



By Carole B. Ricks

Carole's Corner...

Reliable Formula For Parenthood

Dear Carole:

My wife and I have been married several years. We have a home and good jobs. Now we're thinking that we have a lot to give to a child. We want to be good parents. But what we want to know is, how can we tell if we're ready to become parents?

Ricky

Dear Ricky:

There is no reliable formula for measuring when a person is ready for parenthood. However, several factors can be considered. First, potential parents need to be old enough to give themselves time to experience life. Making plans for life, doing some things you want to do, discovering yourself, meeting and relating to people: these are activities that can help you develop the maturity that parenthood demands.

Another factor to consider is preparation for parenthood is the relationship between you and your wife. Within the context of your relationship, it is important to learn how and when to share thoughts and feelings as well as sharing "things." Delaying the gratification of each of your personal needs may sometimes be an important factor of parenthood. The ability to be flexible when the situation requires flexibility is also another factor of parenthood.

If you and your wife have love to give to a child, please don't let my statements frighten you away from parenthood. Don't wait until you feel you know it all in order to choose parenthood. An open mind, a caring heart and an awareness about your choice can help you to grow and become ready to be parents.

Carole

Dear Carole:

Our 18 year-old son has grown to be 6'2" and he weighs 180 pounds. My wife is 5'4" and I am 5'8" and weigh 160 pounds. I'm

ashamed to say that we are afraid of our son. He doesn't work, so he's around a lot. Once in a while, he is nice. But that's mostly when he wants money. Most of the time, though, he has a real bad mean streak and temper in him.

I don't want him to live with us anymore but my wife says we can't put him out on the street.

We just don't know what to do. I don't like him pushing me around. But when he puts his hands on his mother, I get real upset. I feel like I may hurt him one day. What should I do?

J.K.

Dear J.K.:

The safety of you and your wife is at stake. It is unfortunate that this situation has developed in your home. But the type of behavior that you describe could not have just begun. Sometimes, very gradually, parents give their authority away and turn the job of parenting over to their children. When this process happens, the children take control and the parents can become the victims of the children.

You and your wife need to make some immediate decisions. Your son's behavior indicates that he does not need to be in your home. I suggest counseling for you and your wife first, to help you try to regain respect for yourselves and to support you in making some important decisions about your family. Please don't delay.

Carole

Carole B. Ricks is an M.S.W., A.C.S.W. social worker. She has a private practice in Charlotte, N.C., as a counselor. If you have personal adjustment, parent-child or marriage problems that concern you, write:

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"Samson And Delilah" Is WSOC-TV Sunday Night Movie

Epic passion, betrayal and revenge result when a man of incredible strength and purpose encounters his one weakness - an exquisite woman who will go to any lengths to possess him - in "Samson and Delilah," a lavish romantic adventure, airing as "The ABC Sunday Night Movie," April 1 at 9 p.m. on WSOC-TV, Channel 9.

Antony Hamilton as Samson and Belinda Bauer as Delilah head a distinguished all-star international cast, which includes Max von Sydow, Maria Shell, Stephen Macht, Jose Ferrer, Clive Revill, Daniel Stern, Jennifer Holmes, David S. Eisner and Victor Mature.

En route to his wedding, the bold and rebellious Samson, renowned among the Danites for his incredible strength, encounters the caravan of the beautiful courtesan, Delilah and her chief Philistine protector, Sidka, the Governor of Gaza.

A ferocious lion has just dispatched one of Delilah's pet leopards, and she has offered a reward to the man who will avenge its death. Samson seizes on the opportunity to gain wherewithal to buy food and arms for his people, one of the tribes of Israel that fled Egypt in the Great Exodus only to become enslaved by the heathen Philistines. It's his belief that God has commanded him to deliver the Danites from the Philis-

tines' cruelty and barbarism.

The beast puts up a tremendous fight but proves no match for Samson's superior brute force. Sidka and Delilah, the latter angered by his insolence, are greatly impressed by the feat.

That night, during the post-nuptial festivities of Samson and his bride, the beautiful Varinia, daugh-

ter of Raul, a wealthy Philistine, Sidka arrives unexpectedly. He has come to commission Samson as a member of his garrison. But not only does Samson refuse, he insults Sidka, taunting him with a riddle. The price of an incorrect answer: 30 of Sidka's soldiers' garments for the Danites.

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HELP AWAITS YOU!

Mrs. T.M. writes: Someone has come between me and my boyfriend and we separated. We couldn't get along. I just couldn't hold him, no matter what I did. He was seeing another woman and I didn't think I would ever get him back, but I loved him and that's why I went to Sister Margo. Thanks to her and her prayers, we are married and very happy in our new home!



T. M.

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