

Fearless, Episode 73 - Parents Guide to Sexuality—Clarity in the Confusion

Cissie Graham Lynch:

00:00:00 Hi, I'm Cissie Graham Lynch. Welcome to Fearless, helping you have a fearless faith in a compromising culture.

MUSIC TRANSITION

Cissie Graham Lynch:

00:00:22 When you think of the world and the culture we are in right now and the state of confusion it is for this next generation and for our children. And for parents, especially for me as a mom of two, it can be so daunting to think of some of the conversations I'm going to have to have with them in the next few years, especially when it comes to the subject of sex and sexuality. Once upon a time, that conversation used to be simple if you could say it was simple. And it was still like horrifying to have with your parents. But at least it was simple. And now, we look at it and we fast forward and jump forward, today, those conversations are getting more and more complicated. Um, just my eight-year-old daughter, um, asked me questions the other day about why some girls have two daddies or they have two moms. And she wasn't understanding. And I had to think right there in that moment. And thankfully, that's when the Holy Spirit jumps in to give you that moment of how to have that conversation at that time with your child.

But I was raised by a mom who had the talk with me very often in my teenage years. I often said her car was her mission field. And my mom, um, would talk to me about all things, even those things regarding sex. And my mom's raw honesty about life and her experiences, her willingness to teach me along the way, um, all of those challenges she gave me in those conversations we had were such a gift to me. I can still think about how she's probably the most influential person in my life when it came to the subject of sex. Um, and so, those are tough conversations. None of us – the parents don't want to have them; the children definitely don't want us to have them with them. But they're conversations we have to have.

But how do we as parents have these conversations with our children where we're teaching God's design for sex and about puberty and sexuality? Um, how do we have them in a way that's honoring God but that we can fight these cultural lies that we're seeing in our society whether it's through entertainment, TV, and, um, now even in our education systems. They literally can scare the mess out of me thinking how am I going to get this right with my kids. But thankfully, we don't do it all in our power. We depend on the Lord to teach us. But um, I look back through history and just kind of like how I grew up and in the church. I felt like there were times the church got it wrong. I think they had good intentions, parents probably depended on the church or the youth pastor to – to have that conversation. And so, maybe they failed to have that conversation. There were some that did the purity culture inside of churches. For some, that worked. For many, that did not work.

And then I look at some parents who feel like it's impossible to teach, um, abstinence. So, they're throwing the towel early. But it's not impossible. And these conversations to

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be had especially in the culture that we're facing with the terminology, um, that is changing every day. It's like every day I read something I've got to Google it to figure out what's this new term mean when it comes to sexuality and gender and gender identity. Um, many of you know, I live in Florida. So, of course, we've seen recently, uh, Florida sign the Parental Rights in Education bill which bans, uh, teachers from teaching about gender identity and sexual orientation in kindergarten through third grade. And really, it shouldn't have stopped just at third grade. It should've continued on, you know, through eighth grade, or even through all grades. That is the job of us parents. And as parents, we can't fail this. We have to educate ourselves to be able to have these conversations with our children. Because if we don't, there's a culture that's going after our children. They think it's their responsibility. These teachers right now of what we've seen, they think it's their responsibility to teach our children because us parents aren't going to get it right. Um, and that's a spiritual war that we're fighting in this culture.

So, it can be overwhelming; it can be confusing trying to wade through, um, all of these issues surrounding sexuality and gender in our country today. And I can't even fathom what our children in their minds and the things that they're going to face that we couldn't even think about or we couldn't even imagine when I was little 30 years ago. But I want to be able to shine light, um, on Jesus in a world with love and with compassion with His truth and with His grace even when we tackle this. And to look at God's Word, um, and His Scripture to see His design. And there's a book that I've read recently, and it's called *Mama Bear Apologetics Guide to Sexuality*. And if you've followed me, um, on social media before, you've probably seen me mention the first book, um, that this author wrote. And it was called *Mama Bear Apologetics*. Um, I think it's *Empowering Our Children to, um, Challenge Cultural Lies*. Both of these books are phenomenal. So, I'm so excited for today's guest, Hillary Ferrer. And we as moms, these are tough subjects that we're fighting for our children in this post-modern world. We're fighting for truth. And it can be so exhausting at the end of the day, uh, just doing our daily tasks as parents. So, how are we going to tackle – now I've got to tackle the conversation of sexuality. How am I going to do it? And how am I going to do it right? And Hillary does a wonderful job in her books and especially this book that we're going to talk about, *A Guide to Sexuality*.

She does it in a way that's accessible. She does it in a way that's not daunting. That's encouraging. Teaching God's design for all of this. She teaches the secular, uh, point of views as well. And how we as parents can do this, and we can do it with hope. And she has such humor in her book that it also won't be boring. I know sometimes apologetic books maybe sound boring at the end of the day. It won't be boring. So, I'm excited to have this conversation with my guest, Hillary. Hillary, welcome to Fearless.

Hillary Ferrer:

00:06:16 Thank you so much for having me.

Cissie Graham Lynch:

00:06:18 I came across your – I was trying to think the first time I came across your first book, um, was maybe a couple of years ago. Um, I was just scrolling through I think

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maybe Amazon or somewhere. I said, wow, she's talking about the things I want parents to talk about and what we encourage parents to learn about here on *Fearless*. And so, I grabbed your book, and I finally got to read it. I hurt my back, go figure, last year, and I was put on, uh, bed rest. And I found this was a perfect time. And I have pointed so many people to it. And that was your first book which was called *Mama Bear Apologetics: Empowering Your Kids to Challenge Cultural Lies*. But today, we're going to talk about, um, your newest book which is *A Guide to Sexuality for the Parents* which is timely when we think about all the confusion in the world, what children are facing today and parents. And how we can get it right when it might seem impossible. But when we talk about apologetics, you have tackled this issue in an incredible way. And I have challenged people here on *Fearless* like this is for all of us. And your book is wonderful. Both of your books. Um, for parents, this is not daunting, and you do it in such a humorous way. I love it.

Hillary Ferrer:

00:07:30 It's not a stuffy read.

Cissie Graham Lynch:

00:07:31 Yes. It'll ... you won't be bored. Let's put it that way. I love it. It keeps, uh, especially with these subjects. Who want to read a lot of these subjects about the end of the day. Um, they're tough when you've gotten your children and put them in bed and you're exhausted. These subjects can be so tough. But you make make it enjoyable. And it's not boring.

Hillary Ferrer:

00:07:48 Aww, thank you so much.

Cissie Graham Lynch:

00:07:48 But let's talk about it. What lead you to start a blog and podcast and write books on apologetics for moms?

Hillary Ferrer:

00:07:56 I think moms are just this demographic that will do whatever it takes. If they see something that is messing with their children's faith, they will do whatever it takes in order to get those questions answered. And so, in that sense, um, they have a unique motivation as well to really study. So, that – I would say the entire ministry has been built around the fact that I love moms. So, that is what I pour my, uh, my life into is the ... the research so that I can give something to moms to make their lives easier.

Cissie Graham Lynch:

00:08:25 Well, this mom is very thankful. And I should have clarified. The first book of *Empowering Your Kids to Challenge Cultural Lies*, I say you go after all the -isms, Marxism, um, Feminism, naturalism, even like language theft to Progressive Christianity. And so, I highly recommend that book. But as we talk today, uh, your newest book, *Mama Bear Apologetics* which is guide to sexuality. You tackle the topic that a lot of parents want to not think about, um or we, um, kind of maybe put that off.

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But in this world that we are in right now with all the confusion that we are facing in this generation of children when it comes to sexuality and gender, I can't even keep up. Um, I did a podcast one time on, uh, something I had read in "People Magazine". And I had to ... I'm always having to Google what does this mean. What does this mean? All these terms. There's something new every day.

Hillary Ferrer:

00:09:22 There really is.

Cissie Graham Lynch:

00:09:23 So, for parents that are just so busy, I'm just thankful that you wrote this. So, what made you jump into this subject, uh, writing about sexuality?

Hillary Ferrer:

00:09:33 I would say this is more of a "Jonah" situation than a "David" situation. Uh, I would say I was dragged into this kicking and screaming would be a more accurate way. Um, I had not wanted to really get into this topic at all just mainly because, honestly, I saw the vitriol that would come when you start talking about this particular topic. There are some serious, serious spiritual strongholds around this topic. And um, so, um, my publisher was the one that actually asked me to do this, and I turned them down a few times until we got to March of 2020 where, uh, all of a sudden, all of life was uncertain. We didn't know, um, basically if something was going to happen with my husband's job. And so, I'd love to say that like the Lord convicted me and, you know, I realized what an important topic this was. But I ... I think He had to drag me into it kicking and screaming. But, um, for the next you know however long after that I said, "Why did I do this to myself?" But at the same time as I kept studying, I was like I know ... I know this is what the Lord has wanted me to do. And I kind of needed to be forced into it. My husband told me later if he'd known they'd ask me so many times that he would have basically said you need to say yes to this. Um, so I think it was just honestly some of my own fears of tackling it of how do I untangle this mess without hurting people. Because that's the main thing, right, that I think we as Christians are so concerned about. How do I untangle this mess? And how do I teach God's truth without being accused of being a bully and a hateful bigot and hurting people who are clearly already hurting? I think that's the challenge that we really feel. And so, I think the Lord just, um, He brought me to the right research, and He kind of gave me the right things to where by the time I was done with this book, I was not ... I was not afraid anymore. And I was not scared of this topic. I was excited about bringing this, uh, to parents really. And uh, so I hope that journey kind of translates into those pages where you feel more empowered to talk about this topic than before you started.

Cissie Graham Lynch:

00:11:30 Yeah, it does. This is a book that can help you have confidence that we can do it, and we can do it right. Um, that we can teach our children in the biblical design that God has for them, um, about sex and in their marriage and what that is and what the world is. And that's what I love. In the book, you have the biblical principles, um, of teaching children. But you're also teaching these parents what the secular world is

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teaching. And it is so important to know what the lies are out there, what the enemy is doing. Kind of their strategy as well to help prepare, um, to prepare parents. And for that I'm grateful that you have both in that.

Let's, um, as I talked about your humor in this book. One of the chapters I enjoyed. Are you sex smarter than a fifth grader is one of the chapters. Uh, Understanding the new National Sexual Education Standards. And let me tell you I failed actually. I'm not, uh, sex smarter than a fifth grader which is pretty scary because I already have a second grader, um, who's asking some difficult questions. Um, but in this chapter, um, it was enlightening for me to discover that the National Sex Education Standards expect our kids, um, and what they should know by fifth grade. Um, and you also write about how these standards are written by a group founded by the former medical director of Planned Parenthood. This is what I thought was interesting. And the group was also funded by Hugh Hefner.

Hillary Ferrer:

00:12:53 Yes.

Cissie Graham Lynch:

00:12:54 So, um, we need to know these kinds of things. What does the national sex education standards, what do they say our kids should know by fifth grade? Um, and how do we see this in our classrooms?

Hillary Ferrer:

00:13:04 Um-hmm. I would say one of the big ones ... it's like I have not seen this proven anywhere. It's made it into the scientific literature, but it's just affirming the fact that, um, gender identity and the sex born at birth can be different. So, we're already teaching kids that ... that ... that the gender that you identify with and what your body looks like can be very different. And so, they want you to know the difference between a gender, gender fluid, uh, non-binary, transgender. Um, all the things that probably people didn't have to think about honestly until like maybe the last five years. Now, granted there's some ... there's cases historically of very, very young children, usually boys, that are claiming, you know, I'm a girl. I'm a girl. You don't see it as much with girls. You do see it with boys. So, there's some phenomenon that I don't think that can be adequately explained by, um, a lot of different things. But that's not really what we're dealing with in this book. We're dealing with, uh, kind of what is – the children who are being introduced to these ideologies now suddenly starting to identify as transgender. So, I just want to kind of make it clear that those two are two different things to say take something that is kind of like a very small percentage like, you know, half of one percent kind of thing and then make it across the board, um, to teaching fifth graders that this is a normal state. You know, that I do not think is wise.

Cissie Graham Lynch:

00:14:26 Yeah. Um, you listed a few in your book on the define it and explain the differences between everything you just listed: cis-gender, transgender, gender non-binary, then you get into some I don't even know. I had to – um, gender expansive.

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Hillary Ferrer:

00:14:39 Yes. That was the one I think I failed too. I was like I still don't totally know what gender expansive is.

Cissie Graham Lynch:

00:14:44 I know. I Googled them, and I'll read them, and I still don't get it. Um, when, um, a parent is there and they're starting to get these questions, uh, with their children, how do we go about addressing all these things that they might be learning in school, um, or that we're caught off guard because they read it or saw it on cartoon. Now, it's like crazy the cartoons they have out there. Um, how do we go about addressing all these things that come up on conversations with our children about human sexuality, um, whether it's same sex attraction or gender identity while also continuing to uphold God's design and God's truth in their life?

Hillary Ferrer:

00:15:22 Yeah. I think first off is we need to just realize that it's happening younger and younger. They have things like this that are happening on Sesame Street and in the cartoons. I think, um, Amy's kids are pretty young. I mean, Bubble Guppies, Blues Clues, you name it, it's starting to come into cartoons at a younger age. We sometimes have this idea that, um, we can address it later. It's always kind of this later that we think that we can address it. And I kind of like to encourage parents to know there's a psychological principle that the person who talks to you about something first is kind of automatically filed away in your head as the expert. And so, I want to encourage parents to be talking about this because you want yourself to be the filed away as the expert not something – not Google, you know, Dr. Google who's open 24/7, um, that they go when they have questions about this. Not their friends, not their teachers, you want mom and dad to be the experts on this. And so, one of the first things you can do is you can ask your kids what are they already hearing. What have they heard about gender? Um, I think emphasizing just the importance of absolute truth because undergirding all of these things are the idea that objective truth does not exist. And that's something I think that we can be, um, affirming from basically birth on and just talking about the difference between objective truth. This is true. It's not because it's our truth; it's because it's the truth. And you can point to things like this is red and, you know, other little facts that you have around them to get them to understand. Something that's outside of themselves that other people have access to. Y'all can determine what the properties are of this thing. Now, subjective truths are where all of this is coming in. But subjective truths still do not change the biological and physical reality of the body. Um, I would say maybe for the kids that are starting to get in third, fourth, fifth grade where they're starting to hear this more they probably – you know, maybe they're having a kid in their class that is transitioning.

You can maybe talk about why is even asking for your gender on a medical form necessary. And it's because there's a lot of different ways that you would treat a male versus a female medically in terms of, um, the kind of medicines that you give, the amount of medicines that you give. All these different things. All these things that really

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exist outside of someone's perception still need to be known in order to give someone the best medical treatment. Now, like we talked about briefly before, I'd say with Christians one of the big things is we have a hurting population. There is ... there is no doubt about that. The kids that are coming forward as transgender, the adults that are coming forward as transgender or homosexual have usually had a long history of hurt. And as Christians, we have sometimes made the things that we don't understand to be almost like the higher level of sin. Well, I never struggle with that. So, the thing I never struggle with I'm going to make that kind of the higher level of sin. But what we need to look at is that everybody is created in the image of God. There's something that we have coming out in the workbook, uh, it's the discipleship workbook that's going to be coming out in September that I call the *Image of God Game*. I think it's something that we need to start really, really early with our kids that it's kind of going to be this buffer to everything else that we teach them about what God's design is. And that is looking at people who are made in the image of God and pointing out are they made in the image of God. What about that clown over there, you know, that's dressed up really silly? Is he still made in the image of God? Yes, because it doesn't matter what you put on your body. He's still made in the image of God. What about the man in the wheelchair? Is he made in the image of God? Yes, even though his body is not working in the same way, he is still made in the image of God. Um, what about that dog over there? Nope. The dog's not made in the image of God. Uh, the rock? No. The grass? No. Um, but what about this woman who is pregnant? Is she made in the image of God? Yes. What about the baby that's inside? Is that made in the image of God? Yes. So, we just over emphasize the image of God, how we are all image bearers.

And image bearers deserve to be treated with dignity and respect. However, every single image bearer can sometimes behave in a way that is not reflecting the image of a God. And we can talk about God's plan for sexuality and say this is the plan that reflects the image of God. Behaving in these other ways sexually or with gender, that's not reflecting the image of God. We do not ... we do not do that. Our family seeks to reflect the image of God.

Cissie Graham Lynch:

00:19:38 Yeah. Absolutely. I think a lot of the questions parents are trying ... are trying to figure out right now is like at what age. Do you have a suggestion of what age you start having these conversations? Because I have an eight year old who's already asking questions of things I can't imagine asking at eight. When I was eight, I was thinking about like beanie babies and, um, making sure we got the rare one and collected them. You know. Now, they're asking –

Hillary Ferrer:

00:20:01 Yeah, I was obsessed with Little Mermaid.

Cissie Graham Lynch:

00:20:03 So, now they're asking all kinds of questions. At what age do you think? And by the way, I should have clarified, you do have a Biology degree. Is that correct?

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Hillary Ferrer:

00:20:10 Yes, I do.

Cissie Graham Lynch:

00:20:11 Yeah. So, you know, now biology is quite bigotry. But uh, maybe you'll make biology come back. The facts of biology make a comeback. But yeah. What's a good age?

Hillary Ferrer:

00:20:22 Um, I would say that honestly this is going to be different for a lot of different kids. I think the age is just to be, um, that there's an article that we have on our, um, website about how to affirm your children in their gender identity. The "aren't you so glad you were born a boy for these reasons. Oh, you're such a boy when you do this." And just kind of helping them see that they identify as those genders. That's something you can do from early on. I would just be paying attention to maybe their programming that they're watching or just asking what they're friends are talking about. And it really is going to differ on basically on a kid by kid basis. Pay attention to what kind of community. The community that I'm in right now is very, very – how would you say – the kids are very sheltered. And so, things are not going to be as obvious to them as they would maybe like some of my friends who are out in Oregon. And when they're kids were even in preschool, you know, finding friends on the playground, the parents would introduce themselves and use their pronouns and use the kids' pronouns. Those kids, you need to be addressing this a lot earlier, um, than you would say maybe a small town in Iowa. So, depending on where you are ... I'd love to get a blanket thing. I would just say –

Cissie Graham Lynch:

00:21:28 Oh, I know. And it depends on each kid. My little girl picks up on every small detail. I've got a boy, and he's kind of a typical boy that just doesn't, um, is not into the details that are around him. So, it depends on each child and the questions they start asking. And I love the point of what you said is you go back to the first person you had the conversation with you. I look back in my life and the, um, person who had the most impact on my life when it came to sexuality was my mother. And as I shared at the top of the episode, she had a huge impact of always having a conversation with me talking about her past, talking about what, um, the decisions I would make. And you know, when it came to sex, no parent wants to talk about the sex, but she always made sure she was talking about it with me in the car. Any chance she had, um, she would always say, "Cissie, you can't wait until you're in the back of the car with a boy to decide if you're going to be a virgin or not." Right? Because you're not going to make the right decision in that moment. And that was just one thing. So, my mother, I mean, I can still remember the conversations we had. And um, and I'm so grateful. So, we as parents – and also, I don't think your book is just to moms but maybe you could correct me. I think dads can learn a lot from this.

Hillary Ferrer:

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00:22:41 It really is for everyone. It's for everyone. I make moms my demographic, but everyone's welcome.

Cissie Graham Lynch:

00:22:46 And for aunts or for high school, uh, coaches. My high school coach had a huge impact on my life and teaching the girls on our team. You know, this book is for a lot of people because we can have, um, influence to all those around us whether it's or nieces or those in Sunday School around us. So, I do want to say I think dads can read this book as well. In ... in this book, you make an incredible, insightful point. That all things are powerful must be carefully guarded and used. Could you share your fire analogy that you did with the Mama Bears?

Hillary Ferrer:

00:23:19 Yeah. So, it's this idea that, um, you know, most of society will agree that sex is incredibly powerful. But what they want to say is well, therefore, you don't have a right to tell anybody what they can do. But I'm thinking isn't everything that's incredibly powerful carefully guarded? Uh, you think of just you know nuclear codes. You think of the bigger the dog the stronger the leash. Um, all these different things that are incredibly powerful have, um, not only a protective thing around them to guard them, but anything that's incredibly valuable also has things that guard and protect them. So, I ... I look at that concept of fire. Is fire good or bad? Well, you know, it's ... it's not either. It depends on how it's used. So, the more powerful fire is the more it needs ... it needs a place where in which it can be enjoyed like the fireplace or you know a campfire that doesn't have any brush that's nearby. What happens when you don't guard it? Well, I mean, anyone who ... all the kids say you're watching the ... you know, the TV when you see the infernos sometimes in California with ... with all the forest going up in flames or you see the bombs. You see all these things that happen because someone did not carefully guard a fire. That is how destructive sexuality can be when it's taken outside of the way that God designed for it to be used. But channeled correctly, oh, my gosh, it does so many good things. It cooks our food; it warms us, you know, by the fire. All these different things it's all these incredibly good uses, but it needs to be guarded. And I would say that, um, I've heard this analogy before, but people usually stop there. What I like to say after that is let's look at how we're treating fire. Are we treating fire like firemen or like an arsonist? And so, like an arsonist just loves fire and thinks any kind of fire is great. They'll set as many fires as they want. And I would say that's how our society is treating sexuality of like why wouldn't anyone love all these good things.

But they don't care about the destruction that happens from it. It's the firemen who's equally obsessed. People like to say, oh, Christians, you're so obsessed with sex. No, I would say we're equally obsessed with sex as basically the culture but in a different way. We're looking for, um, sexuality to be guarded, and we're looking for it to be used properly. And we celebrate it within a marriage. Um, in fact, I really feel strongly that we need to be telling our kids just until they just don't want to hear it anymore. Then, tell them some more that sex is a married couple repeating their marital vows in bodily form. I feel like if I had been classified as that when I was a kid, the concept of sex outside of marriage doesn't even make sense when we look at the purpose of it. This is

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referring back to a promise that I made before family and before friends. So, sex outside of marriage, it's like it doesn't make sense. You can keep bringing them back to that purpose of sex. But anyway. You know, firemen ... the firemen and the, um, and the, uh, uh, arsonist I would say is kind of how our society is dealing with sexuality at this point though.

Cissie Graham Lynch:

00:26:11 Well, Hillary, I love hearing you because ... you speak truth, but you do it with grace. And you're tackling these crazy subjects that 15, 10 years ago we couldn't even imagine having, especially having them with our children of what we're seeing happening in the world and our culture and the confusion around it. But you do it in a way that's approachable, in a way that's possible, in a way that does give moms hope. That we don't have to look at this daunting task and think it's impossible to happen. That we know that God has a design. And you teach it in a way that we're able to pass it on to our children. And I'm so grateful. And with that in closing, what is ... what is your, um, what would you say to parents, especially to moms, the hope as they enter this ... this subject or this stage of life with their children? Maybe they're past this stage and they feel like they failed it a little bit. What is ... what would you say to them? What's the hope?

Hillary Ferrer:

00:27:12 There's a certain age of kids where they're still kind of in the mix of this and kids that are younger looking up there and saying that's crazy. And I'm not going to do that. That I do think the Lord is preparing warriors, uh, to stand up for His design and who are going to stand firm in His design. And there was a, uh, quote that I saw a while back on Facebook. I can't remember exactly how it goes, but it's along the lines of never be, um, sad that you're raising a dragon slayer in the time where there's actual dragons. That we do have, um, actual dragons out there that are trying to compromise the Christian faith. Because I really believe that there's something spiritually that happens when someone starts abusing, uh, sexuality that happens on a spiritual level. Um, I would say for the moms who feel like they have already missed it, I would say just be in ... in relationship with your child and helping them to see honestly what some of the secular sources are already starting to see. *Huff Post*, um, had an article, uh, I think a couple of weeks ago about how consent and pleasure are not the litmus tests for, uh, a satisfying sexual experience. If *Huffington Post* is finding this with people that they are interviewing, then this is the conclusion that's been coming. I think, um, yeah. We're having so much brokenness come from this that we can start pointing back to, hey, this is, you know, maybe this is why God said to have sex between a husband and a wife for life. Like how many of these problems do you think would go away? And kind of help them see and also ... help them see how God's design in a lot of ways does protect and is meant for our good and is meant for our flourishing. Um, but also being there for those hurting hearts knowing that there is a, uh, spiritual and emotional brokenness that is ... that is occurring when someone, um, has bought into these lies. Now, for the moms, uh, of kids that are younger, I think this concept of sex being, um, pointing back to, uh, a promise that was already made. We can make this without even talking about sex for young kids by saying I'm going to make a promise to you. And we're going to

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have this secret handshake. And every time we do this handshake, that means that we are pointing back to this promise we made. You are establishing that category in their head of pointing back to a promise through doing something physically. And as they get older, then you can start explaining that's what sex is. Um, and they'll start seeing it as something that is meant to cement a promise. It's not just for consent; it's not just for pleasure. Which sex positivity, we talk about that in chapter nine, I think, um, or chapter eight. That's all that they say is required for a sexual ethic, and it just doesn't work. If they think this is working, I mean, just look at ... what is going on in the world around us. And I think just having some common sense and graciously pointing that out can be one of the most powerful things that really you can do.

Cissie Graham Lynch:

00:29:59 Well, Hillary, thank you. Once again, I say both books, although, we talked about *Guide to Sexuality*. You definitely need this one of how to teach our children to combat these lies that they face in their culture every single day. Hillary, it was so nice to meet you. Thank you for joining me on today's episode of Fearless.

Hillary Ferrer:

00:30:16 Thank you so much for having me.

MUSIC TRANSITION

Cissie Graham Lynch:

00:30:22 As I was preparing for this episode and reading Hillary's book, I just kept thinking of the enemy and how powerful he is. And I think of the generations before us and maybe our parents who struggled to get some of these conversations right and when the conversation was so simple. And now, it's the kind of question like, oh, my goodness. How are we, as parents, how are as a church going to get this right when the conversation now is so complicated? And thinking of in Lamentations that says, "See, oh, Lord, my affliction. For the enemy has magnified himself." It's like our affliction as parents are things that we have to face now as parents on behalf of our children. And how the enemy has magnified himself throughout our culture. And it says, "The adversary has stretched out his hand over all her precious things." And here's what I know is that the enemy has used God's beautiful gift of sexuality to confuse this generation. Um, and our children, they're precious. They're the precious things. And the enemy will do anything he can to destroy them. And we as parents have to be on guard, and we have to be prepared. And that's why I'm so thankful for people like Hillary who sounded the alarm, who give us wonderful tools, um, like this book that we can approach this conversation with our children and do it with hope. Do it, um, based on Scripture and Biblical design that God designed for sexuality. And do it in a way that we can combat the cultural lies.

Somebody that I work with reminded me of this comic strip. And it showed a teenager being placed in the back of a patrol car, a police patrol car. And his parents were watching it as it was driving by. And the mom says to the dad, "I wonder where his youth pastor went wrong?" And that is so true. Because often we as parents, we

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depend on the church to teach them on tough topics. We, um, my kids do go to a private Christian school. So sometimes we think that the school will teach them what we need to know. And we can be hesitant to have, um, that conversation that we need to have with our children. But at the end of the day, we as parents – because like I said, this book isn't just for moms. This is for parents, grandparents, we are the warriors. The parents, the mentors, the aunts, the big sisters, um, who can make a difference and invest in those conversations with those children or with those kids around us and lead them in a loving way to God's truth. And Ephesians 6:14 says, "Stand firm, therefore having belted your waist with truth and having put on the breastplate of righteousness." We can through God's grace put aside all our nervousness, all the hesitancy we have to have these conversations and all those awkward conversations about sexuality that will come with our teenagers. Um, and we can be fearless in talking about it because we stand in God's truth. And I'm so thankful for this book. Because once again, it's going to be a great tool to you as a parent, um, to help your children through these tough questions they have in this world of confusion. I want to encourage you to check out my website to get updated and to get caught up on any other episodes that you might have missed. And I encourage you to always follow me on Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter. Thank you for joining me on another episode of Fearless helping you have a fearless faith in a compromising culture.

CLOSING MUSIC

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