

# DATING, MARRIAGE, + --- SEX

**The Church Needs To  
Talk About it**

**HOW WELL DO YOU  
KNOW YOUTH CULTURE?**

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**What does the term “Netflix & Chill” mean in youth culture?**

**What does BAE mean?**

**What is the name of the person  
who created facebook?**

**What is “dabbing”?**

# Can you please explain the following numbers/letters:

- **143**
- **420**
- **POS**
- **53X**

**What is the name of this song,  
and who sings it?**



**Who is this person?**



**What does a girl mean when  
she says:**

*“I think she is a spoiled person  
who is selfish and doesn’t  
deserve much, but her face and  
body is GOALS!”*

**Which one of the following images does not belong in the group?**



**Please define the following terms  
and give an example:**

- **“On fleek”**
- **“Turnt”**
- **“Bye Felicia!”**

**(3p) When it comes to sex  
within youth culture,  
“stealththing” means?**

**WHY SHOULD THE CHURCH  
DISCUSS DATING,  
MARRIAGE, AND SEX WITHIN  
YOUTH CULTURE?**

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# Why the Church Should Discuss Dating, Marriage, and Sex Within Youth Culture

- The church has a purpose. **Acts 2:42**
  - “They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.”
- The church has an expectation. **Matt. 5:13-16**
  - “You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot. “You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.”

# Why the Church Should Discuss Dating, Marriage, and Sex Within Youth Culture

- The church has a guide. **2 Tim. 3:16**
  - “All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness.”
- The church has a mission. **Matt. 28:18-20**
  - “Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”



# CULTURE OF TODAY'S YOUTH

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# Culture of Today's Youth

- Dating & marriage
  - George Barna Research Group...
  - Single people today, age 25-29 is 59%. Age 30-39 is 34%
  - Average age of 1<sup>st</sup> marriage in U.S. is 27 (women), and 29 (men)
  - In 1960, 72% of adults were married. Today, it is 52%
  - Christians are more likely to be married than the average American.
  - Christians & Non-Christians both equal the rate of divorce. 25% of both groups have been divorced.

# Culture of Today's Youth

- Sex

- According to CDCP, Hispanic 15-19-year-olds have the highest birth rates. African-Americans 2<sup>nd</sup>, White 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- Teens who are engaged in learning, live with both biological parents, and/or live in a wealthy neighborhood are less likely to have or father a baby than other teens not as fortunate.
- 47% of high school students in the U.S. have had sexual intercourse. (CDCP)
- According to the "2014 State of Dating in America" report published by Christian Mingle, 61% of Christian teens said they would have sex before marriage.

# Culture of Today's Youth

- Sex

- In a New York Times publication (2000) high school students are turning to oral sex because it is a far less dangerous alternative according to them.
- Among 15 to 19-year-olds, 55.1% of boys & 54.3% of girls report giving or getting oral sex.
- Time Magazine (2005) reported that 10.6% of girls & 4.5% of boys ages 15 to 19 have had same-sex partners.

# Culture of Today's Youth

- Hooking-up & “Friends with Benefits”
  - Today, simply having a casual relationship is reason enough to have sex.
  - “Hooking-up”: When one makes out or has sex with someone, and usually with a stranger.
  - According to Seventeen Magazine (2006), kissing was 70% of the casual relationship. Having intercourse was 24% of the casual relationship.

# Culture of Today's Youth

- Why are teens more sexually active today?
  - Our hypersexualized culture
  - They crave intimacy, acceptance, and love
  - Permissive parents
  - Peer pressure
  - Hormones
  - Lack of information about sex
  - Curiosity
  - Age aspiration
  - To strengthen relationships

# LOOKING AT OUR FAITH- BASED YOUTH CULTURE

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# Local Youth Culture

- Ages 30-39: 32%, 22-29: 30%, 18-21: 19%
- Female: 74%, Male: 26%
- Single: 33%, Married: 33%, Dating: 24%
- Hispanic: 89%, White: 5%, Asian: 4%
- Baptized members: 96%



# WHAT IS AN APPROPRIATE AGE TO START DATING?

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Ages 16-18: 45%

Ages 19-21: 36%

Ages 13-15: 11%

# WHAT SEXUAL BEHAVIORS ARE ACCEPTABLE DURING DATING?

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Kissing: 91%

Hugging: 93%

Holding hands: 91%

Intercourse: 4%

# DO YOU BELIEVE IN DIVORCE?

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Yes: 57%

No: 43%

# HAVE YOU WATCHED ANY PORNOGRAPHIC VIDEOS WITHIN THE LAST YEAR?

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Yes: 58%

No: 42%

# WHAT/WHO IS YOUR BIGGEST SOURCE OF INFORMATION ABOUT SEX?

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Internet: 29%

Friends: 19%

Parents: 18%

# HAVE YOU HAD SEX WITHIN THE LAST YEAR?

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Yes: 42%

No: 27%

Yes, I am married: 22%

I prefer not to answer: 9%

**REASONS WHY THE  
CHURCH SHOULD BE  
PURPOSEFUL IN TALKING  
ABOUT DMS.**

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“There has been altogether too little attention paid to our children and youth, and they have failed to develop as they should in the Christian life, because the church members have not looked upon them with tenderness and sympathy, desiring that they might be advanced in the divine life.” (EGW, *Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, 1952, p. 41).



# Reasons Why the Church Should Be Purposeful In Talking About DMS.

- Because...
- The Bible talks about sex.
- In society, teen sexual activity is not regarded as a problem, so they talk about it.
- It is natural.
- We do married couples a disservice when we don't.
- Christ calls the church to make disciples and to teach (enable, equip, train, etc.).
- Note...

# Reasons Why the Church Should Be Purposeful In Talking About DMS.

- EGW says the home is the first school:
  - “It is in the home that the education of the child is to begin. Here is his first school. Here, with his parents as instructors, he is to learn the lessons that are to guide him throughout life—lessons of respect, obedience, reverence, self-control.” (*Counsels to Parents, Teachers, & Students, p. 107*).
- The parents, not the church, should be the primary [sex] educators of their own children.
- If parents however are unwilling or unable, then the church (Pastor, youth leader, Sabbath School teacher, etc.) is to challenge them and equip them to take up this task.

# **SOLUTIONS & IDEAS ON DMS**

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# Solutions & Ideas on DMS

- Paul spoke to a perverse “Christian” culture. Why not us.
- Paul spoke about grace, mercy, and hope in Jesus Christ.
- Change will happen with the help of the Holy Spirit.
- Cornerstones that need to shape the way the church talks about this:
  - There’s no limit to grace
  - Sex is spiritual, physical, and emotional
  - If people are married, they should invest in their sex life

# Solutions & Ideas on DMS

- Leading **teens** through this hypersexualized culture. Steps the church can take:
  - Love them
  - Teach and discuss God's sexual standards
  - Teach kids the many wonderful reasons for waiting.
  - Help them grow spiritually.
  - Help kids establish relational do's & don'ts.
  - Help your school & church develop or invite a good sex-education program/facilitator.

# Solutions & Ideas on DMS

- Leading **parents** through this hypersexualized culture. Steps the church can take:
  - Offer courses using its church members who have training in these areas.
  - Plan a youth retreat.
  - Hold classes & discussion groups for parents.
  - Organize seminars.
  - Involve parents with clear instruction to give room for growth. No helicopter parenting.
  - Do not forget about fathers & husbands.

# Solutions & Ideas on DMS

- Leading **parents** through this hypersexualized culture. Steps the church can take:
  - Provide opportunities for teens to make public commitments to sexual purity.
  - Encourage members to face each other on sexual issues (Eph. 4:15-16).
  - Address current issues as they arise in the congregation or media.
  - Using public media, find ways to broaden the reach of the celibacy message.
  - Build up a library of resources on sexuality.
  - Display pamphlets & posters on sex & relationships in church.

# Conclusion

- The church has a purpose, an expectation, it has a guide, and a mission.
- Romance is complicated.
- Marriage is now under great scrutiny.
- Peoples view of relationships today, has a significant impact on churches.
- The church has a moral responsibility in providing a spiritual alternative culture in DMS.



“The anxious mother [and father] questions, “What stand will they take? What can I do to prepare them to act well their part, so that they will be the recipients of eternal glory?” Great responsibilities rest upon you, mothers. Although you may not stand in national councils, ...you may do a great work for God and your country. You may educate your children. You may aid them to develop characters that will not be swayed or influenced to do evil, but will sway and influence others to do right. By your fervent prayers of faith you can move the arm that moves the world.”  
(Adventist Home, 1952, page 264).

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