Bob: This is a tough time for parents to be raising sons and daughters. Lisa Ryan says we live in a culture where young girls are being actively encouraged to explore and experiment with their sexuality.

Lisa: Now, this world would take it a step further and some magazine article would say, "If you have this honest feeling towards your friend, perhaps you need to experiment with that; perhaps you need to take it a step further and experiment your feelings with her. Maybe this is a part of your life; maybe it's latent in there, and you need to experiment with that."

Bob: This is FamilyLife Today for Thursday, November 4th. Our host is the president of FamilyLife, Dennis Rainey, and I'm Bob Lepine. What can we do as parents to help raise daughters who have a healthy sense of their sexual identity? Stay with us.

And welcome to FamilyLife Today, thanks for joining us on the Thursday edition. I don't know how many of our listeners are recruited yet for this counter-cultural movement we've been talking about this week …

Dennis: … Gen E?

Bob: See, I keep thinking that Craig should follow that – Gen E. Craig? That's not what you're talking about, is it?

Lisa: It's not about a diet.

Bob: Okay, I'm just making sure.

Dennis: Well, we do have the author of "Generation Esther," and "For Such a Time As This." Two books written to young ladies approximately 13 to 18 years of age, challenging them to get on the right path, stay on the path, and become young ladies of destiny, counter-
cultural revolutionaries who are a part of Generation E. And Lisa Ryan joins us on FamilyLife Today to …

Bob: … the commandant.
Dennis: I thought you were going to call her the commando.
Bob: No, I like commandant better – the commandant of Gen E.
Dennis: Commando Lisa. I think that fits Lisa. We’ve challenged her to appear on the “700 Club” …
Bob: … in camo …
Dennis: … in camo with Pat, and we’re going to see if she does it.
Bob: We’re going to see, yeah, we’re going to hold our breath.
Lisa: Raising up an army of young women.
Dennis: There you go, and you know what? We are also joined by Rebecca Rainey, who is dressed in white.
Rebecca: Appropriately so.
Lisa: You know what, guys, it’s a much more feminine army than what you are thinking of altogether. I think pink is involved somewhere.
Rebecca: I think pink is there.
Bob: We need a different metaphor than this military metaphor?
Lisa: You’re such guys.
Bob: Lisa, Lisa …
Lisa: … aren’t they, Rebecca?
Rebecca: They are, they are.
Dennis: You win, Lisa. You win. It can be pink camo.
Lisa: Or purple.
Dennis: Well, we’re glad that both of you join us here on FamilyLife Today, and we want to talk about a subject that if you’ve got a younger
daughter or a younger son, maybe – I don't know, you might want to think about whether this material is appropriate or not, because we want to talk about what's happening in the homosexual movement, specifically as we raise young ladies in this culture. And, Lisa, you believe the subject of – well, of gay women is a relevant subject to talk about with our young daughters today.

Lisa: Absolutely, it's definitely a message that is being brought to our daughters in a more aggressive way, I believe, than the homosexual message to young men ever was. It's more latent, it's more overt, it's more out there with shows like "The L Word", making it very fashionable, very chi-chi, to experiment with a lesbian relationship.

Dennis: Let me stop you for a second – first of all, some of our listeners don't know what the show is called "The L Word."

Lisa: "L" means lesbian, but they also use it in the word of love, and it's a show about the relationships of a handful of women, and lesbianism is a part of their relationship.

Bob: This is on one of the pay cable channels, right?

Lisa: Yes, it is. But you even are seeing it much more overtly in magazine ads with two girls in clothes half on, half off. You know, very close to each other, almost in an intimate embrace, perhaps even a kiss. There are articles in some of the girls' magazines, you know, the teen magazines, the "Cosmo Girl" magazine, about this kind of relationship.

Dennis: Normalizing.

Lisa: Making it very normal, making it very fashionable, making it very enticing, and curious at a time when young people are curious themselves about, you know, who am I and what are these feelings I'm feeling and how do they express themselves and what are the boundaries, and there's no more – it's not clearly defined anymore unless it's coming out of the home. Because our culture – there is gray area everywhere.

Dennis: Well said.

Bob: I was talking to a friend of mine earlier today, and I said, you know, when I went through junior high and high school, I never stopped and asked myself the question – is it possible that I'm gay? I never asked that question. It never even entered my mind that that might
be a possibility. Today I think that's almost one of the questions that every teenager is at least having to pull back and ponder, simply because the culture is saying you might be. And so a 14-year-old is going, "Well, maybe I am. How do I know if I am?" A 14-year-old girl who may not be getting a lot of male attention as a 14-year-old girl, maybe she just hasn't caught the eye of the guys in her class yet. Well, she's wondering, where is relationship for me, and the culture is saying maybe you're a lesbian.

Lisa: Well, and then, you know, some girls who are honestly good friends, great pals, you know, love on each other, hug on each other, they're being accused of being lesbians.

Bob: Rebecca, that was the case for you in high school?

Rebecca: Yes, it was.

Bob: What happened?

Rebecca: Well, it was my best friend Christy and I, and we are affectionate with each other, we hug on each other.

Dennis: You're just buddies.

Rebecca: We're just buddies. It's not a big deal, it's – I love Christy, she loves me, we have a great, close friendship, and we hug on each other, and I might kiss her cheek once every blue moon. And I had specific guy friends, Christian guy friends in my high school that had a term. It was called "LA" and for a while we didn't know what it was, but finally we tackled them and said, "What does that mean?" And they said, "It means lesbian action." And they said it every time they saw us hug one another or kissing each other's cheek to say goodbye or something or sitting close together or whatever.

Dennis: Would they taunt you at that point?

Rebecca: Yes, yes, and, for some reason this is a big deal for guys. There is some attraction.

Lisa: There is some kind of a strange attraction to that, and it's very much being taken advantage of in our culture right now, and that's why you're seeing it happen on the campuses. But what that does to an honest relationship, because Rebecca over here is getting emotional just sharing this with us, because she knows that her friend – they have an authentic friendship, and they have cared
about each other for a long time. Now, this world would take it a step further, and some magazine article would say, "If you have this honest feeling towards your friend, perhaps you need to experiment with that, perhaps you need to take it a step further and experiment your feelings with her," and that's what happens on this show, "The L Word," where someone is encouraged to, you know, maybe you need to take it a step further, maybe you need to examine that, maybe this is a part of your life, maybe it's latent in there, and you need to experiment with that.

Bob: Well, our culture sexualizes everything, and so it's not unusual that a friendship would be sexualized and say if it's really a friendship, that's how friendships go — you turn it to sex. And a part of the counter-culture that you're calling young women to is the kind of godly, wholesome friendships that don't have a sexual connection or context to them that honors God and where you're together.

Dennis: You know, I just think of what young people are being robbed of here as we're talking. First of all, innocence — to even have a discussion and have to talk about this with your child. But, secondly, just back to the longing of the soul to have an authentic relationship, as you said, as Rebecca experienced with Christy — just to allow her to have an authentic relationship where, because they love each other, they could hug, and they could kiss each other on the cheek and not think anything about that. But now, in the culture …

Lisa: … but then to have someone take that sweet, honest, innocent thing and so twist it — that tears, then, at the authenticity of the relationship. And I believe that's where the enemy then wants to come in, then tear at the bond that these two young women have and to force them to say, "Well, maybe we can't be close friends. Maybe we can't have" — see, now, that kind of honest relationship is what God desires for us to have – someone to hold us accountable, someone to encourage us through the Word of God, someone to challenge us when we need it. I have a friend like that. Kim has had words of encouragement for me throughout my life that she didn't even know were right from the mouth of God, and she would call me up short in such a sweet way and never even knew it; that she was challenging an area of my life that needed to be challenged and did it in such a sweet way. But for someone to accuse our relationship of going – of becoming lesbian would devastate both us, as I believe it has with Rebecca and Christy. For someone to take it to that level tears at the beauty and the authenticity of a relationship God ordained.
Dennis: Yes. The other day I was in church, and this is just a good illustration of what you're talking about. I was in church, and at the end of the service we participated in the Lord's Supper, the Sacraments, and they were going through row by row – we go to a very large church, and so rows were dismissed and people were walking by, and they were getting in line to partake of the Lord's Supper up front, and there was a man who walked by me, and I kind of said hi to him as he walked by, and it was an emotional moment there, being reminded of what we're forgiven of and instantly I thought of that man's life, and he's a recovering alcoholic, and I had been in the trenches with him doing battle for his marriage, and I love him. Now, he's not even a real close friend, but I've got a great relationship with this guy.

On his way back, he is coming back after having taken the Lord's Supper up front. He walks by, and I reach out to shake his hand, he grabs my hand, and he bends down and kisses me on the cheek. It was powerful. It was a touching moment. He didn't say a word, I didn't say a word, but he was saying to me, "Thank you for loving me." Now, does the devil of hell want to destroy – does he want to destroy that in two men's lives, two women's lives, or between a man and a woman? Absolutely. He wants to create a sense of abnormality so that can't happen.

I want to be careful to make a statement here that I wish I'd said earlier in the broadcast. I want you to know I love those who practice homosexuality. I'm not through attempting to reach out to that community as a man, and I don't know all the ways I'm going to be able to do that, but I've been praying about it and thinking about how can I express the love of Christ to that community while, at the same time, stand firm on behalf of what's the truth? And you know what? We have to be able to stand for the truth in a love way and even risk being called bigots or being said that we're not loving for the sake of the attempt to love these people, because you know what?

Here is what's going to happen, Lisa – there are going to be literally tens of thousands if not hundreds of thousands and millions of teenage girls and boys who now, in the next 10, 15, 20 years, don't just experiment with the opposite sex, they are going to experiment with the same sex. In some cases, some of the girls are experimenting with the same sex because it's safer.

Lisa: Yes. I have a friend that I have been friends with since our 20s, since our pageant days. I sensed then that she might be lesbian. Twenty years later we reconnect as friends. She saw me on
television; called me; we started talking; I sensed some emotional things in her life, and she confessed to me, she said, "Lisa, you know I'm a lesbian." I said, "I've always known it." "And you still loved me?" "Of course, I did, you're my friend. Now, if you want to talk about it, you know I'm a Christian, you know my values." "But you never hit me over the head with that, Lisa." "No, I didn't. You're my friend, and I love you. I didn't want to talk about why I believe this is not God's will in your life. We can talk about that, and it's not going to change the fact that you're my friend and I love you. Period."

And so there is so much confusion out there in our world right now – the issue of sin in someone's life. We're going to love the person, but we're going to point out and say, "This does not line up with the Word of God and therefore I don't believe it's the best thing for your life."

Dennis: I was thinking, even as you were speaking, about what Paul wrote over in 1 Corinthians, chapter 6. Most of us, when we think about that passage of Scripture, immediately think about, "Yeah, the homosexuals will not inherit the Kingdom of God." Well, you know what? Yes, they are on the list but guess who else is on that list? Fornicators, idolators, adulterers, thieves, covetous, drunkards, revilers, extortionists – these will not inherit the Kingdom of God, and Paul went on to say, "And such were some of you." And undoubtedly, as we've talked about this subject today, some need the last half of verse 11. Paul goes on after he said, "And such were some of you," he said this – "But you were washed." Isn't that a beautiful picture? "You were washed" – but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of our Lord Jesus and by the spirit of our God. And what we, as parents, have to be is we have to understand our God; how He is a God of grace; how He is a God of forgiveness, and He doesn't wait for us to come halfway. He meets us where we are, and He washes us, He justifies us, He sanctifies us, and He does it by the same Holy Spirit that has the power to raise Jesus Christ from the dead. Now, that's power.

Bob: You know, I don't know if you saw this, Dennis, but we got a letter recently from a listener who listens in Canada. She wrote and said, "I love your program, I love what you stand for, I love how you risk sounding old-fashioned in order to maintain high standards of holiness and integrity."

Dennis: Ancient.
Bob: She said, "I'm 26, I'm not married. It's funny," she said, "but I just like to hear two older men talking about godly relationships – two dads – you'd think there would be a generation gap, but there's not with me." She said, "Let me tell you a little bit of my story. When I was little, I was very athletic. I didn't really understand the difference between boys and girls. I wanted to be a boy. I just thought if I worked hard, I would eventually be so cool and good at it, that I could one day be a boy. I remember realizing one day that that wasn't going to happen, and I got mad. Girls stayed girls, and boys made fun of them, and I was stuck. I didn't fit with the girls. I could play with the boys but, in the end, I wasn't one of them."

She goes on to say, "I got into basketball, earned a scholarship to go to the university." She said, "By this time, I had totally rejected femininity. I guess they called us tomboys. I hated my body, I always felt fat when I never was, I was terrified and hated it when men looked at me, I had no close friends. Everyone thought I was amazing. At the university I hooked up with a good Christian athletes group on campus. I learned a little from a friend about taking risks, but I fell in love with him, and although he said he loved me and we were soul mates, he had no feelings for me, so I felt rejected by him.

I started a lot of friendships and found out that the friends I was making were either lesbians or were Christians who were struggling with their sexuality and on the verge of lesbians. I started to wonder why I was always attracted to these people. I knew homosexuality was wrong, and I thought what these people did was just kind of gross. I wanted to have a family, I wanted marriage, I just happened to have a lot of weird friendships and developed this sympathy for gay and lesbian people, became very defensive about them in conversation, but I had no idea what was at work within me."

Well, and you know where this is going – she goes on to write, "I needed love so bad that I didn't know what to do when I got it. A young Christian leader I really admired took a risk and decided to be my friend and to work with me. Unfortunately, so did the enemy. Slowly, somehow, through months of ignoring my conscience and allowing secrecy and deception to work in us, we fell into a friendship, I fell in love with her, we got involved physically. We said we had a David and Jonathan type of intimate relationship. It was all-consuming. We told each other everything. We tried to make it a spiritual thing. We prayed and talked constantly, we were together nonstop. It filled something in me. I only wanted to get closer to her in every way I could. One night I woke up after we'd
been together all night. She had been kissing me a lot, and I said
to her, 'I don't feel innocent anymore.' Something was wrong."

And, Lisa, she goes on to explain how God ultimately brought her
out of that relationship, but she was able to pinpoint back to some
of the deficit that she had experienced in her own life in a
relationship with her dad, and I'm thinking there are some girls
growing up like her today. They feel drawn to their girlfriends, and
they're wondering, "What do I do with that" and "How can I be part
of God's plan for Generation Esther if this is what I'm feeling?"

Lisa: You know, I think you have touched on something there that is so
critical – the relationship of a daughter to the father has so much to
do with the development of a girl's understanding – healthy
understanding – of her own sexuality. That relationship with a
father is so critical. I'm sure, Dennis, you could even speak to it
more eloquently than I can – but that relationship with a father is so
vital for a young lady to develop her sense of a healthy sexuality
and what she is ultimately going to look for in a husband.

If I could get ahold of a room full of dads, if I could talk to all the
dads and just say, "You have no idea how important your
relationship with your daughter is, and they may be thinking, "Well,
now is the time that she needs to be with her mom." Yes, she
needs the role model of her mother, too, because her mother is a
reflection of herself. She will find herself and see herself in the
reflection of her mother, but her relationship with her father will set
the tone for her self-confidence, for how she views men, the kind of
man that she will look for to marry. It is such a vital relationship,
and so many dads don't know that.

Bob: You know, ultimately, as we think about raising our daughters in
this culture, we come back to this idea of a sense of destiny that
needs to be awakened in the heart of a girl. I think it's there, and it
just needs to be awakened, and a mom can step in and help make
that happen – a youth group leader, a teacher, that friends, older
girls can do it, like, Rebecca, you're going to be doing with younger
girls when you get into high school.

Dennis: Yeah, and, Bob, I just want to say a word to the parents who don't
have a teenager yet. If your daughter is between the ages of 10
and 12, get "Passport to Purity," plan a Friday night, all day
Saturday getaway for just the two of you, because, I promise you,
the content of what we talk about on there will help your daughter
or, for that matter, your son – to be able to have a sense of identity,
sexual identity, an identity as a human being in terms of what is
right and wrong and boundaries and how to relate to the opposite sex. It's not going to solve the problem once and for all but you know what? It will give your young person some convictions that you can build upon as they move through the teenage years.

Bob: Well, and it's just been redone, as well. It's now available on CD and, of course, it's available in our FamilyLife Resource Center. You stop and think about it, we've got a lot there for parents – parents whose kids are in the elementary years. They can get the "Secret Keeper Girl" resource, the "Passport to Purity" resource, the book that Rebecca helped write, "So You're About to be a Teenager," and as the girls get older, you can get the books that Lisa has written – "Generation Esther" and "For Such a Time as This," along with the study guide.

Go to our website at FamilyLife.com, where we've got these resources listed. You can click on the button in the center of the page that says, "Featured Resources," and we'll take you to a page that will give you information about all of these resources. You can order right there online, if you'd like, or if you need help ordering, give us a call at 1-800-FLTODAY and someone on our team will take the call and get you all set up with whatever we can send to you to try to help as you raise your daughters to become a part of Generation Esther.

Again, the toll-free number is 1-800-FLTODAY. That's 1-800-358-6329, or go online at FamilyLife.com for more information about all of these resources.

I got a note recently from a listener who sent a donation to FamilyLife Today. She lives in Massachusetts, and she said, "I want to contribute to the ministry of FamilyLife for the sake of our country and for our society." And, you know, at FamilyLife, as we seek to help effectively develop godly families, we believe that it is those godly families who can and will change the culture one home at a time. As we build into your life, into the life of your family, your marriage, strengthen those relationships. We believe that's how the culture will ultimately be turned in a God-ward direction.

So thanks to this listener and to all of you who help support the ministry of FamilyLife Today. We believe that together we can have an impact in this culture for the cause of Christ, and we'd like to have you join with us. You can make a donation online at FamilyLife.com, or you can call 1-800-FLTODAY to make a donation over the phone. Again, the toll-free number is 1-800-
FLTODAY or you can donate by going to our website at FamilyLife.com, and we appreciate hearing from you.

Well, tomorrow we are going to continue to look at how we can raise daughters who will follow hard after Jesus Christ, and I hope you can be back with us for that.

I want to thank our engineer today, Keith Lynch, and our entire broadcast production team. On behalf of our host, Dennis Rainey, I'm Bob Lepine. We'll see you next time for another edition of FamilyLife Today.

FamilyLife Today is a production of FamilyLife of Little Rock, Arkansas, a ministry of Campus Crusade for Christ.

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