



*from the desk of*

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## Us Against them, Part 3b

### The Sexualization of the Media: It's a jungle out there!

<sup>8</sup> Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. **1 Peter 5:8 (NIV)**

Some facts you should know\*

- Programs with sexual content average 4.4 scenes per hour.
- On average, music videos contain 93 sexual situations per hour, including 11 hard-core scenes depicting behavior like intercourse and oral sex.
- Between 1998 and 2005, the number of sexual scenes on TV nearly doubled.\*\*
- 1 in 5 children will be approached by a sexual predator online.
- 15-to 24-year-olds account for nearly half of all STD diagnoses each year.
- Watching a lot of sexual content on TV and listening to sexually explicit music lyrics increase the chances that a teen will have sex at an earlier age.
- 60% of female video game characters are presented in a sexualized fashion.
- The biggest users of online pornography are 12-to 17-year-old boys.

\*From <http://www.greatschools.org/gk/articles/sexual-behavior-teens-learn-from-media/>

\*\*This article is from 2016 but only has stats for this up to 2005. I don't think it's gotten any better!

I'm going to guess that you would much rather your child abstain from sex until marriage. I'll further guess that if your child seemed to be headed toward a gay lifestyle this would not be a fulfillment

of your hopes and dreams for them. You'd probably not want to see your teen frequenting porn sites. For their own happiness, you'd much rather have them find one true love, get married to this person and remain faithful to them. I'll further imagine that you would not want your offspring to be sexually promiscuous, especially with all the inherent dangers of STD's and unplanned pregnancies.

In short, you would want for them what God wants for them.

However, there are a series of lies being told today. In no particular order I would say they include:

**Living together before marriage is a good practice for a healthy marriage.** A study cited by Crosswalk\* states that *people with cohabiting experience who marry have a 50 to 80 percent higher likelihood of divorcing than married couples who never cohabited.* The divorce rate today is high enough with going against statistics. God's sense trumps common sense!

**A gay lifestyle should be considered normal.** Normal would not seem to equate with a mere 2-3% of the population. God's Word is clear on this (despite the attempts by pro-LGBT groups to contend that either we're reading the Bible wrong, or that simply the Bible is wrong).

\* <http://www.crosswalk.com/family/marriage/divorce-and-remarriage/cohabitation-and-divorce-there-is-a-correlation.html>  
*Note that there are other studies out there that say that there is no correlation between cohabitation and the divorce rate. But consider that a couple living together doesn't have the same level of commitment that it takes for a marriage, and that in these relationships the male is usually less committed to eventual marriage. God instituted "marriage" and not "marriage-lite" for a reason.*

**Sexuality is fluid.** Facebook gives some 58 "choices" for you to identify your sexuality.\*\* Among those I don't understand are "trans-person" and "other." Regardless, where God's Word says we were created "male and female" the devil wants to confuse us into believing that there is no standard right and wrong.

\*\* <http://abcnews.go.com/blogs/headlines/2014/02/heres-a-list-of-58-gender-options-for-facebook-users/>

**Kids are going to have sex anyway - they need to have "safe-sex."**  
Here is a big lie - "safe-sex" just isn't! Focus on the Family reports that the failure rate for condoms used by teens is 17% - and while the transmission of STD's is lessened the dangers are still there.\*\*\* As the illustration goes, if upon boarding a plane the pilot told you that you had a 17% chance of crashing, would you really get on? Some sites I looked at said that the percentage of failure of condoms if used perfectly was 2-3% - but these admitted that the real-world statistics for failure was in the 12-17% range. Again, safe-sex isn't. While still very high, the percentage of

teens having sex has decreased over the past few years, so that now, nationally, 47% of teen report being sexually active and 53% not.\*\*\*\* Still a long way to go!

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<http://www.focusonthefamily.com/socialissues/family/abstinence-education/abstinence-education-talking-points>

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<http://recapp.etr.org/Recapp/index.cfm?fuseaction=pages.StatisticsDetail&PageID=555>

### **So, what's a parent to do?**

As with other weeks, the suggestion is to monitor as best you can what your children and teens are involved with in the media - and talk to them about it. Know that video games can also be conduits of sexual content, and of course not in a good way. Talk to your teens, pray for them, be aware of what they spend their time doing, listening to and involved with.

As the verse I opened with encourages us, be self-controlled and alert - that goes double for our teens!

Need further ideas with specific needs? I'm only an email away! (dcerandy@blcbcs.org).

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