



## **SAVE OUR DAUGHTERS**

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***“Now, Dinah the daughter of Leah whom she had borne to Jacob went out to see the daughters of the land. And when Shechem the son of Hamor the Hivite, prince of the country, saw her, he took her and lay with her, and violated her.” – Genesis 34: 1-2***

This is the first record of rape in scripture. Rape is defined as sexual violation of a person or sexual intercourse without consent. It is the sexual violation or exploitation of women or girls by force or threats. Occasionally, this is reversed and men or boys are raped.

Human psychologists classify rape as statutory, acquaintance, date and strangers rapes. Statutory rape is sexual violation of a child below the age of consent. Acquaintance rape is sexual exploitation or assault by a known person. Date rape occurs when someone is forced to have sex by his or her date. Strangers’ rape is sexual violation by an unknown or unfamiliar person.

Whatever form it takes rape is generally a type of sexual abuse; it is a crime, which should be stopped. Effects of rape on the victim are numerous which include depression, social-stigmatization, loss of trust in the opposite sex, unwanted pregnancies, sexual dysfunction, and infection with sexually transmitted diseases like gonorrhoea, syphilis and HIV/AIDS.

If we know these are the negative effects of rape I wonder why not much is done to curb or prevent it's occurrence in the society. Since most of the targets and victims of rape are women I believe the women folk should take curbing this crime more seriously. If this crime of wicked sexual violation of women and girls must be reduced or stopped altogether then mothers and elderly women in every society must do more than they are presently doing.

Rape no doubts is demonic yet, it is mostly avoidable. It is a known and well established fact that men are moved by what they see. We will do ourselves a lot of good as women if we dress to cover the erotic parts of our bodies properly and also teach our daughters to do same. It is morally wrong for a Christian girl or woman to wear skimpy and transparent clothes. It is one of the fastest ways to provoke immoral thoughts and lust in the hearts of boys attaining puberty and men. Wearing clothes that expose private body parts may be in vogue but being fashionable cannot match the trauma and repercussions of rape. Let us be sober, serious-minded and take logical decisions for our own good and our daughters' and their future.

The much hue and cry about fundamental human rights around the world doesn't seem to help matters either because it tends to give excessive freedom to people beyond the limits of God's word. Absolute freedom is dangerous! For the Christian woman or girl, our standard should not be what the society permits or considers right, rather it should be what God approves as clearly stated in His word. Paul said:

***“All things are lawful for me, but all things are not helpful. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any.” – 1Corinthians 6: 12***

***“All things are lawful for me, but all things are not helpful; all things are lawful for me, but all things do not edify.” – 1Corinthians 10: 23***

The society should not dictate our pace or direction as believers. We are the true pace-setters and role models in all spheres of life. We are the light of the world to illuminate the darkness of our society and salt to sanitize it and provide the world a sense of direction.

Rape and every form of sexual abuse increase violence in the society. It should never be heard that we Christian women surrender our bodies as

instruments of violence and unrighteousness in the hands of the devil Paul again said:

***“Therefore let us pursue the things which make for peace and the things by which one may edify another.” – Romans 14: 19***

Don't wear clothes just because they're fashionable and please you rather consider their effects on those who look at you. Consider also the devastating effects of rape and its likely ripple effects on you, fellow-brethren and the larger community.

***“For even Christ did not please Himself.” – Romans 15: 3***

God gave a good example of body covering in Genesis 3 when He clothed Adam and Eve with animal skin to replace the leaves they used initially. Adam and Eve's initial leafy covering shows man's natural inclination and preference for nudity and skimpy clothes but God frowns at it both then and now. God would not have provided a replacement if He was satisfied with their fashion of leaves. Let us resist every fashion of nakedness that reminds us of our fallen nature and takes us back to walk around half-nude in leafy coverings exposing our erotic parts.

Indecent dressing is also responsible for the high rate of fornication now common among Christian youths especially those in courtship. Many married Christian men commit adultery for this reason too. Christian women must arise to teach their daughters the right and proper way to dress. The sad part of the story is that certain Christian women in business travel abroad and bring in provocative dresses as wares to sell in the country. I once challenged one of them who argued she brings such dresses in for 'campus girls' forgetting that her daughter also could be a victim. This is appalling! Christian fashion designers and boutique owners should sensor what they sew or sell so as not to serve as Satan's agents or be partakers in other people's sins.

Recent reports reveal that rape or sexual assault tops the list of crime committed in Lagos State, Nigeria in the first half of this year. Out of 869 reported cases of crime committed in the state during the period, 423 (i.e. 49per cent) were connected with rape or sexual assault alone. All the other reported crimes of armed robbery, murder, car snatching pipeline vandalism, human trafficking, unlawful possession of human parts and abduction put

together constitute the remaining 51 per cent. This huge number, not withstanding experts say only one per cent in every 50 rape cases are reported by victims for fear of stigmatization. Some of these cases of rape were recorded in some academic institutions in the state (Source: '*Rape tops crime chart in Lagos*,' Page 10, Punch Newspaper, July 12 2005).

Just imagine! Your daughter could have fallen victim without ever reporting to you her parent. Must we allow this trend to continue? I was shocked when I read the article. Many of us women do not even know that sex crime rate is this high in our country! We often focus on armed robbery and financial crimes. Perhaps now you know better and would do something. Don't wait till you're hit. Apart from teaching your daughters the scriptures, watch what they wear. Slowly, but steadily I believe we would achieve tremendous change and breakthrough.

Apart from dressing many young ladies have not learnt proper sitting postures. Again, mothers are to blame as this is not a man's duty or responsibility. We must watch our daughters' company too. I believe Dinah must have befriended the daughters of Shechem in the land of Canaan and dressed provocatively like them for Shechem to rape her.

***“Do not be deceived: Evil company corrupts good habits.” –  
1Corinthians 15: 33***

Other tips to avoid sexual assaults are: Avoid deserted places and routes at night. Move only in the company of trusted Christian friends. Don't accept free rides from unknown people. Young women in courtship should avoid idle, lonely visits.

Please question your daughter thoroughly if she comes home later than expected from school, errands or even church programmes. Don't hesitate to personally visit her school, friends, pastor etc to verify her claim if her lateness is becoming a frequent trend and possibly use the rod of correction if need be. Discuss with your daughters and engage them meaningfully too. Control aimless wanderings. The idle hand has always been the devil's workshop.

Finally I would suggest you try your best to befriend your daughter. That is the best way to get her to make you her confidant. Nobody tells secrets to someone they don't consider close enough.