

3 ESSENTIAL ASSETS

In order to make good sexual decisions in today's culture, young people need three key assets:

1. **Ethical wisdom:** An understanding of . . .
 - Right and wrong, including strong beliefs about the reasons to save sexual intimacy for a truly committed love relationship.
 - What good character is, why it matters, how to identify good and bad character in others, and how to become a person of character oneself.
 - What real love is and how to find it.
2. **Strengths of character**—such as good judgment, self-control, modesty, genuine respect for self and others, and the courage to resist sexual pressures and temptations—needed to put ethical wisdom into practice.
3. **Support systems**—such as friends, family, faith communities, and school—that encourage and expect young people to do the right thing in all areas of their lives, including sexuality.

—Tom Lickona, "Educating for Character in the Sexual Domain."
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