

A Concerned Mother's Letter to Teenage Girls

September 10, 2013 Entertainment

After seeing pictures of her sons' friends online and being shocked by how provocative they were, one mother wrote a wise letter to all teenage girls online. Read her original post below:

Dear girls,

I have some information that might interest you. Last night, as we sometimes do, our family sat around the dining-room table and looked through the summer's social media photos.

We have teenage sons, and so naturally there are quite a few pictures of you lovely ladies to wade through. Wow – you sure took a bunch of selfies in your skimpy pj's this summer! Your bedrooms are so cute! Our eight-year-old daughter brought this to our attention, because with three older brothers who have rooms that smell like stinky cheese, she notices girly details like that.

I think the boys notice other things. For one, it appears that you are not wearing a bra. I get it – you're in your room, so you're heading to bed, right? But then I can't help but notice the red carpet pose, the extra-arched back, and the sultry pout. What's up? None of these positions is one I naturally assume before sleep, this I know.

So, here's the bit that I think is important for you to realize. If you are friends with a Hall boy on Facebook or Instagram or Twitter, then you are friends with the whole Hall family. Please know that we genuinely like staying connected with you this way! We enjoy seeing things through your unique and colorful lens – you are insightful, and often very, very funny.

Which is what makes your latest self-portrait so extremely unfortunate.

That post doesn't reflect who you are at all! We think you are lovely and interesting, and usually very smart. But we had to cringe and wonder what you were trying to do. Who are you trying to reach? What are you trying to say?

And now – big bummer – we have to block your posts. Because, the reason we have these (sometimes awkward) family conversations around the table is that we care about our sons, just as we know your parents care about you.

I know your family would not be thrilled at the thought of my teenage boys seeing you only in your towel. Did you know that once a male sees you in a state of undress, he can't quickly un-see it? You don't want our boys to think of you only in this sexual way, do you?

Neither do we. We're all more than that.

And so, in our house, there are no second chances with pics like that, ladies. We have a zero tolerance policy. I know, so lame. But, if you want to stay friendly with our sons online, you'll have to keep your clothes on, and your posts decent. If you post a sexy selfie (we all know the kind), or an inappropriate YouTube video – even once – it's curtains.

I know that sounds so old-school, but we are hoping to raise men with a strong moral compass, and men of integrity don't linger over pictures of scantily clad high-school girls.

Every day I pray for the women my boys will love. I hope they will be drawn to real beauties, the kind of women who will leave them better people in the end. I also pray that my sons will be worthy of this kind of woman, that they will be patient – and act honorably – while they wait for her.

Girls, it's not too late! If you think you've made an on-line mistake (we all do – don't fret – I've made some doozies, even today!), RUN to your accounts and take down the closed-door bedroom selfies that makes it too easy for friends to see you in only one dimension.

Will you trust me? There are boys out there waiting and hoping for women of character. Some young men are fighting the daily uphill battle to keep their minds pure, and their thoughts praiseworthy – just like you.

You are growing into a real beauty, inside and out.

Act like her, speak like her, post like her.

Mrs. Hall

Mrs. Hall's letter could be sent to some ladies who come to church in clothing that creates similar challenges for our boys and men. The short skirts (even when legs are tightly wrapped in leggings or leotards), sheer, see-through blouses and revealing necklines are distracting, if not distasteful. The same goes for the men who come to church wearing tight-fitting pants drawing undue attention to themselves. Modest apparel does not draw undue attention to self.

Here's the bottom line. If you don't want people looking at certain parts of your body, reducing you to a commodity, then don't wear clothing that draws attention to those parts. If you want people with whom you are worshiping to focus attention on Christ, don't wear clothing that distracts that attention and detracts from holiness in worship.