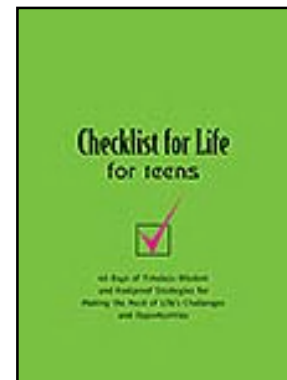


Sex and Intimacy, “Weight of the Wait”

The scriptures make clear that the believers’ body is a “temple of the Holy Spirit”; and though the assignment may seem difficult to grasp, it remains the cornerstone by which we think about ourselves...our bodies...and soul.

As I summarize this devotion – of a sensitive and important part of any life – I cannot help think **about the failure of sex education in America**. At this time, out-of-wedlock pregnancy is at an all time high in terms of percentage of total births (in America) and Sexual Transmitted Diseases (STD’s) are, likewise, at an all time high in terms of both the number of viruses (25 strands at present) and the percentage of young people diagnosed.

The notion that birth control and contraceptives could somehow replace virtue and value (human) is nothing less than a fallacy; in short, the public education system responsible for these programs have sold the young people an inadequate and misleading bill-of-goods.



Still, I cannot forget the pressures and passions of my own youth; and the desire to have or experience sex. If we were honest, the feelings for intimacy and sexual fulfillment become mired in the media’s impressions and the teen’s interpretation. Sexuality and intimacy are not always the same yet become convoluted in the context of modern culture and the media. **Is it wonder that teen’s are so confused when inconceivable forms of porn are only a button away?**

The law enforcement has ratcheted-up enforcement in sex crimes and illicit forms while seemingly overlooking the plethora of porn that inundates the Internet. There is cause & effect at work in the young lives who engage in porn and the young lives hurt or ruined by illicit sex and/or sordid. In my recollection, **the teen years are difficult enough – with raging hormones** – to consider the consequences of rampant and raw sexual content on young minds.

In the complexity of this part of humanity is the paradox that we are sexual creatures; yet, by the scriptures, are called to remain pure or celibate. It seems impossible – and even cruel – to have to wait or somehow deny or ignore our passions and desires. Still, is the possibility that you have already *blown-it* – or have engaged in sex...

The challenge and struggle of this undertaking cannot be met alone; **you need help!** If you have already *been involved* with someone, you still need help – maybe more help! **Most of all you need to know that your feelings, desires and even indulgences are not beyond forgiveness and restoration in Christ.**

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As with all sin – including recurring or besetting sin – there is forgiveness in Christ. Remember that you are God’s creation; I know, you were the child of two people, but in terms of your soul, you are a child of God. Also, that God (your creator) loves you – even with all your sordid thoughts, passions and desires. Knowing your *heart*, God well *ahead of the game* in knowing who you are... So, as far as trying to *put up a front* or be someone you’re not, you’re wasting your time before God. **Again, God knows you better than you know yourself.**

I must tell you that, personally, sexuality was my biggest challenge in the teen years; a time of tremendous confusion and what seemed like unending desire and want. I think that other men would agree that this form of temptation or sin was BIG and, at times, daunting. All the more reason to admit to God your own difficulty and perpetual sense of defeat; and all the more reason to seek help in the scriptures, prayer, and good counsel.

The teens of today face an unparallel degree of difficulty because of declining standards and morals in our culture...and the mass media. The challenge has never been more difficult – which is why God is there to say I love you...I can help you...I am waiting. What about you?

Homework:

Please try to do these:

- Try to please God in your relationships
- Honor the opposite sex even if they do not honor their own bodies
- See waiting as BIGGER than the struggle
- Commit to moral purity
- Guard your mind from impure thoughts – beyond the impulse...
- Focus on the true love of God

Things to Do:

- ✓ Ask God for power to overcome – have victory
- ✓ Memorize helpful scriptures – that aid the mind and heart
- ✓ Make a commitment to abstinence through the *True Love Waits* campaign at www.truelovewaits.com or similar programs
- ✓ Find and develop relationships with others who share in your commitment
- ✓ Write down anything that triggers lustful thoughts (movies, Web sites, magazines) and purpose to avoid them...

Romans, chapter 13 (*The Message*) tells us:

God is putting the finishing touches on the salvation work he began when we first believed....Get out of bed and get dressed! Don’t loiter and linger, waiting until the very last minute. **Dress yourselves in Christ, and be up and about!**