

Someone recently told me that the “rules in the Bible should be adjusted to fit today’s environment.” That seems to be the consensus of many people today. Nowhere is that more apparent than in the prevailing attitude among teens about sex before marriage.

Sitting across the counseling desk from teenaged girls, I was shocked. The shock did not come from the fact that so many were sexually active. Premarital sex among teens has been on the rise for some time. I was shocked because so many said their parents had not talked to them about sexual behavior. I questioned further to find that their ideas about what was appropriate behavior came from television sitcoms. As they told me, “The couple meet each other and go to bed. If they continue to see each other, they get acquainted after that.” If you watch sitcoms, you know that is exactly the game plan.

Can a parent stand against that kind of instruction from the world? We know that teens are bombarded by sexual images and situations from media, advertising and their peers. There is only one way to win that war. Parents must actively fight for their teens. They must instruct and protect as if the child’s very life depended on their efforts. In many cases, it does.

In the next few weeks, I will be writing about sexuality and teens. First, we need to give our children the Scriptural foundations for purity. Second, we need to protect them as much as possible from outside influences. Third, we need to teach them to withstand pressure from the culture. Finally, we need to encourage them as they stand by their beliefs.

At what age should we begin to instruct our children in this very important matter? Just before they are sexually mature? Unfortunately, that is often too late. The key to instructing our children is to get God’s lessons written onto their hearts before the culture takes its turn. Actually, it is better if the child receives most of these lessons before the age of nine. As you will read in the coming weeks, there are lessons that need to be taught as early as six or seven. A good, strong foundation cannot not be thrown together overnight. Putting it in place slowly and carefully over three or four years will produce the strength needed to withstand the storms of adolescence.

Next week, we will begin with the Scriptural foundations for purity.