

In the past few weeks, I have written about the Scriptural foundations for sexual purity and about various ways to protect children from what the culture is teaching about sex. The final step that parents must take is to teach their children how to stand for what they believe is right.

Gone are the days of Dad sitting down with a son or Mom with a daughter for a one-time lecture about the “birds and bees.” I am not sure that ever worked, but it certainly will not work today. For one thing, chances are that you will deliver the lecture about five years too late.

To teach our children how to stand up for what is right, we need to teach them with modern methods. The message is ageless, but it should not be delivered from the dark ages. I think there are three ways to teach our children about sexual purity: open family discussions, church youth groups and the Internet.

Open family discussions are essential to communicating your values to your children. Begin early before the subject becomes taboo. From a teen’s viewpoint, if sex has never been discussed in fourteen years, he is certainly not going to bring up the subject. During discussions, respond in a manner that encourages further participation. Too many parents “go ballistic” when a child is honest.

Church youth leaders can have a powerful impact on the teens they are leading. Talk to the youth leaders in your church and encourage them to include curriculum about abstinence. *True Love Waits* has developed materials especially for youth groups. Parents can become involved with the youth through the new program, *True Love Waits Goes Home*.

Finally, the Internet is an excellent source for helping you teach your child about sexual purity. Obviously, parental supervision and involvement is vital. Two excellent sources for parents and teens are www.truelovewaits.com and www.family.org. There are many more good sites for a parent or teen that is willing to spend time researching. The Internet is a great teaching tool because teens like that method of learning.

Next week, I will write in depth about the excellent program, *True Love Waits*.