

# Protecting the Innocence of Childhood

## Summary Points - Visit 2 - Chapter 2

1. Everyday, in a number of ways, parents are communicating sexual messages and values to their sons and daughters.
2. The level of parental modesty displayed and what is acceptable television viewing will ultimately provide your child a frame of reference for what is acceptable, normal and expected.
3. Genesis 3:21 tells us that God made clothes for Adam and Eve from the skin of animals. By clothing the man and woman, God imparted a visible sign of an awakened sensitivity to their own nakedness and the accompanying sense of shame.
4. When we take into consideration the Genesis account, we believe there are only three occasions in which the nakedness between the sexes is acceptable.
  - a. Between a husband and wife within the confines of marriage
  - b. In the context of medical services
  - c. Between a parent and child. However, this is one way.
5. Instilling a healthy sense of modesty into your children's thinking provides them with a necessary moral asset. It is the modesty message that provides the foundation on which the future purity message will attach itself.
6. Point your children toward what you want them to do or to embrace, instead of what they should not do.
7. As parents, you have private places that need to be respected.
8. Between the ages of four and six, (earlier for the girls, later for boys), a natural desire for privacy and even modesty begins to emerge. This is healthy and should be encouraged.
9. When a child comes home with a word or concept that is inappropriate or morally offensive, parents need to respond, but their response should depend on the word or phrase used, the age of the child and the context in which the word is used.
10. Except for a few modern translations, the original Bible language refers to various parts and functions of the human anatomy by their exact names, except those body parts that are associated with sexual activity. The genital region and the act of marriage itself is the only part of the human body and activity that God refers to in general, poetic and metaphoric language.
11. Children will learn the proper medical terminology as they grow older and as they are able to process such adult terminology. But for now, we believe the use of innocent, non-descript terminology is most appropriate for children.
12. There are words and terms that are closely associated with sexuality. In this advanced age of neuroscience, researchers have come to realize that words immediately tied to or strongly connected to sensual behavior, can trigger the same reward circuits in the brain that are activated during pleasurable activities.