

Questions You Always Wanted to Ask!



LAPAN

GBY! WLY! The following are excerpts from Question & Answer sessions held at recent TTCs. The Teens wrote up & submitted their questions in advance & the leaders who answered them had an opportunity to research the Lord's answers from the Letters, & Dad was able to look them over & add some comments. PTL!

1. What are the rules regarding sex for a 15-year-old, as well as for younger teens?

Answer: Here's what Dad & Maria say that can help clarify that from the Letter "Teen Sex", paragraph 36: "(Maria: For the sake of potential problems with the System, we've set a rule for our girls that they can't fuck a seminating male after starting their period till they're 15.) Yes, now you're making the qualification, as I said, I think there's no reason to discourage them from having sex with each other until the girls begin to menstruate & the boys begin to seminate. Not because there's any danger in it as far as our Family is concerned, & our ideals & mores & standards & rules, but in order not to horrify the System...So we have to be very careful at early teen ages that the girls don't start having babies so young that they're shocking the doctors & authorities...Man's laws are in violation of God's laws, & because of this, we just have to be careful with our revolutionary living & our radical ideas & our liberties & freedoms, which the System doesn't have & sometimes doesn't tolerate."

--So boys & girls, you can have all the sex you want within the guidelines of counselling with your Shepherds & /or parents, but boys, once you start having semen, you should not fuck any girls who have started their periods & are under the age of 15 years old. Once a teen girl starts her periods she must refrain from actual fucking with any boys who have

semen, because then you could produce a baby. Getting your period, of course, happens at different times with different girls, so no particular age can actually be assigned as to when you should stop fucking. But say if a girl has been having love-up with other teens or pre-teens, & then her period begins when she's 13-1/2, then from that point on until she is 15--a total of 1-1/2 years--she should not fuck any boys who are producing semen, or she could get pregnant. It is okay to fuck boys who do not yet have semen, & girls, once you've reached your 15th birthday, you can go ahead & fuck.

2. Teen: Once girls have started their period, can they still have dates with teen boys with semen & masturbate each other, even though they can't fuck?

Answer: As long as they are obedient to the Family rule that Grandpa & Maria set down, & don't fuck, yes, it would be fine to love & satisfy each other with kissing, masturbating, etc. (Be sure to read the last couple of pages of "Teen Sex" (ML #2061, in this book!), especially paragraphs 36 to the end of the Letter! Grandpa & Maria agree that you can still "enjoy sex together & love & lovemaking without fucking & be completely & fully satisfied! (Maria: And that's more important! That way they'll learn real loving & giving sex without just jumping on & jumping off!)" Grandpa adds that it's going to be a fight, you're going to have a hard time resisting the temptation to fuck, but you must obey, or too early pregnancy could cause the Family lots of trouble with the System!

It's important that you understand first of all the reasons why you should obey this & all Family rules! Reading & knowing the MLs will help you understand & give you the faith to want to obey wholeheartedly. Secondly, our dear King & Queen are entrusting you teens with this blessing and great responsibility of having "Teen Sex". They of course want you to be happy & enjoy & love each other, but they also want you to obey! (Maria: If we throw enough fear of the System into our kids & motivate them to abstain (not fuck!) because they are afraid to hurt the Lord's work, I think our teens would obey.) Doesn't it make you want to obey rules when you know they're made in love for your own good & the good of God's work?

We adults, as well, many times have to re-

frain from fucking, if there is any possibility of an affliction or disease that could spread, or when the girl is on her period, for example. In fact, there are even cases when we are counseled to not have any sex at all, such as with new disciples in the Family, or at major Family meetings & even Teen Camps anymore! So TTL you teens can love & satisfy one another by other means as long as you obey & not fuck!

Do you promise to be thankful for the blessings & freedoms you've been given, & obey & not fuck? OK! Then have fun! PTL!

3. Teen: If a girl who has started her period is under 15, can she make love to someone if he uses a rubber (condom)?

Answer: It is a known fact that condoms are not a real foolproof system of so-called "birth control", as they are basically just a balloon which can easily be punctured & leak &/or come off while fucking! Our Family is against any forms of birth control! "There is no method of so-called pregnancy prevention which is 100% sure! It doesn't matter if you use condoms, these rubbers for the man, pills or anything else!--And I believe these contraceptives (birth-control devices) are absolutely unscriptural! You're not becoming one when you do that! This is 'that which is against nature', according to God's Word." (Revolutionary Lovemaking, 259:54) So don't use rubbers, but stick to the 'no fucking until 15-years-old' rule. It's better to obey!

4. Teen: Somewhere I heard about the possibility of teens fucking, but before the boy is ready to come, he pulls out his penis so he does not "go" inside the girl. Is this OK?

Answer: That is called "withdrawal", a method the System uses to prevent pregnancy! Grandpa wrote in "Revolutionary Sex", paragraphs 24 & 25: "Although Onan had intercourse with his brother's wife, he indulged in the selfish practice of sudden withdrawal at the moment of his orgasm & ejaculation of semen, or seed, thus spilling the semen on the ground, which was an abomination to the Lord! So God slew him!--God is obviously opposed to any form of birth control whatsoever, even this so-called "natural" method which apparently the Lord considered very unnatural, selfish & virtually sacrilegious!--" So again, the best approach is obedience & "holding off" until the girl reaches 15 because God's work could really suffer big trouble from the System if our teen girls were getting pregnant

when underage! As Mama Maria said, "Just the fact that they can't fuck for a few years is probably not going to hurt them." And as Grandpa adds, "It is possible, as you say & as others say & as I say! You (Maria) were 23 before you fucked, & I went until I was 25 & married before I really fucked!--So hang on kids! GBY! ILY!" (2061:48,55) (See also 259:53.)

5. Teen: What about if you have a regular sharing partner that you have love-up with, do you have to check with someone every time before you have sex?

Answer: If, for example, you take your naps with someone every day & they are a regular sharing partner, & it's agreed upon by your parents or Shepherds or whoever is responsible for you, that's something that you can work out with the other teen individually.--But please work it out in advance with your parents or overseers & establish this agreement with them beforehand.

6. Teen: What do you do if someone asks you to have sex with them & you've never had sex before in your whole life, & don't know how or what to do? Do you tell them this?--Or do you say, "no" or "wait" or what?

Answer: That was a very sweet & honest question!--Because everybody in the whole World has to go through that! There's always a first time for everybody. Thank the Lord, Grandpa has always taught us to be honest. And if you're really open & honest, nobody is going to think you're odd or funny. Here's a quote from "Sex & Honesty": "If I'm not teaching you anything else, I'm teaching you how to be free & open & honest & not to be afraid to talk about it or talk about sex. If you have problems & you have something on your heart, or you think she has or he has or whatever, get it out in the open! Talk about it! You'll never have any chance of dealing with the matter unless you get it out!" So that's the best thing--to be open & honest! We'd suggest you counsel with your Shepherd or overseer the first times you experience this, & they'll help you to know what to say & do. Being honest will even draw you closer to the person who has asked you to share.

This is something that's not limited to the "first time" either. Because a lot of times when you're with somebody new, you're kind of nervous, & this is natural. So in this case, it's best to just say, "I'm sorry that I'm a little nervous & when I get nervous I have a little trouble!", & just pray together. But in

any case, get it out in the open, as that will make everything a lot more pleasurable & enjoyable.

7. Teen: Is it abnormal, for example, to have a period on the 14th of the month & then stop after 3 or 4 days, & then start again on the 20th, & then continue again for about 2 more days?—Also if you normally have your period & then miss your period for say 2-1/2 or 3 months but are not yet 15, can you actually fuck during that time?

Answer: Erratic or irregular periods are not uncommon, lots of girls have periods like that, especially teenagers. So even though you don't have a period for sometimes up to 4 or 5 months, you're still most likely fertile, which means you could still get pregnant--which means you should still obey the rules & not actually fuck until you're 15 years old, once you have begun your period at all.

But if your period is irregular in this sense, don't worry about it, it's quite common. A different diet, different environment, emotional changes or pioneering a new country etc. could all be factors in your period coming irregularly.

8. Teen: What should I do if there's someone who likes me, but that I don't necessarily like? Should I be extra sweet to them, or should I just treat them normally? I know I shouldn't give the person the cold shoulder.

Answer: Well, even Grandpa says we don't have to like everyone, but we do need to love everyone. It helps to remember what our job is as disciples--we're here to help people, right? We're here to learn how to be Shepherds & we're here to help people in their walk with the Lord. We're not just here for ourselves & for our own selfish purposes. If you read the Letter "Beauty & the Beast" (No. 309), Grandpa says a lot about how love loves the unlovely, & then you really know it's God's Love, when you can love someone you normally wouldn't like, when personality-wise you're not especially crazy about them. The Lord can help you to love them, & He can help you to be an encouragement to them. After all, that's what we're here for. (Jn.13:35)

Sometimes you have to also put yourself in their shoes--what if you really liked somebody & you went up to them & they didn't even want to spend a few minutes with you?! You would be rather hurt & think it was unloving. So always put yourself in other peoples' shoes & try to show love & concern toward them. After all, does it really cost so much to show a little

love & concern to somebody? No, it doesn't cost much at all & the Lord really blesses it.

If you're unsure or don't understand or have any questions concerning your situation or a particular person, please don't carry any burdens around with you but counsel with your parents, Shepherds & overseers about it. Your case may be different than the usual situation & they can probably help & encourage you & give you some good sound advice.

9. Teen: Is it better for teens to get mated with other teens, or for older teen girls preferably to get mated with an adult man so they can learn from them?

Answer: Generally it's best to be mated with someone closer to your own age, as you can relate to each other better & can both understand the experiences you're going through. There are exceptions to this, of course, such as Grandpa & Maria. But there again, Maria was custom-made for Grandpa by the Lord!--And not a teen!

Besides receiving an education in sex & the natural approach to it in your younger years, Grandpa has also suggested that the newly-mated couples can continue to gain a lot of experience by being around other mated couples, including their parents...It's God's plan that they even live in the same house for the time being...where they (the parents) can help you with the babies & teach you how to take care of them & how to keep house & how to feed a family & how to take care of a wife! Parents can teach you sex, teach you the whole works right there in the home with you!--And then by the time Grandma & Grandpa have raised you right there in the Home--you young couples & your children--then you can maybe be ready to get out on your own. In the meantime you ought to be in training until you know how to support yourself & a wife & kids, just the way you see your father do it or your father-in-law". (ML #1200:42-44)

10. What is the recommended age that teens are supposed to get mated? I don't understand this in terms of the Letters "Child Brides", "Marrytime Dream", & "Teen Sex".

Answer: Based on the age of acceptability in most cultures today, we would recommend not usually younger than 16 years of age. For one thing, you aren't supposed to be fucking until you're 15 & therefore it certainly wouldn't be very practical to be mated until then! A main factor is, as Grandpa's often said, "Don't just marry the person that you can live with,

but only the one you can't live without!" Therefore marriage is certainly not something that you should rush into! Unfortunately, too many people jump into relationships & especially marriage & make a big mistake, which can greatly affect or even ruin your usefulness for the Lord. Just be patient & wait for the one the Lord has for you, don't worry if you're 17, 18 or 19 years old or even older & "still haven't found a fulltime mate!" Don't be like the ones in "Squeeze, Don't Jerk!", that Grandpa said "marry in haste, but repent at leisure" & are sorry afterwards! Marriage or mating is not the most important thing in life!--Serving God is!

11. Teen: If you are in love with a girl & she's in love with you, & after awhile she stops liking you, what are you supposed to do about it?

Answer: It always helps to remember, "It's better to have loved & lost, than to never have loved at all!" You probably learned lots of lessons through this, on forsaking all & getting closer to Jesus! This is a case of "in all things give thanks, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you." And "in whatsoever state you're in, whether you're abounding or abased, to therewith be content." Remember, when everybody else lets you down, you can always go & tell Jesus, He's right there & He wants to know everything that's on your heart. You can always go to Him & pour it all out & ask Him for the grace & strength to see you through any situation. And remember, "His love never fails", so continue to show love & kindness, no matter what, & trust the Lord that He will take care of everything!

12. Teen: If someone wants to have sex with you & you don't want to, does that mean you don't have love?

Answer: It depends on the situation. It depends on why you don't want to make love with them. Maybe it does mean that you don't have enough love. Or, maybe it means you just feel it's not the right time or the right situation, & therefore not the best thing or the Lord's will that you spend time together. In this second case, it doesn't mean that you don't have love--& sometimes it's best that you don't! In a case like this, the best thing to do is to counsel with your parents & Shepherds. That's one of the advantages of being open & honest with our parents & Shepherds & our leadership in the Lord.

It's also important to realise that just because you have sex with someone, it does

not necessarily mean that you have real love for them. It all depends on your motives, what's in your heart, their motives & their heart!

13. Teen: Whether you are a teen or not, if a girl shares with a brother to help him in love, & then you get pregnant by him, but are not necessarily "in love" with him, do you have to get mated to him?

Answer: No!--You never have to mate anyone, unless God has outright ordered you to!--& this is very rare, as God is not a Monster Who always makes us do what we don't want to!--He usually gives us our choice, guided lovingly by Him for what's best for us, but won't force you to. Freedom of choice is the rule of this Age of Grace. But God tries to show you what's best for you, & tries to help you make the right choice, but won't force you to, except under the most extreme circumstances. That's the whole idea of this life: To get you to make the right choices voluntarily in love, according to His loving Word!--And each choice must be made in love according to the situation, need & His will. But being a single man can be hard, & babies do need fathers, so try to choose someone.--OK? GB&K & help you make His choice!--TJNA.--D.

14. Teen: When are teens considered adults as far as being able to watch "Adult Only" (AO) rated videos?

Answer: Well, it would depend on the movie & it would depend on the teen. I have one daughter who has a hard time watching "The Wizard of Oz", but her younger sister can sit through movies without them affecting her adversely. So a lot depends on the teen & a lot depends on the movie. And since this will vary, there's no hard & fast rule that the day you turn 15, for example, you can watch every single A.O. movie. It's something you probably need to counsel with your parents or your overseers about. (Don't watch any movie that you don't like.--D.)

15. Teen: When are teens to be treated as adults, as far as being able to go out alone or as a partner with another teen, for example?

Answer: When teens can be treated as adults is really more up to the teen themselves, than to any particular rule regarding age.--As of course this depends upon your spiritual maturity & dependability. And you show your maturity & dependability by being responsible in your day-to-day tasks & doing

the things that you're asked to do by others around your Home, etc.

So you being able to go out with another teen as a partner would depend largely upon how responsible you & the other teen show yourselves to be. Your adult overseer or Shepherd would have to determine whether or not you'd be able to handle yourselves wisely in any danger, security or other situation.--It would, of course, also depend on the type of city or area you'd be going out in, as some are safer than others.

As far as going out alone, not only teens but adults & everyone should avoid going anywhere alone. It's Family & Scriptural policy for reasons of security & witnessing! "Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their labour. For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow; but woe to him that is alone when he falleth, for he hath not another to help him up! And if one prevail against him, two shall withstand him; & a threefold cord is not quickly broken." (Ecc.4:9-12) "The Lord appointed other 70 (disciples) also, & sent them two & two into every city & place." (Luke 10:1)

Another aspect of this is, as Grandpa says, you're never really an "adult" until you have a child or a disciple of your own, or learn to care for others, because it's not until then that you really appreciate & learn all that goes into the responsibility of caring for others!

16. Teen: When can girls start FFing?

Answer: Grandpa did say, "There's no minimum age for FFers, as long as there's no sex involved!" (1829:80) In other words, we can woo & win others through smiles & looks of love in our witnessing, regardless of our age.--However, where sex would be involved, you should be of legal age according to the country you're living in. Counsel with your leadership about this, but the legal age varies in different countries from 18 to 24 years of age!



17. Teen: What is the Family policy on girls shaving their legs?

Answer: There is not really a Family policy on girls shaving their legs! When Mama heard about a Home where some of the boys were complaining that the girls in the Home had quite hairy legs, she commented that it's ridiculous for our boys to be complaining about that, especially when God made some girls to be that way! She said that it would be a different story if the girls were out FFing & the men that they were witnessing to were offended if the girls had unshaven legs & they considered them to be sloppy & unkempt. In that sort of situation it might be a good idea for the girls to shave their legs.

But in other cases, Mama recommended that the girls just be natural & not shave the hair on their legs. Why spend a lot of time keeping your legs shaved just to conform to the System way of doing things? As Grandpa wrote in "Revolutionary Women", "Part of being revolutionary is just to be you...leg hair & all!" (250:9) Grandpa & Maria are trying to teach our teens to get away from System hangups, especially spending unnecessary time on personal appearance. Besides, when you realise that the boys love you anyway, it shouldn't make any difference!

If you teen girls never start the habit of shaving, you probably won't grow thick, long leg hair or underarm hair, & most likely won't even need to shave at all!

18. Teen: Is it all right for girls to shave under their arms?

Answer: Again, there's no set policy on this. That is the way the Lord made you, so it is more natural not to shave under your arms. But if girls do a lot of FFing or if in the country they're residing in it really stands out as unusual, they might want to shave it.

Another factor is that having hair under your arms may affect your body odour more than you wish. So if deodorant doesn't help, you may need to shave under your arms. This is a decision that needs to be made according to the need of the individual. It's only once you've begun shaving that it needs keeping up with regularly, so don't shave unless you really need to for a good reason. (God put that hair there to prevent friction & provide ventilation.--D.)

19. Teen: Why do we get hair on our sex parts? And why do some people get sperm, periods or hair sooner than others who are older?

Answer: The Lord designed pubic hair as a sort of cushion or means of protection for when you're making love so no one gets hurt or rubbed raw. "I guess that's why the Lord put that nice little fuzzy shock-absorber down there & that nice little pad of flesh & bone right at the pubic area so it could withstand the impact of...a fuck!" (ML#1213:42) There's no apparent reason why the Lord allows some teens to reach puberty or mature & develop more quickly, just as some children or babies grow faster physically than others, but in the end basically everyone catches up. So if you're one of those who don't develop pubic hair as early as your friends or don't get your period as early as the other girls, the main thing is, don't worry about it! Probably within a few months you'll be all caught up, & for those of you who do get these physical changes early, there's also no reason to worry--or to boast & make others feel bad or ridiculed because they haven't yet! As Mama Maria wrote recently, "To call attention to these things really makes others feel bad. They feel inferior enough & have enough problems without people calling attention to them... 'Love covers with a veil of silence the mistakes & imperfections of others', & most of us have some little physical things we maybe don't like about ourselves & surely wouldn't want anyone to ridicule & embarrass us about." (This is from "Do Unto Others", a real good talk on the subject found in this book!)

20. Teen: Someone told me once that if you masturbate too often you could lose your semen. Is this true?

Answer: No, TTL, it's not! Nevertheless, Grandpa does teach moderation, not only in masturbation, but in all things. "I would further warn you that any form of immoderation, over-indulgence & excessiveness & over-doing can wear you down & wear you out, whether eating, drinking, reading, working or playing, including normal sexual intercourse or masturbation, either one. So don't over-do it!...Don't go to the extreme...by becoming so addicted to sex or masturbation that you sit around all day starry-eyed like a zombie, mooning & dreaming & drifting while continually masturbating &/or love-making, but never getting anything done, or lie awake all night enjoying too much pleasure & not getting enough sleep!

"The electrical energy of your nervous system is somewhat like a battery, & the shock of an orgasm is like a temporary sudden discharging of the battery of your car, & a short

drive & rest will be needed to soon charge it up again. However, if you sat there all day cranking it up, your battery would soon go completely flat, its energy become totally exhausted, so that you could never get anywhere, & it'll take a long time to get charged up again! Of course, if you just never use your car at all & just let it sit there without activity, your battery will eventually go flat anyway from disuse, & again it'll require recharging!" So again, it's all a matter of moderation. Don't go to either extreme of over-use or under-use." (ML258:58,63,64) (--Use it or lose it!--.)

21. Teen: Are tampons okay for girls to use when they have their period?

Answer: Tampons are cotton plugs you can buy to put inside the vagina to absorb the menstrual flow. There have been a number of articles in the WND about tampons that have caused some fatal diseases to the women that use them. Actually, they inhibit the natural process because they don't allow your period to flow out. Tampons stop you up, & therefore germs can grow & develop there.

Personally, I don't use them, & from what I understand, they don't at the Units or at the Folks'. I did, however, use them for years but always had trouble with a lot of sexual afflictions & infections like that, even though doctors told me that I should stop using tampons. Thank the Lord, since I stopped using them, I had amazingly less problems with discharges & infections & things of that nature. So I personally would never use them again. But again, there's no real set Family rule on their use. Girls may need to use them for a quick swim, just temporarily, for example, but they are not recommended to use overall.

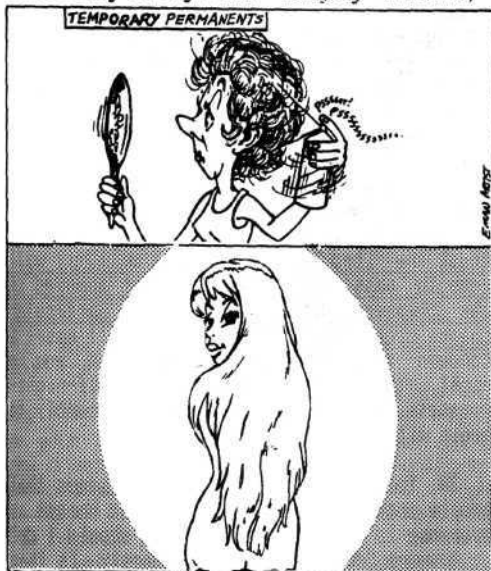
22. Teen: What's the policy on wearing blue jeans?

Answer: Wearing blue jeans is fine, especially for boys. David wears jeans at the Folks' house, & especially for Teen Camps or outdoor activities or cold weather they're quite practical, even for girls. However, blue jeans are usually not a very good sample for girls to wear out witnessing, but okay for boys, as long as they're not old & scruffy-looking, but nice & neat looking.

23. Teen: What about girls having their hair cut or styled, or getting permanents? What about using nail polish?

Answer: As Grandpa says, "Part of being revolutionary is just to be you!...But that

doesn't mean you don't have to wash your face & hair, & cut or clean your finger-nails & toe-nails once in awhile, but it does mean you don't have to paint them...or wear false eye-lashes, or curl your hair, etc. The Scripture says a woman's crowning glory is her hair, & I'd rather see you wear it long or in the form of a crown (worn up) than to see it all frizzed up in one of those temporary per-manents! Long straight hair hanging naturally



down a woman's back or falling gracefully over her shoulders is not only extremely beautiful but terribly exciting, even sexy, & provocative! (enticing!) (ML #250:9,10) (See "Make-up & Hair Care" article in this book!)

24. Teen: In the "Life with Grandpa" Volume 2, page 209, on the list of items on the shelf is pepper. I remember there was also a WND article about pepper being bad, so wanted to know if it's okay to use pepper or not.

Answer: There's no hard & fast rule about pepper either! But Grandpa does say black pepper usually passes right through the body, & therefore is not advantageous for your body as you don't digest it. (However, Dr. Koger said a moderate amount of such spices stimulate the body & sometimes are even good for a cold!--D.)

In large Homes, we usually try to cook quite bland (mild & unspicy), considering the pregnant & nursing mothers & young children, & those with the weakest stomachs, & therefore we don't use black pepper a lot. In Grandpa's case, he has a weaker stomach & pepper makes

him sneeze a lot, which is hard on his heart, so the cooks don't use any pepper on his food, & the Staff doesn't use pepper either. (But I do use seasoning salt which contains some pepper.--It peps up the taste of some too-bland foods!--D.)

But that doesn't mean there's a particular rule that says don't eat pepper. The thing is, some people use pepper & hot sauces in excess, to the point you almost get addicted to the taste & you can hardly eat things without it, & that's what's wrong. (--And it can ruin your stomach!--D.) It's the excess that's wrong. If you use it in moderation, fine, but if you can't, then maybe it's better not to use it at all.

25. Teen: If I hear a voice that tells me to do something good, I usually take it as from the Lord. But if it's something negative, does that mean that it's definitely the Enemy?

Answer: "Letter to a Labourer" is a good Letter to read on this subject. As Grandpa writes: "Remember that not all voices are of God, & you must try the spirits to make sure that what you're hearing is of the Lord. If it is not according to His Word, or causes you to be discontent or bitter, dissatisfied or unhappy or critical of others, these things are not the Lord & you must rebuke the Enemy in Jesus' name when he tempts you with these thoughts."--So in this sense, negative thoughts that make you discontent or bitter or dissatisfied or unhappy or critical of others are the voice of the Enemy. But there may be a fine line of when the Lord's voice is warning you about something or telling you something that you don't necessarily want to hear or don't want to do. This may make you feel discontent if you're not yielded to God's Will, but it is still the Lord! In situations like this where you're not sure, it's best to ask counsel of your Shepherds & leave yourself open to accept their advice.

26. Teen: How should we go about correcting our little brothers & sisters, because sometimes I don't know what to do when they're bad.

Answer: This is something that a lot of us are faced with. And since our younger brothers & sisters are copycats, our sample is going to be one of the best ways to influence them & correct them. You can show them the correct way to live, you can show them the right way by being considerate & understanding yourself, & that's probably going to have the most

effect.

It would be really helpful for you to take some time to read the "How To Love" book, particularly the article entitled, "How To Talk So Kids Will Listen--& Listen So Kids Will Talk!" Also, follow the examples in the "Life with Grandpa". For example, when one of the little kids spills some milk, instead of getting on their case with, "Oh, why did you do that, that was a stupid thing to do!", or, "Why were you so clumsy, why don't you watch out!", share how you've made similar mistakes & had similar problems. Try to encourage them that you & everybody makes mistakes, but how Jesus has helped you, & He & everyone still love you!

A real good quote that Grandpa shared in the Letter "Prayer for Love & Mercy" is: "Thank You, Lord, for all of Your patience & for showing us that the best healing takes time. It can't be done overnight, but we have to get at the root of the trouble, we have to correct the cause. The outward manifestations are just symptoms of an inner disease. We could try to rid them just by slicing them off, but we have to get at the root, which takes love & probing & gentle feeling, which takes hands of love, hands of mercy & hands of gentleness! The only way we can be patient with others is to know what a hopeless case we are ourselves! You've been so gentle with us--not rewarding us according to our iniquities." So the best thing to do is put yourself in your little brother's or your little sister's shoes & treat them the same way that you would want to be treated, with a lot of love & consideration, as you help lead them along the right path.

27. Teen: If I see things that aren't being done at Home like they were at the TTC or like in "Life with Grandpa", how can I present it without being self-righteous?

Answer: Well, there are nice ways to say things. You can sweetly say, "We did such-&-such at the TTC, & I was wondering if maybe that might apply here, if that would be good to do here, or maybe it doesn't apply?" That would be a lot nicer & probably be received better than saying, "We're not doing the right thing & we need to be doing this & this & this!" Sometimes it might be easier to just write a note & explain it. You can present an idea or improvement like this: "Thank you for all your hard work with the babies! GBY! I had a suggestion to make in case it may be of help: I read in 'Life With Grandpa' that they built a baby gate at the top of the stairs--

then I noticed we didn't have one, & little Mary is now learning to walk. If helpful, I'd like to help build a baby gate, perhaps with Uncle Joe! Would that be okay? TY! ILY!"

The main thing is to share it in a humble way, not like "you are wrong & we are right". And remember to leave yourself open. Just because something was done at the TTC might not mean it would be best for another Home situation. So if you do write a note or try to explain it, also bring out the point that "things are a little different in our situation here than it was there, but I just thought I would mention it for you to pray about."--Be sure to always "accentuate the positive", as Grandpa has taught us, & never present an idea or suggestion in a negative, condemning or critical way. Then once you've humbly & considerately presented an idea or improvement, it's very important that you trust the Lord that if it's His will, it will come to pass. Don't get upset or annoyed if the Shepherd doesn't make that particular change right away. If you do get all upset & condemn them that they're wrong & you're right, then that does become self-righteousness, even if you presented it humbly to begin with.

28. Teen: If I'm in a Home & it seems that people aren't opening up or being as honest as everyone is here at the TTC, what should I do?

Answer: One thing about honesty is that it's contagious, & if you start being honest it will spread! So if you find out that you're not as close to the adults or you're not as close to some of the other kids in the Home as you would like, start being honest yourself, share your own mistakes & lessons, be the first one to ask for prayer for things, & this will spread like magic throughout the house! You can also speak honestly about it with your Shepherd, as mentioned in the previous question & answer.

