



The “Talk”

Adapted from “A Future for Your Family” series by Scott Erickson

Dads have a responsibility to teach their children about sex from a biblical vantage point. This often-sensitive topic is often relegated to peer learning. From this article, we discover the need to be proactive in our approach to all subjects our children are learning:

Who decides what children will be taught about sex? The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals served notice on America's parents this week, ruling that parents of elementary-aged school children have no right to be the "exclusive providers" of sex information to their children.

The Ninth Circuit is generally considered to be America's most left-wing court. Nevertheless, the decision handed down on November 2 represents one of the most outrageous infringements upon parental rights ever made by an American court.

The case originated in California, where a group of parents filed suit against the Palmdale School District because their elementary-aged children had been asked questions about sexual topics without parental notification or control. In its decision, the court simply told the parents they had no right to complain.

The case was sparked by a survey the Palmdale School District had conducted in order, school officials said, to evaluate psychological barriers to learning. The schools had used volunteer mental health counselors to develop and administer a psychological assessment questionnaire for children in the first, third, and fifth grades. According to the district, the goal was to "establish a community baseline measure of children's exposure to early trauma." Parents had been sent a consent letter which did not explicitly mention that any question would involve sexual topics. The parents discovered the sexual content of the questionnaire when their young children came home troubled by the experience.

Most parents would be shocked to know that these first, third, and fifth graders had been asked to evaluate whether they have been traumatized by, for example, "touching my private parts too much." The survey also asked the

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children their feelings about thoughts related to "touching other people's private parts," "thinking about sex when I don't want to," "having sex feelings in my body," and "getting upset when people talk about sex." We can be fairly confident that most parents would be upset when people talk about sex with their young children.

After all, how many first graders have any concept of sex? Most parents would see these young children as needing protection from the very knowledge of sex, much less the intrusion of questions related to their own sexual feelings and perceptions.

The parents sued the School District contending that the right to "determine when and how their children are exposed to sexually explicit subject matter" is a fundamental due process right. They argued that, as the children's parents, they have a fundamental right "to control the upbringing of their children by introducing them to matters of and relating to sex in accordance with their personal and religious values and beliefs."

When the case was appealed to the Ninth Circuit, the three-judge panel dealt the parents a serious blow. The court's written decision, written by Judge Stephen Reinhardt, declared that "the right of parents to make decisions concerning the care, custody, and control of their children is not without limitations."

Judge Reinhardt went on to argue that the federal courts "have upheld the constitutionality of school programs that educate children in sexuality and health." What about the rights of parents? Judge Reinhardt, citing a precedent from the First Circuit, simply declared that "once parents make the choice as to which school their children will attend, their fundamental right to control the education of their children is, at the least, substantially diminished."¹

¹ Al Mohler, "Parents vs Public Schools: Who Should Teach Kids About Sex?" November 7, 2005, <http://www.crosswalk.com/family/parenting/parents-vs-public-schools-who-should-teach-kids-about-sex-1361938.html> (accessed July 6, 2017).

COURAGE

C1: We live in a culture filled with an overemphasis on lust and lewdness. What did your father teach you about sex? At what age did he start discussing the sex issue with you? What were your thoughts and emotions when your dad was talking to you on this subject?

C2: If you have children, have you talked with them about sex? How often? Do you believe just a few times discussing sex is adequate? Write out a plan to have an ongoing conversation with your children about sex.

C3: God has given very specific instructions to disciple our families. God's Word considers the father to be the life source of the home which means there is great responsibility to fathers. We are to teach the truth of God's Word to our family. Read and answers the following.

Deuteronomy 5:18 (ESV) And you shall not commit adultery.

Deuteronomy 5:21 (ESV) And you shall not covet your neighbor's wife. And you shall not desire your neighbor's house, his field, or his male servant, or his female servant, his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor's.

Deuteronomy 6:6–9 (ESV) And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

- From these verses, what should a father be teaching their family about sex?
- On a scale of 1-4, with 1 being very well and 4 being not very well, how well would you rate yourself about teaching your children about sex? Write out a plan to begin and continue to teach your children about sex.

STRENGTH

S1: A wife told her husband, “It’s time to teach our son about the birds and the bees.” So, the father reluctantly took his pre-teen son for a walk in the park. There in the park they noticed a man and woman in a passionate embrace. Dad said, “Son, your mother wants you to know the birds and bees do the same thing.”

- Who taught you about sex?

- On a scale of 1-4, with 1 being very well and 4 being not very well, rate yourself on how well you have taught your children about biblical sexuality. Write out a plan to discuss biblical sexuality with your children when they are pre-teen, teen, and young adult.

S2: Most fathers do not talk about this topic, and as a result, there are problems that occur that don’t have to happen. Read and answer the following.

Deuteronomy 6:6–9 (ESV)

- From these scriptures, what are three ways the writers tell fathers how they should teach their children.

- On a scale of 1-4, with 1 being very well and 4 being not very well, rate yourself on how well you have taught your children vitally, verbally, and visually the commands of God. Write out a plan to improve in these areas.

S3: Stanford University did a survey and concluded that the more promiscuous people are before marriage, the less happy they are after marriage. Read and answer the following.

Proverbs 5:1–5 (ESV)

- From these verses, what does every dad need to teach his children?

Proverbs 5:6–9 (ESV)

- From these verses, what does every dad need to teach his children?
- On a scale of 1-4, with 1 being very well and 4 being not well, rate yourself in how well you are teaching these verses. Write out a plan to improve in this area.

ENDURANCE

E1: It has been said that people who were pure when they came into the marriage enjoy the highest degree of marital happiness after marriage. Read and answer the following.

Proverbs 5:10 (ESV)

Proverbs 5:11 (ESV)

Proverbs 5:14 (ESV)

- From the verses, what are three things that sexual sin does to a person? How well are you warning your children? Write out a plan to improve.

E2: Do a word search on the phrase “flee from sin”.

- How many times in the New Testament are we told to “run” or “flee”?
- How well are you teaching your children to run or flee? Write out a plan to help your children flee.

E3: Dads should teach their children that God is not trying to keep sex **from** them, but he is try to keep sex **for** them. Read and answer the following.

Proverbs 5:22–23 (ESV)

Proverbs 5:15 (ESV)

Proverbs 5:18–19 (ESV)



- From these verses, what are three reasons we must teach our children God's commands?

- On a scale of 1-4, with 1 being very well and 4 being not very well, rate your satisfaction with your discipleship of your children. Write out a plan to improve.