



"Birth control

can be dangerous, unnecessary, and sex-inhibiting. If you can't control your sexual desire then stay away from the opposite sex. If you want to have a boyfriend or a girlfriend then you should be mature enough to know how to stop. Besides, oral sex is just as fun, and you don't have to worry about getting pregnant."

19-year-old male

"Nobody waits until they're married to have sex anymore. Nobody. Sure, you have to be careful—but having sex is a normal part of modern relationships."

Jean, 17, church youth group president

The Stats

PROTECTION AGAINST PREGNANCY

Method of birth control	Effectiveness if used perfectly all the time	Effectiveness based on surveys of couples who used the method
<input type="checkbox"/> Pill (combined with estrogen and progestin)	99%	92%
<input type="checkbox"/> IUD (intrauterine device)	98%	92%
<input type="checkbox"/> Condoms	97%	90%
<input type="checkbox"/> Foam, suppositories (spermicides)	97%	75%
<input type="checkbox"/> Condoms and foam	99%	95%
<input type="checkbox"/> Diaphragm	97%	80%
<input type="checkbox"/> Rhythm (calendar)	85%	60%-75%
<input type="checkbox"/> No method (hope)	10%	10%

Washington University Student Health Service, February 1996

By the Book...

Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters or adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the Kingdom of God.

1 Corinthians 6:9-10

BIRTH-CONTROL BUST

Robin didn't sleep around. Sure, she was planning on sleeping with her boyfriend, but that wasn't "sleeping around." She loved her boyfriend and they planned on getting married. She was 18 and old enough to make her own decisions.

So when Robin finally decided it was time to have sex, she went to a health clinic for birth-control pills. What Robin didn't know was that a clinic nurse was a good friend of her mom's.

When Robin got home from the clinic, she had quite a surprise waiting for her. "Sit down," her mother said harshly. "I understand you purchased birth-control pills."

Robin was caught off guard. "Well, Mom, since I'm eighteen—"

"Since I'm still paying all the bills around here," her mother interrupted, "let me explain how it works in our house. As long as I'm paying for your food, your car, and your insurance, and as long as you are staying in my house, you will live by my values. I thought I raised you to believe in Christian values. I thought you were a Christian. Apparently you have decided to love your boyfriend more than God, more than your parents, and I guess I can't stop you. But I can stop you from taking birth-control pills."

"So you have a choice. You can choose to have a sexual relationship with Toby—and get your own apartment, your own job, and pay for all of your own expenses. Or you can promise me you and Toby will not have a sexual relationship, you will not purchase birth-control pills, and you will live by the values of your father and Me. It's up to you."

The conversation went well into the night, but in the end Robin agreed to give up the birth-control pills, refrain from a sexual relationship with Toby, and live by her mom and dad's rules. What else could she do, she thought? So she promised there'd be no sex.

Her mother never found out that Robin soon became sexually active with Toby and, three months later, had an abortion. She graduated from high school, broke up with Toby, went to a Christian college, and met a Christian boy. Her parents were very proud of her.

1. Do you agree that if your parents pay the bills, they have the right to demand that you live by their values?

2. What options did Robin have?

3. Does everyone have secrets their parents will never know? Do you? Is it actually better for parents to not know everything?

4. If Robin had come to you after her discussion with her mother, what advice would you have given her?

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