

## **Writing the Family Covenant**

The family covenant is designed to be written as a family, not just the parents, and not just the child. It is broken down into six segments and may be manipulated according to your preference. Please feel free to take this Word document and make it your own.

Below is a short description of each segment. Each section will provide some thoughts and guidelines for writing the covenant together as a family.

### **Parental Involvement**

It is extremely difficult to wade through the sexual waters as a young adult. Hormones rage, emotions rise, and independence surges. Parents should establish early on that they desire to be a part of opposite sex relationships and all that entails. Determine in this section how involved parents should be in regards to sex and dating. Discuss topics such as – Is it ok for mom and dad to see my Facebook page? How should mom and dad approach difficult situations such as suspecting a destructive relationship? How much are mom and dad willing to talk to the child about difficult situations the child may be facing.

### **Intimacy**

Intimacy is not only physical and it does not always lead to sex. Identify what it looks like to have healthy intimacy with the opposite sex. How intimate can the child be emotionally, physically, intellectually, and spiritually with the opposite sex. Discuss topics such as – How much is ok to disclose to the opposite sex about sexual feelings? How much physical intimacy is ok? What should the child be aware of in regards to the opposite sex's questions about intimate issues?

### **Dating**

There are many ways to approach dating. Some families see dating as a positive experience for young people of opposite gender. Other families and children will decide that dating as we know it now is not the best way to approach relationships with the opposite sex. Whatever choice you decide to make, be sure to be clear about what the positive and negative aspects of dating are. Discuss topics such as – What age is ok to begin dating? What is appropriate behavior within the relationship? How much involvement do the parents have in the relationship? Where can the couple go for dates? What should the child do in times of singleness? (Focus on making God's desires our own)

### **Sex**

Usually this is the place where the child will pledge to be sexually abstinate until marriage. But what does this really mean? When speaking of sexually purity, what specifically does that include? Be specific in identifying what is appropriate physical interaction including sexual intercourse, oral sex, and sexting. Discuss topics such as – What places should the opposite sex never touch? What physical touch is permitted? What date locations should be avoided that might lead to temptation? What type of accountability is set up to keep both individuals pure?

### **Further Covenantal Agreements**

This section is available to cover anything else that might come up in conversation including pornography or masturbation. It can also address the example set by the parents/guardians. Make sure to take time to discuss how the parents/guardians need to behave as a part of the covenant. Just because the parents/guardians are older doesn't mean they are held to a different standard. Discuss topics such as – What websites are appropriate and what magazines can be in the house? What language and actions should the parents/guardians beware of as a role model for the child?

## **Broken Covenant**

In the ideal world all that is agreed upon will occur. Unfortunately, we do not live in that sinless world. Be very open during this time to make sure all involved know that they are loved in all situations regardless of success or failure. God provides grace and forgiveness for all who repent and seek forgiveness. Discuss topics such as – Who can the child talk to if they have broken the covenant? Who can the parent/guardian talk to if they have broken the covenant? What actions need to be taken in the event that a covenant is broken? What consequences are a result of a broken covenant? (be very specific here)

## **Scripture**

Finally, take a look at some of the Scripture passages listed below. Take time to read through them, discuss them, and pray about them. Taking the time to do this as a family can pay off greatly in the future for the child and the family as a whole.

Matthew 22:37-40 (The great commandment)

Matthew 5:27-30 (Jesus' teaching on adultery)

Philippians 2:3-4 (Teaching about humility and putting others first)

1 Corinthians 6:12-13 (The body not meant for sexual immorality)

Song of Songs (poetry book in the Bible describing a honeymoon night)

Matthew 19:5 (Becoming one flesh)

John 8: 3-11 (Jesus and the adulterous woman)

1 Corinthians 10:31-33 (Do all for the glory of God)

Ephesians 5:1-7 (Warning of sexual immorality)

1 Thessalonians 4:1-8 (Controlling our own bodies)

## Family Covenant

The \_\_\_\_\_ family recognizes that \_\_\_\_\_ is God's beautiful creation made of heart, soul, mind, and body, all of which we seek to keep pure in all relationship experiences. This covenant is made within our family because we understand the importance of open communication, accountability, and trust. That which is agreed upon here is a result of time spent together in prayer and open discussion.

### **Parental Involvement**

Our family covenants to the following in regards to how involved all parental figures are in relationships of \_\_\_\_\_ and the opposite sex.

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### **Intimacy**

Emotional, spiritual, physical, and intellectual intimacy all contribute to positive relationships with the opposite sex. We covenant to adhere to the following in regards to intimacy with the opposite sex.

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### **Dating**

Dating is seen by different people in different ways. The following guidelines help to guard the purity of \_\_\_\_\_ in all dating/courting situations.

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### **Sex**

Sex is a great thing in the context of marriage as God created it. Listed below are important steps in remaining sexually pure until marriage.

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**Family Covenant (2)**

**Further Covenantal Agreements**

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**Broken Covenant**

As a family we do recognize that we all struggle with temptation and at times do fail. In the event that the covenant is broken by the parent(s) or the child, we agree to proceed in the following way(s).

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By signing this covenant we promise to strive to adhere to that which has been agreed upon by all parties involved. It is not by our own will, but by the strength we find in God that we are able to remain true to that which is written here. We pray that God give us all strength, wisdom, love, and forgiveness as a family.

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(Child's Signature)

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(Date)

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(Parent/Guardian's Signature)

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(Date)

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(Parent/Guardian's Signature)

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