

Protecting the Innocence of Childhood

Summary Points - Visit 1 - Chapter 1

1. While the fears and concerns of the past generation were legitimate, they pale compared to the multifaceted challenges parents are facing in this present digital age.
2. Children today have mobile devices that can provide instant access to everything and anything. From the palms of their hands, they can gather and store a world of knowledge—along with the World’s knowledge.
3. Even if parents could remove all digital devices from their child’s world, they would still be challenged by a morally-relativistic culture that removes all boundaries regarding sexual conduct by redefining the traditional meanings of love and romance.
4. Sex is marketed as a commodity. The internet exploits it; advertisers profit by it; young girls are told they can become glamorous by flaunting it, and boys can become popular by pursuing it.
5. Sexual knowledge is not innocent knowledge, because it cannot be separated from the moral knowledge necessary to help regulate it.
6. Any strategy to help children develop healthy and protective attitudes relating to their future generative powers requires that sexual knowledge be transferred:
 - a. Gradually,
 - b. Sequentially (line upon line, precept upon precept),
 - c. Subject to the specific child’s moral, emotional and intellectual age and capacity to understand.
7. Ultimately, a child’s developing perspective on love, romance and sexuality has more to do with the “subtle impressions” gained within the home environment over the first ten years of his or her life than with the communication of actual reproductive facts.
8. Protecting the sexual innocence of children involves taking steps to prevent or at least minimize the intrusion of unsuitable knowledge, until they are old enough and wise enough to possess and manage their own self-protective strategies.
9. The goal of Sex Education should not be to teach children how to have “safe sex” or to keep predators away from their door or computer screens. Rather, the goal should be to instill within your children self-respecting, God-honoring attitudes that recognize sexual boundaries and serve a moral purpose that can help safeguard future relationships.
10. Parents need two leadership qualities:
 - a. A vision of what they hope to achieve. What will the finished product look like?
 - b. The knowledge of how all the pieces of the puzzle fit together.
11. When it comes to the protection side of sex education, parents cannot afford to have gaps in their training.

12. Some of the “protective cautions” that will help keep a child’s heart and mind safe and prepared include:
 - a. Creating a Life-Giving Home Environment
 - b. Setting Appropriate Screen-Time Boundaries
 - c. Providing a Doorway of Escape
 - d. Waiting Until They Are Ready: Tablets, Phones and Internet
 - e. Addressing the Challenge of Cyber Predators
 - f. Remembering that “Bad Company Corrupts Good Morals.”
13. There are two methods of transferring such knowledge to children: the Direct Method and the Indirect Method.
14. Studies relating to sensual knowledge continue to demonstrate that when parents are the source of input, parental values have a greater influence on children than friends or teachers. However, if sensual knowledge is primarily communicated through friends or a teacher, then their influence becomes more dominant and persuasive than that of the parents. In this case, others are defining morality for your children instead of Mom and Dad.