**Option E: Non-marital sex**

*Should I or Shouldn’t I*

**Answer:** If my 15 year old daughter came was interested in my views of non-marital sex, I would be completely honest with her.  First I would let her know what exactly non-marital sex is, “non-marital sex encompasses sexual activities, especially sexual intercourse. That take place outside of marriage.” ( Strong & Coheen, 2014, pg.210)  I would also heavily emphasize how important being a virgin is.  Being a virgin is something special, and something you should guard with your heart.  You should want to be a virgin when getting married.  When you think of being a virgin, you think of yourself being pure and whole.  Sex should between man and wife, your true love. Myself, having a daughter I will probably have this conversation with her but I still have awhile.  I would let her know my personal views which would be wait until marriage.  Of course she will ask if I did, and obviously I didn’t but if I could go back and re-do it, I would.  Being a virgin is so important, not only are you practicing abstinence, but you’re saving yourself for your future spouse that God has designed specifically for you.  Also while not practicing non-marital sex you’re protecting yourself from pregnancy and std’s.  It will also prevent future heartbreak and you’re not forming sexual attachments with your partner who could potentially not want anything more than sex. I would also ask her about her future.  I imagine she palns on going to college and starting a career, and while you can do all that still if you engage in non-marital sex but let’s just say if you happen to become pregnant, life just gets even harder.  My ultimate response would be to wait.  If she did decide to participate in non-marital sex, I would let her know I do not agree with her decision but I still love her, and she can always come to me, and to definitely practice safe sex.  I would rather her be open and honest with me then to do the stuff behind my back.   If I had a son, my answer to him would be the same thing.

*Do I marry the baby’s father?*

**Answer:** I would let the female know that if she is only marrying the father because they’re having a baby together then to not get married.  You don’t marry someone because you have a baby together, you marry someone because you love them, and you want to spend the rest of your life with them.  If they are in love, I would also suggest maybe wait a few years, if they are worried about having a baby out of wed lock and want to rush to get married then they shouldn’t, the baby is already here.  18 is pretty young to be married, and they both still have their lives ahead of them where they can grow.  You don’t want to be in a marriage for the wrong reasons.  You also don’t want to be in an unhappy marriage either, that will make things worse and could potentially end in divorce.  If she were 25 I would still give the same advice expect the part about being 18 and young.  By 25 you have a sense of direction and know where your life is going, you’re at a more stable stage in life where you can handle all the things that marriage can bring.  You’re both more mature.  The same advice would be to the male as well.

Reference List:

Strong, B, & Cohen, T.F. (2014). *The marriage and family experience: Intimate relationships in a changing society*(12th ed.) Belmont, CA: Wadsworth.