

JULY 2, 2004

Future clients?

Once again Planned Parenthood is offering its highly controversial "Nobody's Fool" sex education conference at the convention center. As in years past, parents, churches and businesses must decide if they will participate in supporting the event.

There is no doubt that the children of this community should, must and deserve to be educated on the topics of dating, love, sex, and HIV. The only real question that remains is: Should Planned Parenthood, the largest aborter of babies in America, be the poster child for such education?

Businesses use many clever tactics to build a client base and repeat customers. One can't help but wonder if Planned Parenthood's ulterior motive is to place the thought in these very young influenced minds that this organization is their "friend" when they get in trouble.

Surely this organization is not using this innocent tactic to build its future client base, is it?

Joe A. Carbajal
Waco

July 17, 2004

Here's what we believe

In a recent 77th article a supporter of Nobody's Fool was identified as a member of Highland Baptist Church. On behalf of fellow elders Barry Camp, Joe Griffin, Howard Wible Jr., J.B. Owen and Jack Peck, let me clear up any misunderstanding about our church's position on the event.

■ 1 Corinthians 6:18 and 1 Thess. 4:3 tell us to abstain from sexual immorality.
■ 1 Peter 2:11 says to abstain from fleshly lusts (not teach people how to fulfill those lusts).

■ 1 Cor. 6:9 and Heb. 13:4 condemn fornication (sex before marriage).
■ Gal. 5:22-23 says that the fruit of the spirit is self-control (not self-gratification).

■ Homosexuality is condemned in both the Old and New Testaments.

Having viewed the information disseminated at Nobody's Fool, we find it to be against these Scriptures. Therefore it is diametrically opposed to what we teach.

Some would say, "They are going to do it anyway, so teach them how to do it safer." We know that people are going to sin, but as ministers of the gospel, we cannot say, "Since people are going to sin, let's make them comfortable in that sin." That would be like saying, "We know people are going to speed so let's remove all speed limits and concentrate on building safer cars." Just because people are going to break the law does not negate the law or allow for its removal. We believe that if the true heart behind Nobody's Fool is to benefit the children long term, it would teach abstinence until marriage and monogamy in marriage as commanded in Scripture.

Mark Wible
Highland Baptist Church

Waco Tribune-Herald

July 19, 2004

It's a parent's job

In regards to Nobody's Fool, my parents always taught me to check out the facts for myself. So here are my suggestions:

■ If you are one of the supporting churches, make the material available to every elder, deacon, teacher, parent and grandparent in your congregation. By association they are funding the program and have the right to know. Surely a church would not promote a program contrary to basic biblical principles, would it?

■ If you are a business that supports the program, give the material to your customers so they know what you are supporting and why. An informed customer would return. Or would he?

■ If you are an individual, purchase material to share with your family members, friends, pastors, Sunday school teachers, and those you do business with.

You should be proud to share your convictions with those closest to you and they would stand solidly behind you. If you are a parent, grandparent, family member, church member, or customer of a business check it out for yourself.

Planned Parenthood had a copy of the book *It's Perfectly Normal* at the parent's preview last year, but neglected to explain its content. Get a copy on your own.

I agree sex education is needed. It is the job of parents and not an organization that excludes parents from the presentation. Get informed. Be nobody's fool.

Larry Wynmore
West

July 29, 2004

Beliefs in action

Every person who is opposed to abortion must live that opposition in his or her actions. As voters, we Catholics are under an obligation to avoid implicating ourselves in abortion, which is the gravest of injustices. Why? Because it is the unjust killing of the innocent and the helpless.

SH Cuevas
Bellmead

July 24, 2004

How about marriage education?

Here's a question for Catholic parents in the Austin Diocese: Do you want your children to ever, under any circumstances, disconnect the idea of sex from the idea of marriage? No? Well, neither does Bishop Gregory Aymond.

He should be commended for that, not insulted. Perhaps we should help to clarify the issue by changing the terminology we have been using over the years. Perhaps we should use the term "marriage education" rather than "sex education." That will help to clarify the difference between what the church teaches and what Planned Parenthood teaches.

Keith Burns
St. Mary's Parish
Temple

July 29, 2004

Leave it to parents

Why is it that we have to have complete strangers, supported by an abortion company, teach our children about one of the most intimate things in life?

If I want my children to share my values in anything important, I will teach them myself. I believe it is an oxymoron to have someone who believes in abortion tell a teenager about "safe sex."

The only thing our children need to know, just like any other value issue, is what God has to say: Wait till you are married. That way, we won't have very much left to discuss. The physical side of it should be taught by loving parents in an intimate setting, not in a huge conference hall.

Asst Hoover
McGregor