

Teenage Pregnancies - The Teen Isn't The Only One to Blame

Decades ago, a teenage pregnancy would be cause for a forced marriage between the young man and woman. Girls who were of a certain age and became pregnant lived under a veil of shame and were thought to be promiscuous. These days, it seems almost the norm for a teenage girl to become pregnant. What has happened to our values? Is the young lady the only one to be blamed?

During the 70's and 80's, the number of single-parent households increased significantly, due to a rising divorce rate. It became somewhat glamorous to be the woman "bringing home the bacon". Society has changed, and the repercussions have had quite an impact on our teens. Children who are exposed to a lifestyle of divorce and mom being the head of the house are becoming immune to the fact that morals ever existed.

Too frequently, we still look at teenage girls who are pregnant as being sleazy. While this may be true of some, certainly the fault of this ever increasing problem is not totally the fault of our young girls. Society and family values have changed dramatically, and must be blamed for part of the problem. Teenage girls now envision being like their mother perhaps was, raising a family on her own.

Family values have changed so significantly over the last decades that it now seems normal for anyone, whether man, woman, teenage girl or boy, to live whatever lifestyle they choose. We, as a parent, all too often give our blessing on these loose lifestyles that our children live so as not to upset the apple cart, so to speak. We are afraid to reprimand our children, because we may lose their love if we don't give our approval. What a sad state of affairs!

Moral and family values have much to do with the problems in our society today. We cannot blame it all on the teens. After all, who was it that showed them that divorce is okay, being a single mother is fine, and living whatever lifestyle we choose is the "cool" thing to do? We, as parents, are largely responsible for the problems of our children today.

Child abuse, neglect, and teenage pregnancy are some of the biggest problems facing our world today. Let's bring back family values and the belief that a family should be a nucleus that includes a mother and a father. Our teenagers should feel that they can still be young and carefree, not parents before they reach adulthood!