

# PRO-LIFE NEWSLETTER

## PRO-LIFE GROUP

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PRIVATE CIRCULATION ONLY

## RELATIONSHIP WITH YOUR TEENAGERS: 6A'S

As parents, we always hope and pray that our children will get straight A's in their examinations. May we ask ourselves whether we are scoring straight A's in raising our children, especially parenting teenagers?

**Rules without relationship lead to rebellions!** It is especially true in parenting teenage children. It is imperative that fathers play a most important role in parenting. With the absence of fathers in parenting, no matter how many rules we are setting for our children, they will go astray. According to the most recent statistics in USA, 90% of Bible-believing evangelical kids are not going to church after they have entered university! And the major reason is the absence of fathers in children's lives.

Josh McDowell has given six A's in parenting teenagers as follows:

**1 AVAILABILITY 随时奉陪**  
Be available to teenage children is a must in building a healthy relationship with them. This means today parents, especially fathers, need to spend more time with children. LOVE should then be spelt "TIME."

**2 APPRECIATION 欣赏祝福**  
Be appreciative of teenage children's characters and performances. Always see the positive instead of the negative aspects in them. Appreciate them in their BAVB: beliefs, attitudes, values, and behaviors.

**3 AFFIRMATION 同理情绪**  
Affirm children's emotions in their gladness and sadness. If they score 94%, be happy with them, instead of asking why they are not scoring 100%. If they score 24%, be sad with them, instead of scolding them for not attaining better marks. As we affirm their emotions, they would be willing to share with us anything they encounter in life, be it big or small.

*It is imperative  
that fathers play  
a most important role  
in parenting.*

**4 ACCEPTANCE 完全接纳**  
Accept children in their short-comings or failures. A mother came to me for help, asking me what to do with her daughter who had just run away with her boy-friend. I told her the story of the prodigal son and advised her to learn from the father in the story and to tell her daughter that she loved her and was willing to receive her back any time she was ready. She did return and is now happily married.

**5 ACCOUNTABILITY 设定界限**  
Setting up clear boundaries for children would make them know the limits and feel safe. With the above four A's, most Asian parents would think that we would have spoilt our children. But remember, we need to set up boundaries for our children as well. There are things and people in life they need to be accountable to. They will need to bear the consequences if they step out of bound.

**6 AFFECTION 亲爱热诚**  
It is more challenging for Asians to express affection. Nevertheless, affectionate words and physical contacts are needed in order to show parental love. In both instances of USA 911 tragedy and Korean underground railway fire, the final words uttered through hand phones to loved ones by those trapped inside the buildings and train are all the same: "I love you." Don't wait till the last moment to say "I love you" to your children.

**Rev Dr Tie King Tai**  
Principal, Methodist Theological School

# CHASTITY AND I

Dr Jenny Goh  
Chairperson of Pro-Life Group

This is a **chastity message** of the Pro-Life Services to all young people. Part 1 focuses on *the relationship between God and young Christian adults*, while part 2 highlights the *value of chastity*.

## Physical, Mental and Emotional Characteristics of a Young Adult

- Physical – excellent health and energetic  
Mental – creative, inquisitive, hard-working and smart  
Emotional – open to friendship, ambitious, adventurous, humorous and “stay cool”.

However, young adults have some common weaknesses. They are relatively inexperienced, economically dependent, lack self-control, easily yield to peer pressure, and more easily exploited by others.

## Spiritual Aspect of a Young Adult.

A Christian is a new creation and a spiritual being.

## PART 1

**Our Relationship with God.** Man is created by God for relationship. Adam walked with God, side by side. One day, Adam sinned and the whole human race sinned. The wages of sin is death. But God loved man whom He created and he planned to save man from death by sending His only Son, Jesus Christ, as man to this world. Through Jesus’ death and resurrection, He gives us salvation and eternal life. This is God’s grace, as we do not deserve this gift.

Jesus came to reveal the work of His father and who His father was. You see Jesus, you see God the Father (John 14:9). Whosoever believes in Him, He gives the Holy Spirit to live in the believers, to guide them in everyday living towards holiness.

**Our Response to God’s Love.** The Bible teaches us how to respond to this relationship with God:

**Galatian 5 talks about walking in the Spirit versus the working of the flesh.**

5:19-21 - The work of the flesh are evident ... adultery, fornication ...

5:22-23 - The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace ... faithfulness, **self control** ...

**Romans 12 talks about transformation of our mind.** Vs1-2 - “... Do not be conformed to the world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind that you may prove what is that good, acceptable and perfect will of God”.

Everyday we struggle with sin, because we live in a world of Evil Forces. Satan, the liar and the deceiver, is not bound yet. The demonic forces are operating in our midst, and many young people are bound by them – peer pressure; negative media; addiction to alcohol, drug

and pornography; premarital sex and extramarital sex.

**I believe God is our defender.** His army, the angels, moves in our midst to assist us. **Ephesians 6:11-18** tells us to put on the whole Armour of God ... truth, righteousness, gospel of peace, FAITH, salvation, and sword of the Spirit, so that we may be able to withstand the wiles of the devil.

## PART 2

**What is chastity?** Chastity means sexual self-control, or saved sex for marriage. It is a universal value and a virtue to be practised. Sexual intercourse is God’s gift to the married. It commands love, commitment, fidelity and trust.

**Enemies of Chastity.** They are (1) Pre-marital sex or fornication, which is sex before marriage (2) Extra-marital sex or adultery, which is sex outside of one’s marriage.

**Is Chastity An Attainable Goal?** Yes, but there are some pre-requisites to attain chastity:

1. self control – able to say “no” to pre-marital sex
2. courage – to choose chastity
3. prudence – stay away from situation of temptation
4. fortitude – stick to your decision
5. honesty – believe in family value of chastity
6. temperance – stay away from drugs and alcohol, as they dull your mind and spirit.

**Love and Sex.** Some people are confused about sex and love :

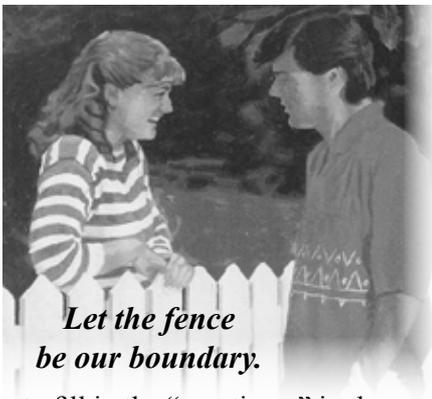
1. A girl may give a boy sex, because she wants love. A boy may give a girl love, because he wants sex. Sex, however, is not the same as love. Many girls discovered this truth the hard way, when they became pregnant and their boyfriends dropped them.

2. Some say, “I need sex or else I will die”. People die from lack of water, oxygen and food. Nobody dies from not having sex. **Fornication and adultery are lustful desires of the deceitful hearts and not a need.**

## Contributing Factors to Pre-Marital Sex

1. **Rural-Urban Migration** - some are exploited by employers or so called “friends”, often for financial gains. Separated from family and friends, some resort to sex to overcome their loneliness.

2. **Loneliness** – Lack of love or attention from the family leads to loneliness, resulting in some young people seeking love and companionship outside the family, just



*Let the fence  
be our boundary.*

to fill in the “emptiness” in them.

3. **Peer pressure** - Peer approval appears to be very important to one’s self image. Some people feel the pressure to conquer the opposite sex, to prove their achievement as growing up men and women.

4. **Poor self image** – people with low self esteem may give in to the attention given to them by the opposite sex, because this helps to boost their self image. They may mistake this attention for love.

5. **Rebellious Towards Their Parents** - The more their parents tell them not to associate with certain groups with bad influence, the more they want to do the opposite, simply to show their independence.

6. **Exposure to negative media** – play-boy magazines, pornography and casual sex scenes in movies, etc.

7. **Indulgence in alcohol and drugs.**

8. **Lack of Christian faith or understanding of God’s words for holy living** - We read in I Peter 1:16, “**Be holy as I AM holy**”

**Let’s look at some of the scriptures concerning sexual immorality:**

1. In the Old Testament, Exodus 20:14, God commanded, “You shall not commit adultery”

2. In the New Testament, Luke 10:27, Jesus says, “Love God, your Lord with all your heart, all your soul and all your mind. Love others as thyself.” **Love commands respect for others.**

3. Look at some warnings from the apostle Paul:

a. **I Corinthians 6: 17-20**, “..... Flee sexual immorality. Every sin a man does is outside his body, **but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body...** Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body”.

b. **Ephesians 5:3-5**, “But fornication and all uncleanness or covetousness, let it not even be named among you, ... For this you know, **that no**

**fornicator**, unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, **has any inheritance in the Kingdom of Christ and God**”.

*Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you. Hallelujah!*

*Talk about Chastity openly to your friends  
Spread the Chastity message around you*  
**GIVE YOUR LOVE TO JESUS**

**Why does God forbid fornication and adultery?**

1. Because both are exploitative act to gratify self, as opposed to self giving love of Christian charity.

2. They result in grievous hurts to the relationship between the two parties involved, as well as their family members.

3. The risk of contracting STD: a. **HPV** (resulting in genital warts and Cancer of cervix) b. **HIV** (a rising trend is being observed. Jan to Oct 2007, there were 90 new HIV and 62 new AIDS cases in Sarawak, mostly in the age group 20 to 49 years. 70% were males and 30% females) c. **Chlamydia and Gonorrhea** (both results in acute infection of the reproductive organs or infertility) d. **Syphilis** of primary, secondary and tertiary stages e. **Herpes Simplex** (Recurrent symptoms of painful genital vesicles).

*All of the above can infect spouses and newborns conceived during infection, if untreated.*

4. They result in unplanned pregnancy, leading to:

- abortion or killing of babies in the womb. This is deliberate taking away of lives

- unfinished education because of expulsion from schools or colleges

- hurried weddings, resulting in stormy marriage, early divorce, and early single parenthood.

- Emotional trauma, guilt, depression and rejection

*A Moment of Pleasure, A Lifetime of Regrets*

**How to make a wise choice?** Chastity is 100% safe in preventing all of the above. Cultivate chastity as a virtue. It can and must be practised because it is God’s plan for men and women. Only don’t play with fire. Don’t think that you can “play a little”, and stop when you choose.

**Practical steps recommended for young people:**

1. Remove all negative media or articles pertaining to sexual lust from your room.

2. Be brave to say “no” to peer pressure, to sex, alcohol, drug and pornography.

3. Exercise respect for self and others.

4. Seek parental advice or opinion of a trusted friend regarding a relationship. Do not rely on your own judgment. Many parents learn of their children’s intimate relationship only when unplanned pregnancy or STD shows up. By then, it is too late for them to reverse the scene. Who will suffer? Very often, the unborn baby becomes the victim who is sacrificed to preserve the family reputation.

5. Evaluate your relationship with the opposite sex periodically. If there is any harassment or unrest in your heart, **learn to let go**. A clean relationship brings peace to the soul.

6. Be honest in sharing and seek God’s forgiveness, and you can be Chaste again.

# SHOCKING STATISTICS

## SURVEY 1

A survey conducted by Pro-Life Group on 489 school students, aged 16 to 17, shows :

**31.9 % were sexually active**

42.9% of the “virgin” group

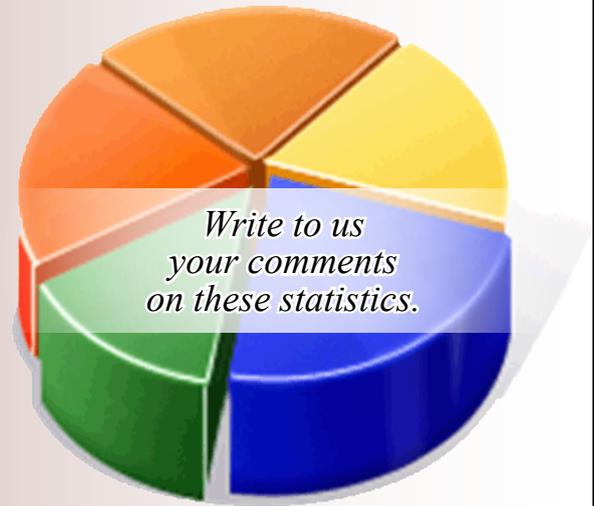
and 46.1 % of the “sexually active” group

did not understand the meaning and value of chastity.

## SURVEY 2

Another survey conducted on 134 Christian youths, aged 17 to 20, shows

**9 % were sexually active**



# PHOTO NEWS

**A seminar on Parent-Adolescent Relationship conducted on 10<sup>th</sup> Nov 2007**



*Rev. Dr. Tie King Tai speaking to parents on  
“Relationship with Your Teenagers”*

*Mr. Michael Junim singing along with  
the youths, after his presentation on  
“Adolescent at Risk.....”*



# A TRUE STORY

Maureen, aged 18, single and jobless after her SPM, was pregnant.

Her parents never noticed her pregnancy, and she was too scared to tell them.

One day, she went into labour and was advised to go to hospital, where she gave birth.

The hospital social worker called her parents to hospital. They were shocked to discover that they have become grandparents, and asked in rage, “Who is the boy responsible for this?”

# FOOD FOR THOUGHT

## **Parents**

*How would you try to improve  
your relationship with your teenagers ?*

## **Teenagers**

*How would you try to improve  
your relationship with your Parents ?  
“What should I do to resist peer pressure,  
pornography, alcohol, drug abuse,  
premarital sex and abortion?”*