

"For Young Men, Women and Adults"

Dear Antwort Mann,

I'm extremely concerned about all the unmarried girls who are getting pregnant. I'm concerned for them, certainly for their babies, and for what kind of a hard life they are in for. Do you have any words of wisdom?

Signed, "Fearful For the Future"

Dear "Fearful,"

You are right to be concerned. Setting aside moral considerations for a moment, there are numerous other problems generated by young people being sexually active outside of marriage. To begin solving this, three groups of people need to be addressed, which I will do below. This will be a long answer, but I urge everyone to read it through to the end.

To the young ladies: You have much more to lose than the guy does. You're the one who will get pregnant and face the painful decision of whether to give your baby up for adoption, try to raise that child though you're still a child yourself, or undergo an abortion and bear the scars of that decision for the rest of your life.

The emotions one experiences when sexually active can appear to be love, and often blinds one to the realities of where their actions can lead. The truth is that many girls who get pregnant during their teen years often struggle to make ends meet and have to go on welfare. They miss out on college and work mainly at jobs that pay minimum wage. Grandparents often have to raise these children because their mothers still have to finish High School. Too many of these girls either end up raising their children alone, or living with lazy, abusive bums who won't work themselves, but prefer to sponge off their girlfriends while repeatedly getting them pregnant. Don't think that somehow "you're special," and this won't happen to you.

The sad fact is, by being sexually active outside of marriage, you are allowing yourself to become an "object" to be used, not a person to be loved. A guy pressing you to have sex with him because "he loves you" probably doesn't really love you, but loves himself and is trying to satisfy his desire by using you. Not a pleasant thought, is it? Sex is not the path to real love – it's the reward of a real love that shows itself through the commitment of marriage.

To the young men: Manhood is not defined by losing your virginity, or by how many girls with whom you've "scored." It's defined by who you are: by honor, integrity and responsibility. Sure, it can be overwhelming to have to deal, not only with all kinds of outside messages and pressures to prove yourself, but your own feelings and desires, as well. But part of becoming a man is trying to do right, even when it's not always easy.

Physically, you can be a father in your early teens. Are you emotionally and intellectually ready to be one, with all that that means? Being a Man is not simply making a donation and then dumping the girl who carries your child because you don't feel like being tied down. It is taking responsibility for your actions and for those whom your decisions affect. Only selfish, immature oafs have sex and father children outside of the bonds of marriage, and then abandon them for someone else. It takes courage to resist the easy way of having sex before marriage. It takes courage to stick with the mother of your child, loving and supporting them financially and emotionally. That kind of courage is the mark of a Real Man, no matter what age he is. A real man is intimate with, and fathers children not from just any "babe" he's got an itch for at the moment, but from the woman he loves and is committed to for life.

And to you adults: You have a lot more influence over your kids than you might think. Your attitudes and actions will set the standard for what your kids do. If you want them to remain pure until marriage, how are you handling your own sexuality now? Do you have racy books, magazines or movies around the house? Do your kids hear you telling dirty jokes? Are you now living together with someone and talking about getting married "someday?" Are you unmarried, divorced or widowed and sexually active?

Believe me, your kids know it, even if you think they don't, and this will affect their own ideas of right and wrong and what they themselves will engage in. It's hard enough for kids, with all the outside pressures to have sex, without their own parents making such sinful choices.

Abstinence before marriage is not just for kids; it is also God's will for adults. I know that seems unreasonable to many, especially when dealing with loneliness or having been used to intimacy in the past. But when adults refuse to consider their actions and choices in the light of God's Word, and how they might affect others, especially their children, then those choices are purely selfish and harmful. The cumulative actions of each individual does, positively or negatively, affect our whole society.

Perhaps the plethora of unwanted pregnancies and abortions, sexually transmitted diseases, broken homes and lives are God's judgment upon our willful, unrepentant behavior as He pulls back His hand of blessing and simply lets us go ahead and destroy ourselves. Think about it.

Thankfully, all does not need to be lost. No matter who you are, if you have been, or are engaging in sinful sexual activity, stop it! Repent and receive God's forgiveness and healing through Jesus Christ, for this is why He came into the world and died on the cross. Then, out of thankfulness to Him for His goodness and love for you resolve, with God's help, to grow up (not just physically) and live in a way pleasing to Him, taking responsibility according to His Word for your actions and decisions.

“Present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.” Romans 12:1

Best Regards,
Der Antwort Mann