

YWJ

Youth Culture Lesson 1

Not So Good To Be the Queen

What Happened:

Carrie Prejean was one of 51 contestants competing in the 2009 Miss USA Pageant April 19. Though she actually finished second, the California girl earned lots of attention when she declared her support for traditional marriage during the contest.

Prejean became a hero to many traditionalists who liked what she said. She showed up in a political ad, was a guest on Focus on the Family's radio broadcast and presented an award at the Gospel Music Association's Dove Awards in Nashville.

Shortly thereafter, revealing photos of the beauty queen surfaced online. Though Donald Trump, owner of the Miss USA contest, decided Prejean could keep her crown, many of Prejean's supporters felt betrayed.

Prejean isn't the only celebrity who's gotten in trouble over risqué photos. Nude shots of musical artists Cassie and Rihanna found their way online this May. *High School Musical's* Vanessa Hudgens and Cheetah Girls' Adrienne Bailon had to apologize for their own leaked pictures.

It all comes at a time when more youth are taking suggestive photos of themselves and sending them to their boyfriends or girlfriends. The phenomenon, dubbed "sexting" by experts, has gotten hundreds of teens in hot water. Some even have been charged with child pornography.

"The commonsense response is that anyone who thinks popular culture is not helping to shape the social script for teens just isn't paying attention," Bill Albert of the national Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy told MTV News. "It's not the only thing, of course, but what's happening in celebrity culture and what's happening among their peers has a great influence on teens."

Talk About It:

Prejean is a model, and she says her job sometimes involves posing in underwear (and occasionally less). Do you think she made a mistake posing for those photos? Do you think she should've apologized?

Why do you think we're hearing more about these risqué celebrity photos? Is it because of the Internet? Is our culture more permissive of things like this? Does it have something to do with the celebrities themselves?

Why do you think teens take revealing photos of themselves and send them to others? Do their boyfriends or girlfriends pressure them? Do they think it'll be fun?

What the Bible Says:

“If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must master it” (Gen. 4:7).

“I also want women to dress modestly, with decency and propriety...with good deeds, appropriate for women who profess to worship God” (1 Tim. 2:9-10).

“Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised” (Prov. 31:30).

“No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it” (1 Cor. 10:13).