

# Raising Kids in a Sexualized Society



Malachi 4:6 - He will turn the hearts of fathers to their children  
and the hearts of children to their fathers...

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*“The search of Scripture turns up one rather surprising truth: There are no exemplary families. Not a single family is portrayed in Scripture in such a way so as to evoke admiration in us. There are many family stories, there is considerable reference to family life, and there is sound counsel to guide the growth of families, but not a single model family for anyone to look up to in either awe or envy.”*

*- Eugene Peterson,*

*Like Dew Your Youth: Growing Up with Your Teenager*

# Raising Kids in a Sexualized Society

I. Our sexualized society

II. Common temptations for parents

III. Strategies to help our kids navigate wisely

# I. Our sexualized society

- What does it mean to sexualize our kids?  
*When our children learn that their value comes primarily from their sex appeal.*
- In 2001, a study by the American Academy of Pediatrics found that adolescents are exposed to 14,000 sexualized messages each year through the media.



# I. Our sexualized society

Our sexualized society cherishes and promotes two values:

- *People have value only if they have and maintain a certain appearance.*
- *Relationships are mostly about what you get out of them instead of what you put in.*

*Source: Diane Levin and Jean Kilbourne, So Sexy, So Soon*

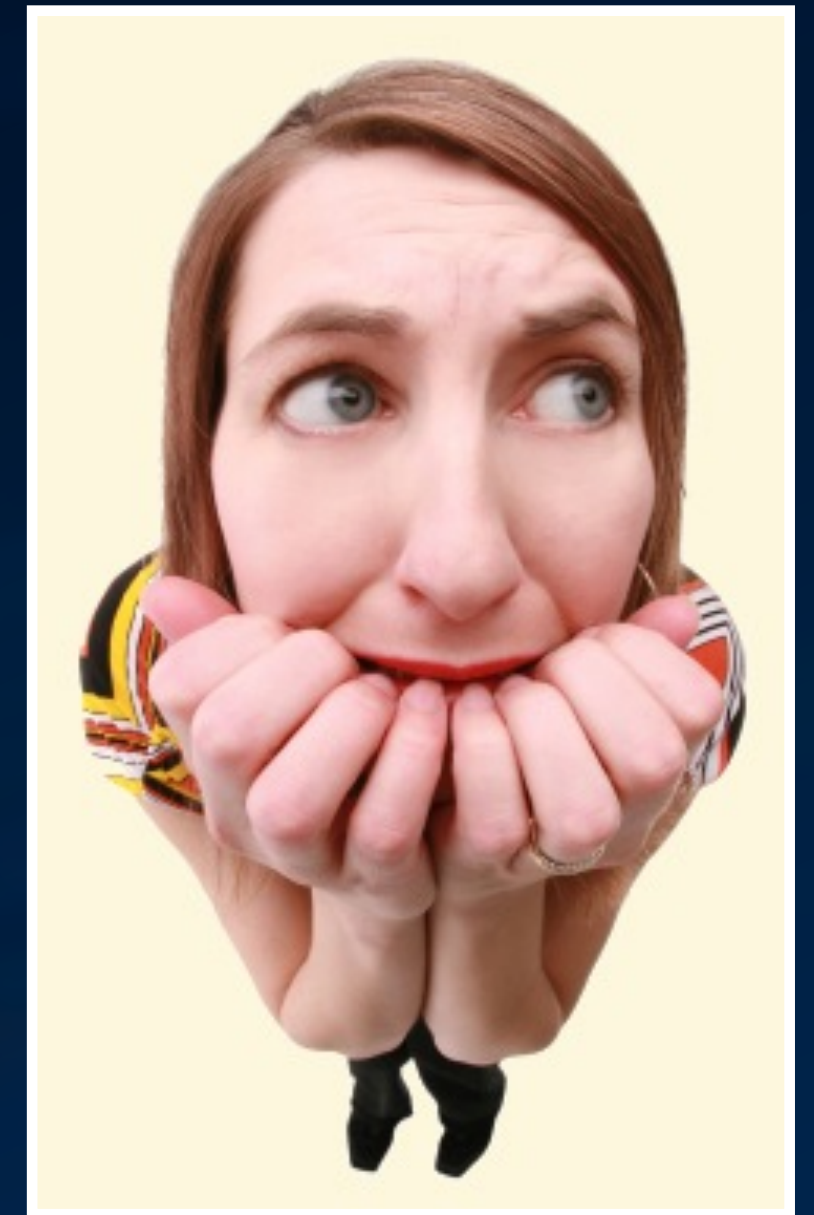
## II. Common Temptations for Parents

A. Avoidance and denial

B. Isolationism

C. Focus exclusively on prohibition

D. Indulgence and permissiveness



“Christian parents do not own their children;  
rather, those of us who are Christian parents  
are called to serve our children  
by recognizing that the children of our bodies  
are gifts of God, not our possessions.”

- Stanley Hauerwas



### III. Strategies to help our kids navigate wisely



*Source: PureHope Ministries @ [www.purehope.net](http://www.purehope.net)*



## **A. Build a Foundation**

*Deepen our own understanding of*



## ***God's Design for Sexuality***

1. Pleasure - A taste of eternity now (Psalm 16:11; Proverbs 5:15-21)

2. Procreation (Genesis 1:28; 4:1)



# ***God's Design for Sexuality***

## **3. Protection**

*Sexual intimacy between a husband and wife strengthens their relationship and guards against temptations outside of the marriage (1 Corinthians 7:1-5).*

## **4. Proclamation**

*Fidelity in marriage proclaims the faithfulness and steadfast love of Jesus for His Church (Ephesians 5:25-32), just as celibacy outside of marriage proclaims His perseverance and patience for His future union with His Bride (John 14:2-3; Revelation 19:7).*



## **B. Engage the Conversation**

*Develop strategies for creating healthy dialogue with our kids about sex.*



# Engage the Conversation

1. Remember your voice as a parent is more powerful than your kids' peers and the media.
2. Pray for the Lord to make you an approachable parent on all matters sexual.
3. Earn the right to be heard by engaging in conversation with your kids on many other issues.
4. Start early.
5. Monitor the tone of your conversations.



## C. Exercise Accountability

*Strategies for creating  
safer and more  
accountable technology  
use in our homes.*





# A Successful Tech Strategy for Your Family

1. Educate yourself
2. Protect what you can
3. Manage screen time
4. Schedule rest
5. Equip your kids to thrive

- **Download accountability and blocking software on computers, phones, and gaming systems;**
- **Utilize available parental controls on all devices;**
- **Password protect your devices and Internet access;**
- **Keep computers and phones out of bedrooms at night;**
- **Never give young children unsupervised access to computers, smartphones, or tablets;**
- **Know the passwords for any email or social media accounts you allow your kids to open, and monitor their activity; and**
- **Set clear boundaries and establish ongoing dialogue with your kids about their tech use.**

## D. Leave a Godly Legacy

*Model a lifestyle of grace-based living and sexual purity.*





What the Lord wants for us and our kids is what we should want.

Look with me at Malachi 2:14b-15:

*...The Lord was witness between you and the wife of your youth, to whom you have been faithless, though she is your companion and your wife by covenant.*

*Did he not make them one, with a portion of the Spirit in their union? And what was the one God seeking? **Godly offspring.***

*So guard yourselves in your spirit, and let none of you be faithless to the wife of your youth.*

The bottom line is that we cannot make our kids godly.

Thus, our chief tool in this enterprise of parenting and leaving a godly legacy is prayer.

Here's a concluding Scripture to guide you in this enterprise of utmost importance:

*As for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD by failing to pray for you. And I will teach you the way that is good and right.*

*- 1 Samuel 12:23*

