Waits can be evaluated as to its effectiveness. Studies have now shown that students who sign cards and make pledges of commitment to sexual purity, remain pure longer. The struggle against societal tendencies is still evident and the battle is often difficult, but the stats are revealing... ***you are not alone!***

But this invokes the question, "What if you *were* all alone?" Would you still follow through with God's plan for purity? John 14:15 says, "If you love me, you will keep my commandments." God calls us to follow His commandments because in doing so He knows that we will avoid the pain and consequences of our sin. Because He loves us, He gives us instruction. And because we love Him we follow that instruction. And if we falter, God is willing and ready to forgive us. (1 John 1:9) As a matter of fact, many of those students who have made the True Love Waits commitment have done so after past mistakes. They realized the value of waiting after failing to do so and now are committed to God's plan for love and purity.

The Five Commitments of True Love Waits

To God: Matthew 22:37

"Jesus replied, 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.'"

To Yourself: Matthew 22:39

"And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'"

To Family: Philippians 4:5

"Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near."

To Friends: John 15:13

"Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends."

To Future Mate and Children: 2 Timothy 2:22

"Flee the evil desires of youth, and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart."

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What Kind of Relationship Do I Need to Have With the Opposite Sex?

Biblical References:

1 Timothy 5:1-2



dents were graduating from high school having given up their virginity. Yet, by 1995 over 2.5 million students nationwide had made public commitments to wait until marriage to become sexually active. If the studies were correct, obviously not all 2.5 million still had their physical virginity.

Does God just give up on those who have become sexually active and destine them to a secondary standard for the remainder of their lives?

No, no, a thousand times no! We serve a forgiving God!!! A God who when asked gives immediate forgiveness and wipes the slate clean (and for those who want to point fingers and cry unclean at those who have become involved sexually outside of marriage, the truth is that we all regularly need the grace and forgiveness of God in areas of our lives).

But, to claim some type of moral equality, saying that sexual sin is the same as other sins is not quite true either. In fact, the Bible relates to the believer, that sexual sin is uniquely different than other sins. In fact the Bible says that when we sin sexually, not only do we sin against God, but we also sin against our own bodies (1 Corinthians 6:18). No other sin in the Bible that has a "double-barrel" effect on us like sexual sin.

Forgiveness does not change the past, but it does enlarge the future.
-- Paul Boese

The problem is not *forgiveness*. The problem is what might be called, restoration. Restoration can be defined as "getting back to main street after a self-imposed detour." The problem is getting back to where you were. The

scars from sexual sin go very deep. For many the scars can take many years to heal. Often the problem isn't God's forgiveness, but an inability to forgive ourselves. Restoration is often a very painful process that requires great patience for God to do his work in us.

The good news is that God does forgive! The good news is that God does restore! You can't do a whole lot about your past, but you can do a whole lot about your future. If you have been sexually active, we encourage you to ask God's forgiveness, draw a line, stop all sexual activity and start all over. Stay away from relationships with the opposite sex for a while and make God your focus while he strengthens you and prepares you for what's next in life. If you don't take time to seek God, chances are that you will fall back into the same unhealthy patterns.

- ◆ Waiting retains for a single person, within marriage, what is appropriately theirs.
- ◆ Because waiting refuses the worldly view that true love requires sexual expression for fulfillment.
- ◆ Because waiting gives us power over sexual drives, opening the possibility for experiencing the highest in sexual expression.
- ◆ Because waiting avoids the spiritual damage that comes with lost purity.
- ◆ Waiting helps us stay on a straight and narrow path which helps us avoid contracting other polluting traits of a decaying world.
- ◆ Because waiting exercises and shows a self-control which gives us a greater sense of self-worth.

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Can I Become a Virgin Again?

Biblical References:

Isaiah 1:18; 1 Corinthians 6:18; 1 John 1:9



Biblical Response:

The short answer is yes! We serve a God full of grace and forgiveness. He loves you even when you make choices that go outside of His boundaries. He longs to make new that which has caused pain and destruction in our lives. The popular term is *secondary virginity*.

So, if God is full of grace and forgiveness (and we know He is), why not “test your wings” sexually and then just ask for forgiveness? It’s not quite that simple.

God’s plan is that you would relate to one person sexually in your life, and that, within the boundaries of marriage. The literal definition of a virgin is: “male or female who has never experienced sexual intercourse; fresh, unmarked, untouched sexually, unmarred territory.” So, obviously, you can only give your physical virginity away once.

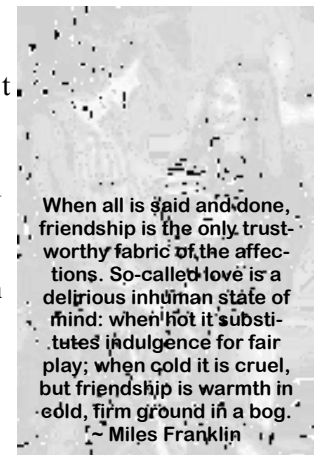
In the early 1990’s studies were showing that between 70-80% of stu-

Biblical Response:

“Do not sharply rebuke an older man, but rather appeal to him as a father, to the younger men as brothers, the older women as mothers, the younger women as sisters, in all purity.” 1 Timothy 5:1-2

- ◆ Guys—always show respect, whether it be someone you’re interested in or just a friend. Respect is putting the other person’s long-term good above your own. Respect becomes a lifestyle and sets the groundwork for a lifestyle of servanthood, which is the qualifier for biblical leadership. Respect begins by first respecting your mother. (Girls—if a guy is not respectful of his mother, don’t expect him to be respectful of you.) Do the simple things that never should go out of style, such as: opening doors for females, standing up when females enter a room, and buy lots of flowers (flowers and/or duct tape will fix almost anything).
- ◆ Girls—you have a gift that most guys don’t realize: you have influence. It is your choice whether it is healthy influence or simply manipulation. Therefore, again, whether it be someone you’re interested in or just a friend, be of the highest integrity in the way that you influence men. That includes the way you dress. If you choose to try to attract guys by dressing immodestly, you may get a guy, but you won’t get a very good one, or you may get a very immature one. If you choose to attract with physical qualities alone, all that you have is a relationship based on the physical. That is a very weak relationship that holds very little chance of long-term happiness.

Bottom Line: Friendship. Most students begin “serious dating relationships” too early. Dating relationships probably shouldn’t become serious until both parties are out of high school. Here’s why. When dating becomes “serious” usually both people involved begin to shut out other relationships in their lives. They cling to one another. Many people graduate from high school and never learn how to develop good *friendships*; let alone good *dating relationships*. Spend some time making friends and don’t worry so much about getting “serious” with a girl or a guy.



Why Wait?

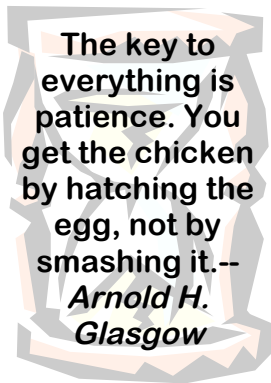
Biblical References:

Exodus 20:14; Proverbs 6:32; Galatians 5:19-21; Hebrews 13:4; Ephesians 5:3; 2 Timothy 2:22; Colossians 3:5; 1 Corinthians 6:18-20

Biblical Response:

First let's look at the question:

This is the central, primary question when it comes to sexuality. One that demands a strong, thorough answer and provides an important directional file in each person's moral compass. One that, because of the drive and desires that we are born with, we all will ask and answer in some way.



Some decide that waiting isn't important.

Those who don't wait endanger their future in many ways, some that can easily be seen (sexually transmitted diseases; out of wedlock pregnancy; too early marriage, etc.) And some that aren't so readily obvious (depression; walls between you and God because of guilt; increased chances of divorce; increased stress; etc.). The sooner this question is answered and understood, the better one is able to navigate life.

By the way, this isn't a new question. I imagine every generation, since before recorded history, has asked the same thing. This is a question that initiated a period in America known as "the sexual revolution" in the 1960-70's. The difference between then and now is that in the early 1990's the church somehow lost its fear to talk about sexuality in church and to help establish healthy, godly boundaries. Since then millions of students have responded positively when asked to make a public declaration of how they plan to conduct themselves until marriage.

Maybe a better way to ask this question is, "Why is waiting important?"

- ◆ Because God's word tells us to wait.

"thou shall not commit adultery, ..."

Exodus 20:14 (part of the 10 commandments)

"whosoever commits adultery with a woman lacks understanding; he who does so destroys his own soul."

Proverbs 6:32 (the female reference is because the writer, Solomon, was giving wise advice to his sons. The statement is true for both sexes.)

"now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication..... Those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God."

Galatians 5:19-21

"marriage should be honored by all and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and the sexually immoral."

Hebrews 13:4

"it is God's will that you should be holy; that you should avoid sexual immorality or any kind of impurity..."

Ephesians 5:3

"flee the evil desires of your youth..."

2 Timothy 2:22

"put to death.....sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires..."

Colossians 3:5

"flee sexual immorality, all other sins a man commits are outside his body, but he who sins sexually sins against his own body. Do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you received from God? You are not your own; you were bought with a price. Therefore honor God with your body."

1 Corinthians 6:18-20

- ◆ Because waiting gives honor to God's plan and order in your life.
- ◆ Because waiting is a symbol of radical allegiance to Jesus.
- ◆ Because waiting holds purity as a precious treasure which is to be protected and preserved.
- ◆ Because waiting rejects the worldly view that ignorance is equal to innocence.