



Confronting Sex Exploitation in the Social Network

Consequences + Love = Empowerment

God's love involves setting personal boundaries within the realm of hearts and minds that liberate us from the undue influence in the physical and cyber realms, including: bullying, exploitation, and addiction. Our aim is to create a home environment where the trustworthy character of God's love is expressed as discipline. (1 Corinthians 13:4-8)

House rules involve boundary setting that relies upon individuals to take personal responsibility for thoughts and actions in age appropriate ways. The following are some criteria for establishing and enforcing cyber safe house rules:

- Consider internet access and smart phones as a rite of passage – not a right.
- No secrets, no surprises. Transparency is mandatory.
- Explain why each rule exists and how it benefits individuals and the family
- Regulate schedule and access to cyber tools
- Unplug phones at a designated time in the evening
- Only hit “send” if your mother could read it and be proud
- Establish and enforce consequences for rules violations
- Clean slate. Once a consequence has been enforced give your child a clean slate, expressing confidence in your child's ability to stand corrected.

Bring clarity to key concepts, such as:

Brave v. risky: Both can make you feel discomfort. However, you are brave when you do the right thing even though you are afraid of displeasing your friends or being left out; while risky is ignoring your little voice warning you that it's not right or dangerous.

Private v. secret: Private is when you decide not to disclose information about yourself in order to be safe. Privacy involves discretion and is active boundary setting. A secret, on the other hand, is something that is determined cannot survive the light of day because it is not acceptable: i.e., exploitive, harmful or illegal. Secrets nurture risky behavior.

Trust v. faith: Trust among people is always verifiable, while faith is reserved for God who does not require proof. Too often children expect trust and privacy, which are dangerous – especially in their on-line worlds. When we put our faith in children to handle things without guidance, we leave them vulnerable to risky circumstances beyond their ability to respond with confidence.

Forgive v. excuse: Forgiveness is liberty; it's the act of letting go of the offense in your own heart and mind when someone has hurt or offends you. It does not mean you excuse the offensive behavior, give in to it, or enable it. It does mean that you do not allow yourself to become emotionally and spiritually bonded to the offense. The most powerful way to hold an individual accountable is to be in a state of forgiveness because you are not thinking and acting like a victim and makes possible atonement and reconciliation.



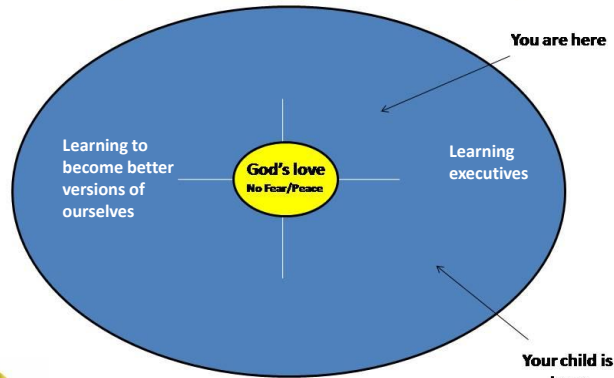
Banana Moments Foundation: Help for Parenting in the Network Culture

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Map of sin – imagine aiming for the bulls’-eye when a child has fallen into a risky trap. Just like someone learning how to do archery, aim for the bull’s-eye – for the highest and best that God intends, which is to be free from undue influence and learn from consequences of poor choices.

Map of Sin

Archery term for anything outside of the bull’s-eye



www.bananamoments.com 2013



Parenting is a divine appointment with certain authority, which is the same mustard seed of faith that makes a free society possible: Aa. In that sense parents are household executives and children are emerging executives. We are all learning executives with power (free will) over our own hearts and minds. The challenge is to deploy your faith as the primary “app” for the heart and mind every day.

(A) God’s authority + (a) man’s authority = Authority to overcome undue influence

Think on these things (Aa). You will see opportunities to strengthen your family bonds around your God-given liberty to set boundaries for correct thinking and conduct, and enforce house rules as empowerment, and make your home a safe place to be open and honest about what is happening in the cyber and physical realms, and overcome undue influence and adversity.

Discussion questions:

- How do you model your sexuality?
- Are you comfortable answering questions about sex and sexuality?
- What expectations have you communicated to your child about interacting with the opposite sex?

Homework assignment, if you choose: Describe the spouse you hope your child will choose. What are their characteristics? How will that person treat your child? How will your child treat their spouse? Why does it matter? How will they prosper with this relationship you can envision? Start having conversations with your child about the value of having a spouse and what that means.

Resources:

Touchy Subjects (2014) by Craig Gross, Founder of XXX Church

A Google World in the Garden of Eden: Five Family-Safe Strategies for Texting and Social Media, (2013) by Joanna Jullien.

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