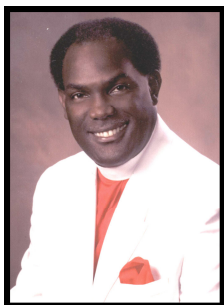


Ask Our Bishop



Q. As a parent, I know that it is my duty to raise my children in the way that they should go. I also recognize that my children may stray from the path that I have set them on. I would like some guidance on talking to my children about sex. A part of me just wants to tell them, “Don’t do it because God commands us to holiness,” and leave it at that. But as I see so many youth with unwanted pregnancies, sexually transmitted diseases, and HIV/AIDS, I feel in my heart that to say, “Just don’t do it,” would not be enough. So, another part of me wants to tell my children that if they are going to sin and have sex, then they should at least use some protection. However, to tell them that makes me feel like I am giving them permission to have sex. Please help me resolve this dilemma. What bible-based guidance can you offer?

A. I commend your desire as a parent to teach your children how to be wise stewards over their own bodies, to be pure, and to honor their bodies in a discreet manner. In spite of our society’s suggestion that premarital sex is okay, God considers premarital sex to be sin. It is clearly taught in the scriptures that God created sex to be between a husband and wife. There is so much to be said concerning this topic. However, just allow me to give some brief, bible-based guidance on how you should teach them, train them, and show them.

1. Teach them that premarital sex is condemned by God (I Thess. 4:3; I Cor. 6:18).
2. Train them to avoid places, people, or actions that will possibly lead them to compromise the standards you have instilled in them (II Tim 2:22).
3. Show them how to have rule over their thought life and to be responsible for their own actions (II Cor. 10:5).
4. Teach them that they cannot allow emotions to control their actions, as this could possibly leave them emotionally scarred for life (Prov. 6:22-33).
5. Train them to form friendships and to fellowship with saved young people (II Cor. 6:14-17).
6. Teach them about the life of Joseph and how he handled sexual temptation (Gen. 39).

The earlier you begin teaching, training, and showing them, the better. Once you have done that, continue to remind them of the teachings as well as the severe consequence of premarital sex. Pray for them, and as they get older, we trust that they will not depart.