

About You

By Harriett Muhammad

Dear Harriett: I read your column in the MUHAMMAD SPEAKS and I think it is very interesting. But now I have a problem to bring to you. I am fifteen and will be sixteen in March. I would like to go out with boys, but my mother thinks I am too young—as a matter of fact, she won't even let me have a boyfriend.

WHEN I WAS fourteen, she said "By the time you are seventeen, you will have a baby." She keeps on reminding me of this. I would not do such a thing—I don't even see how people who are not married COULD do it. I think it's a crime before God. I guess the reason why she keeps on reminding me is because when she was sixteen, she had me.

Also all the rest of my aunts had families at that time. Do you think it's possible for me and my boyfriend (which I have now) to do such a thing? I do love this boy very much and we are planning on getting married later on after I finish school.

MISS E.L.
SOUTH BEND, IND.

Dear Miss E. L. — Ah! There it is again—that age old question asked by so many — "Should I or shouldn't I?" Sex used to not be a problem, you know, a long, long time ago. Can you imagine—there was a

time when most people did not indulge in pre and extra marital sex because it was a religious principle not commonly violated.

But that was a long time ago. It used to be easier for teenagers to refrain from sex because of the fear of an unwanted pregnancy. But the decision becomes harder and harder for teenagers these days when they are faced with propositions and no longer fear an unwanted pregnancy because of the increase in contraceptives.

NOW, YOUNGSTERS are told by mothers who are too, too often sad examples — "Nice girls don't do those things." Nothing is ever said to the boys. Who, I wonder, do those mothers think their boys are having as partners?

A boy tells a girl "It's alright because I love you." A man tells a woman "Chastity isn't important if you have a lot on the ball." The mass media blasts daily about the use of contraceptives—which are available in drugstores throughout the country to men, women and teenagers.

THIS SOCIETY has become too weak and relaxed about sex. Sex is powerful, it's wonderful, it's dangerous and destructive. It MUST be controlled. The main device for controlling

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sex is moral principle. It must be taught and accepted and PRACTICED. It is an individual decision and individuals make up the society. If you have weak and hypocritical individuals, you have a weak and hypocritical people. Remember that the whole is no greater than the sum of its parts.

You have a religious principle regarding sex because you stated you believe that uncontrolled sex is a crime before God. This is great and you should practice what you believe. This is the only way you and your boyfriend can keep from doing "such a thing." It is not old-fashioned to be principled—it's ultra-modern.

Such principles are a guide for better and more profitable living. Such principles were given because the all-wise knows what a chaotic, devastating and hell-like society a society without principles would be. Uncontrolled sex is one of the causes of homicides, suicides, broken homes and tortured, sick minds. Man has advanced scientifically but not emotionally, for even though contraceptives may cut down the possibility of unwanted pregnancies, people are still confronted with jealousy and hate and feelings of guilt. Something on your mind? Write and tell me about it.

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**GOT THE
MESSAGE**

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GET IT ...
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