

The Hypersexualization of Children and Youth

Eileen Scipione

1. The Problem Exposed

- A. Anything that goes into our minds early in life and often in life is more likely to remain there for a long time.
 - I. Nurture: Children learn by imitation. Deep neurological pathways are formed.
 - II. Nature: Heredity plays a large role in behavior. We are “in Adam.”

- B. Sexual standards have been rapidly dropping in western civilization as accessibility has dramatically increased.
 - I. The general culture has embraced Kinsey’s faulty research.
 - II. The Christian family and church have not adequately recognized nor resisted this avalanche of access to evil.

2. Practical Steps to Implement

- A. Model a positive biblical approach
 - I. Married parents should set an example of tenderness and exclusivity for each other.
 - II. Be quick to point out role models of long-term commitment while being realistic of the struggles.

- B. Teach the truth
 - I. At the youngest ages, affirm godly character traits above physical appearance.
 - II. Use the Word to insist that our sexuality is good and private. Correct and replace wrong ideas.

- C. Trust but verify: Eph 4:15
 - I. Interrupt movies and music and games with counter messages. Ask: “What is the designer trying to teach you?”
 - II. Encourage them by explaining that you are already trusting them to do the right thing. Ask God for wisdom when to check and how to listen.

3. The Gospel Solution

- A. Speak Christ's grace and truth into their hearts' desires.
- B. Make sure the home is grace-based, not first and foremost performance-based. God's love is both unconditional and conditional. That is not a contradiction.
- C. The gospel both promises and threatens. Always be biblically balanced to your children.
- D. Repentance and confession are not the same thing.
- E. God loves your children more than you do. Trust the Lord of the journey.