

The Sexual Solution

Mark and Tina had been going steady for almost two years now. He's a senior, she's a junior. They were both active in their church's youth group and in the local Young Life meetings, so they spent a lot of time together. But lately their relationship hadn't been going well.

"I know the answer," Lori advised Tina. "Sex. Believe, me it will strengthen your relationship." Lori had been in a similar dilemma with her boyfriend: when their one-year-old relationship became shaky, sex seemed to bring the two of them closer together. The sexual solution worked for them.

Tina was surprised that such a solution was suggested by a couple in her youth group. Tina had just assumed that everyone in her youth group believed in waiting until marriage. Actually, this was the second time someone had suggested it...Mark had been recommending the sexual solution for the past three months.

Tina sensed that if she didn't have sex with Mark soon, she'd lose him. She really wanted to wait until marriage, but guys like Mark didn't come along every day. She knew what her parents believed, she knew what the church believed, and she thought she knew what she believed. She was very confused.

But Tina finally decided. She loved Mark very much, and they agreed they were going to be married. Mark was the one guy for her. So she took Lori's advice—and it worked! After their sexual experience Mark and Tina did seem to be closer. For three months everything was wonderful.

Until the day that Mark told her that after graduation he was going to a college 3,000 miles away, and that he thought it would be best if he and Tina spent some time away from each other.

Tina was stunned. Just a few nights before, Mark was talking about attending a local junior college during Tina's senior year. Tina called Lori. Lori was clueless. She and her boyfriend were getting along fine.



"I had sex with this guy.

It wasn't great, but I still liked it. Anyway, I felt guilty about it and asked God to forgive me. I even broke up with the guy. My youth leader told me that God forgave me, but I should never do it again. I know she was right, but every time I go out with a new guy I want to [have sex]. I can't help it. Once you've experienced it, you can't exactly go back to holding hands. Anyone who thinks you can have sex, and then not have it anymore, is crazy."

Tina, 16, a junior

"Sex is a great relationship fixer. You feel close to the person and you forget what you were mad about. You don't have to be in love to have sex—God made it so people have a way of making each other feel good. That's cool. I've had sex with lots of people. Now I'm no slut, but I sure have made a lot of people happy. What's wrong with that?"

17-year-old junior, male

The Stats

Abstinence was the norm among unmarried American teenage girls at least until 1982, according to the National Survey of Family Growth. The best of the recent surveys of high school age youths (teens between 14 and 17 years old) was conducted as part of the National Health Interview Survey of 1992. This survey showed that 57% of adolescents were virgins. A series of surveys conducted over the last 25 years by Who's Who Among American High School Students shows that only one in four top students is sexually active.

The Heritage Foundation,
August 31, 1995

By the Book...

So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature. For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want. The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery,...I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.

1. What do you think about a sexual solution to a shaky relationship?



2. What would you tell Tina if she had called you right after Mark had broken off the relationship?

3. Would you be surprised to discover that kids in your church youth group were having sex?