

IF THE SHOE DOESN'T FIT, PLEASE DON'T WEAR IT!

Fall 1993

Editor's Note: The following article was sparked by Shirley's attending Dave Guerrin's 1992 CWC sectional, What Every Husband Wishes His Wife Knew about Sex.

Waxing eloquent one day about the need for more open talk among Christians about the latest all-American sport -- sexual activity, I was challenged to write this piece. I call it a sport because it is now referred to as an irreversible natural thing to do -- as natural as breathing. Christian morality with regard to this subject is considered to be archaic, repressive, and even harmful. Considering my age, upbringing and glorious childhood, I am filled with a sense of horror and urgency. This must be talked about by Christian men and women who are going to be held responsible for their children's behavior. Children are natural imitators and are learning more than we imagine from their environment.

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But first some background information about myself. The past forty years have revolved around bringing up a family of six children and being a team member in the Arabic Department of The Back To God Hour. With a Lebanese husband, living in America but engaged in radio mission to the entire Arab world, I've become fairly knowledgeable about the Middle East. Life has had some fascinating dimensions.

So, why am I so concerned about this subject of "sexual activity:?" Perhaps it doesn't even seem very becoming for a Christian woman to talk about it! Shall we let the secular world do all the talking? Take the July 26th *Newsweek* for example. In an editorial by a mother who was also a free-lance writer we get her witty description and horrified reaction to a clothes shopping expedition with her 10-year old daughter. Shocked by the styles which catch her daughter's eye she says: "An insidious premature sexual awakening is stealing our kids' youth . . . Kids pick up on the sexual laser focus of our society." Surely Christian parents need to be equally shocked into realizing that their children aren't immune from these trends, many of which have sexual overtones. It isn't only "violence" which is learned from unchaperoned TV

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In the same issue there was a review of a book titled *The Moral Sense* by Geoffrey Q. Wilson who has taken a stand for virtue. The reviewer referred to a karate teacher in Harlem who is succeeding in "cultivating virtue, and hope" by successfully demanding a receiving "a strict standard of moral behavior" from his students. Can we do any less? I may be wrong but I always get the feeling that because we do have separate schools, etc. we feel we have been strict enough

and then we begin to "compensate" -- and that is where the trend-setting clothes come in. We figure they are harmless.

I have to tell myself that I am just writing an article and not a book on the subject. Each of you will wonder why I didn't say this or that. Why not touch on the silliness of parental approval of early dating or, worse still, the "cuteness" of little boy, little girl attractions?

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So, I look around me and ponder. I grieve over some of the clothes I see chosen for worship services. Can Christian mothers really be so naive about themselves and their daughters" Surely mini-skirts and plunging necklines or bare backs are not conducive to concentration in mixed company and are definitely not suitable for worship.

At two Chicago Women's Conferences there has been a seminar by Dave Guerrin with the unlikely title: *What Every Husband Wishes His Wife Knew about Sex*. Dave handles this seminar very well. But what puzzled me when I attended (and still does) is why this lack of communication between husband and wife. How come the ladies don't seem to know what makes a man tick? At this point I imagine I hear voices saying, "Who does she think she is?" and I confess that I feel like the cowardly lion out of *The Wizard of Oz*.

Being involved in bringing the Gospel to the Arabic-speaking Muslim world has made me super-sensitive to their criticisms of the West. Can you guess why Muslim men feel that their women should be totally covered from head to toe and only free from this stricture when they are within the confines of their home? I'm not advocating that we follow them to that degree but since we are in a global situation, if we do not dress in a Christian way then we are going to be contradicting the very message that we are bringing -- of salvation by our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Clothes advertise more than we think. Even some public schools in this area are being forced to consider a simple dress code or uniform in order to combat the frightening power of teen gangs -- who require a certain dress code themselves.

I believe with all my heart that Christian women should exemplify a lifestyle that can be described as becoming, wholesome, demure, etc. Do we, or do we not call Jesus our Lord? Do we offer our bodies as a sacrifice and clothe them in a way which will advertise the state of our hearts and not the trends of the world? Isn't it time for us to be Christian trend setters? Let's not be merely "pro-life" or "anti-abortion." Let's be pro-abstinence and pro-chastity and do our best to guard our children from the evils which surround them. The escalation of sexually transmitted diseases makes any kind of promiscuity a frightening thing. There is no room for naiveté on this subject. Our young people will have to be told in no uncertain terms that Christians do not participate in "sexual activity" until they have found and married the partner God has planned for them.

God's Word has a great deal to say on this subject. Even a cursory reading of the New Testament Epistles leaves no one uncertain about Christian teachings regarding immorality.

The apostle Peter said, "You are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light (I Peter 2:9)."