

Sexual Integrity Love and Marriage

Story:

"Okay class, I have something I want to tell you before you leave school for the day." Grace listened intently as her teacher, Ms. Smith, talked.

"I will be gone next week. I am getting married to my fiancé, and you will have a substitute while I am gone." Grace could see her teacher was excited. She also saw another student raise his hand.

Ms. Smith noticed the boy too. "Yes?" she asked.

"Why are you getting married?" Grace heard everyone in the room laugh, including Ms. Smith. Grace could see Ms. Smith's eyes twinkle as she thought about her answer.

"Well, I love the man I am going to marry," Ms. Smith said.

Grace liked that answer, and she was going to ask her own question when the school bell rang. It was time to go home. Grace forgot all about her question as she collected her things and got ready to walk home.

Grace left school, walked into her neighborhood, and walked to her front door. Grace went to her room, put down her backpack, and rested for a moment. Suddenly she remembered her question. This, Grace felt sure, was a question she should ask her mom. Grace looked around the house for her mom. Grace found her doing the laundry.

"Mom," Grace said.

"Yes?" her mom asked.

"Today at school Mrs. Smith said she would be getting married next week. Then someone asked her why, and she said it was because she loved the man she would marry. Why get married? Can't you love someone without getting married?"

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Mom thought for a moment. “Grace, when someone truly loves another person, they want to be totally honest with that person in every way and that includes having sexual integrity. Marriage is how we show our true love and commitment to our partner. I think sometimes in the world there are messages that try to say it doesn’t matter when you have sex as long as you are in love, but that isn’t true. Ms. Smith and her fiancé know that only marriage can bring the joy of having a life partner and physical intimacy. They are each thinking of the needs of each other first, and that is a beautiful thing.” Mom paused then continued, “It’s just like why I got married to your dad. I loved him and wanted to show that love by being committed to him, and our future family.”

Grace smiled. She really did love how her mom and dad put their family first. Grace remembered all the times Dad had been sick and Mom took care of him, and how many times Mom had been exhausted caring for her and her siblings, and Dad showed up to let her rest. Grace realized the word “love” when applied to marriage, means to truly care about and do what is best to help the other person.

Stop and Discuss:

Why do you think Ms. Smith and her fiancé want to get married?
What difference will being married make in their lives and the lives of their future children?