

“KIDS THESE DAYS” – by Carl McMurray

An article in the August 2001, PSYCHOLOGY TODAY has an interesting focus on teen sexuality. The article, “Kids These Days” aims at recent studies done by University of Kentucky researchers that may be of interest to Christian parents. Three areas seem to show serious importance when it comes to defeating this temptation and honoring the marriage relationship by keeping intimate physical relations wholly within this boundary as per Hebrews 13:4.

The three danger areas named are 1) environment, 2) age of ones partner, and 3) family support. Studies reveal that by ninth grade many young people estimate most or all of their peers are sexually active. They overestimate the facts by two thirds, facts say. This environment of misguided peer pressure influences many young people to “go along with the crowd,” even though the “crowd” is mostly imagined. Making our young people aware of the “broad way” teaching of Matthew 7:13-14 might be an encouragement to resist perceived crowd pressure.

The age difference is a risk factor, studies show, predominantly with young girls. The younger the lass involved and the older the interested male, the more likely an illicit relationship. This area might best be addressed by parents who are commanded to have the wisdom to bring up their children in the discipline and instruction of the Lord, Ephesians 6:4. Encouraging and allowing early and close friendships between young people separated by 4, 5, or more years and of opposite genders borders on “parental neglect.” The lack of wisdom that is shown in ignoring God’s word is further brought out by girls in this situation also being at greater risk of suicide, alcohol and drug use, truancy, and pregnancy. Parents who really are concerned about their daughters need to learn the value of saying “No” to those “early” dating arrangements.

The last area ought to be obvious to the parents who actively “love” their children. Frequent discussions between parent and child about the dangers (including, among Christians, the fact of sinful, inappropriate behavior, cpm) can give the necessary support to a young person’s conviction to stand firm and true. Of course to Christians, this translates as frequent opportunities not only in conversation, but in daily devotions, Bible studies, and time spent with children developing that open relationship. Adolescents who feel family support are more likely to keep themselves pure.

It was an interesting article indeed that points up to the relationship that parents MUST have with their children if they are going to help them remain God pleasing in a hedonistic society. His word truly is a lamp to our way and a light to our path and although some will wait for PSYCHOLOGY TODAY to pronounce it, the believer is ahead of the game who leans on the Lord’s understanding.