

EFFECTIVE PARENTING OF TEENS



What
the
Bible
says
about
raising
teenagers

Version 2

Reb Bradley

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raising teenagers*

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SESSION #1 -- Family Goals & Roles

I. WHAT ARE OUR RELIABLE SOURCES OF PARENTING HELP?

GOD'S WISDOM:

2 Pet 1:3 -- The Scriptures contain all the principles of child training which will ever be needed.

2 Tim 3:16 -- "*All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness*"

James 3:17 -- "*...the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere.*"

HUMAN WISDOM:

Psalms 1:1 -- we are wise to avoid worldly counselors

Prov 16:25 -- may sound good, but can lead to spiritual disaster

James 3:13 - 4:1 -- fosters self-concern, pride, bitterness, and divided relationships

1 Cor 1:19-25 -- lacks true wisdom

1 Cor 3:18-20 -- is called "foolishness" by God

Prov 9:10 -- lacks the very foundation for wisdom: *the fear of God*

Evaluate parenting ideas in light of God's Word:

⇒ Does it accomplish the goals for my child which God established in the Bible?

⇒ Is it based strictly on principles of child rearing presented in the Word?

⇒ Is it a parenting approach modeled by godly parents in the Bible?

II. WHAT ARE GOD'S GOALS FOR PARENTS OF TEENS?

*Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, **bring them up** in the training and instruction of the Lord.*
Ephesians 6:4

"bring them up": ektrepho, ek-tref'-o: rear up to maturity

(Hebrew - rear: gadal, gaw-dal'; twist unto greatness)

III. WHAT CHARACTERIZES MATURITY?

3 ELEMENTS: *self-control, wisdom, and responsibility*

- **Self-control:** not being ruled by passions, emotions, desires, wishes, or curiosity; freedom from having to do what one feels like doing; the ability to choose to do what is right; fosters the *selflessness* necessary for love of others.
- **Wisdom:** understanding; insight; ability to learn from experience; independence; ability to make sound decisions; handling stressful problems with a level head; possible only when not ruled by passions (self-controlled)
- **Responsibility:** accepting personal accountability for one's own actions; faithful and conscientious work habits; integrity; reliability; possible only when not ruled by passions (self-controlled)

IV. WHAT CHARACTERIZES AN IMMATURE AND SELF-INDULGED PERSON?

They lack self control:

- Self-indulgent people rarely say "NO" to themselves.
- They have a difficult time doing in moderation anything which gratifies; they frequently over-do-it.
- They do whatever they feel like, or are so used to having their way that they think they *should* have whatever they want.
- The satisfaction of their *own* will is foremost in their life -- others are considered second, if at all.

They are self-absorbed:

- Self-centeredness so rules self-indulgent people that they live as if the world revolved around them -- life is interpreted by how it affects *them*.
- Whenever the self-centered teen approaches his parents with a question, (which may be frequent), it usually involves something he wants for himself.
- One self-consumed pushes and lobbies parents constantly to get what is wanted; persists even after being refused.
- May think of others, but only after satisfying themselves.
- Insists on his "rights" to personal decisions and "living his own life."
- Thinks they deserve everything that is given to them, and are unappreciative despite the feelings of others; not easily satisfied.
- They are seldom happy; complain and whine a majority of the time; often discontent.
- Complain about food or any gift set before them.
- They are preoccupied with fun and self gratification.
- Expects for life to be exciting; demands entertainment; frequently bored.
- Expects to have own way; expresses blatant irritation when desires are thwarted.
- Impatient; demands parent's immediate attention.

They lack wisdom:

- Their desire for gratification rules them, affecting all of their decisions and actions.
- They consistently squander money (or save it with the intent of spending it on themselves.)
- They do not learn from their mistakes; they repeatedly get into trouble for the same offense.
- They cannot be left alone and trusted to make wise choices.
- In response to attacks and offenses from young siblings they retaliate as if they were small children themselves.
- When confronted by problems they foolishly "bury their heads in the sand" and pretend the problem will go away.

They are irresponsible:

- When they sin they habitually deny their responsibility.
- Nothing is ever their fault. They are always victims of others' failures. Someone or something else is to blame.
- Even their anger is someone else's fault.
- They resent work or anything that requires self discipline.
- They are lazy; they habitually goof off and look for ways to get out of work.
- They despise opportunities to serve others, particularly their siblings.
- The thought of serving others rarely crosses their mind.
- In response to assigned chores -- roll their eyes; complain; disappear -- before, during and after task; do as little as possible

V. CONSEQUENCES OF AN INDULGED, UNSUBDUED WILL

- Comes to believe that he should have *what* he wants, *when* he wants it.
- Thinks he shouldn't have to put up with *anything* he doesn't like.
- Feels deprived whenever he doesn't get what he wants from life.
- Is preoccupied with his "rights" and know little of personal responsibility.
- Frequently angry because he doesn't get what he thinks is owed him.
- Develops a "victim" mentality -- nothing is ever his fault -- someone else is always responsible for his misery.

VI. OBSTACLES TO ACHIEVING GOALS OF MATURITY

A. False ideas of maturity -- it comes _____ and without

B. Wrong goal -- a _____ and _____ childhood.

C. Accepting _____

D. Putting them into situations they lack _____

E. Accepting teenage rebellion as _____ and _____

VII. THE FAMILY AS AN ORGANIZATION -- *Goals, Roles, and Rules of Operation*

- A. Husbands are the heads of their homes. Their job as leader requires them to assume responsibility for the administration, provision and protection of their families.

Eph 5:23; 1 Cor 11:8-9; Gen 18:19; Josh 24:15; 1 Tim 5:8; Exo 6:14; 6:25; Num 1:4; 7:2; 31:26; 32:28; 36:1; Josh 21:1; 22:14; 1 Ki 8:1; 1 Chr 5:15, 24; 7:2, 7, 9, 11, 40; 8:6, 10, 13, 28; 9:9, 13, 33, 34; 15:12; 23:9, 24; 24:4, 6, 31; 26:21, 26, 32; ;27:1; 2 Chr 1:2; 5:2; 19:8; 23:2; Ezra 1:5; 2:68; 3:12; 4:2, 3; 8:1, 29; 10:16; Neh 7:70, 71; 8:13; 11:13; 12:12, 22, 23

- B. The wife's job is to follow her husband and function as his assistant.

Gen 2:15, 18; Eph 5:22, 23-24, 33; Col 3:18; Tit 2:4-5; 1 Pet 3:1-6; 1 Cor 11:3-9; 14:34-35; 1 Tim 2:9-15; Prov 31:10-31

- C. As parents, the job of husband and wife is to bring children to maturity -- physical, emotional, mental, and spiritual. This means overseeing their education, training, and discipline.

Eph 6:4; 1 Tim 3:4-5; Titus 1:6; Deu 6:6-9; Prov 22:6; Josh 24:15

Deu 6:6-9 These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. {7} Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. {8} Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. {9} Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.

Deu 11:18 Fix these words of mine in your hearts and minds; tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. 19 Teach them to your children, talking about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. 20 Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates, 21 so that your days and the days of your children may be many in the land that the LORD swore to give your forefathers, as many as the days that the heavens are above the earth.

Prov 22:6 Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it.

Eph 6:4 Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.

1 Tim 3:4-5 He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him with proper respect. {5} (If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God's church?)

Titus 1:6 An elder must be blameless, the husband of but one wife, a man whose children believe and are not open to the charge of being wild and disobedient.

Josh 24:15 But if serving the LORD seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your forefathers served beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD."

- D. Children's job is to follow parents and cooperate with their leadership and training.

Ex 20:12; Deu 5:16; Mal 1:6; Eph 6:1-3; Col 3:20; Prov 1:84:1; 13:1; 23:22; 30:17; Mat 15:4

Deu 5:16 "Honor your father and your mother, as the LORD your God has commanded you, so that you may live long and that it may go well with you in the land the LORD your God is giving you.

Prov 1:8 Listen, my son, to your father's instruction and do not forsake your mother's teaching.

Prov 4:1 Listen, my sons, to a father's instruction; pay attention and gain understanding.

Prov 13:1 A wise son heeds his father's instruction, but a mocker does not listen to rebuke.

Prov 23:22 Listen to your father, who gave you life, and do not despise your mother when she is old.

Prov 30:17 "The eye that mocks a father, that scorns obedience to a mother, will be pecked out by the ravens of the valley, will be eaten by the vultures.

Eph 6:1-3 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. {2} "Honor your father and mother"--which is the first commandment with a promise-- {3} "that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth."

Col 3:20 Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord.

Mat 15:4 For God said, 'Honor your father and mother' and 'Anyone who curses his father or mother must be put to death.'

SESSION #2 -- THE PARENT AS DIRECTOR/PROTECTOR

I. God gives

through parents. Exo 20:12; Dt 5:16; Eph 6:1-4; Col 3:20

II. Parental leadership means having children

Ex 21:17; Lev 20:9; De 21:18-21; 27:16; Prov 1:84:1; 13:1; 23:22; 20:20; 30:17; Deut 22:20-21; 1 Tim 3:4-5; Titus 1:6; Mat 15:4

Exo 21:17 "Anyone who curses his father or mother must be put to death.

Lev 20:9 "If anyone curses his father or mother, he must be put to death. He has cursed his father or his mother, and his blood will be on his own head.

Deu 21:18-21 If a man has a stubborn and rebellious son who does not obey his father and mother and will not listen to them when they discipline him, {19} his father and mother shall take hold of him and bring him to the elders at the gate of his town. {20} They shall say to the elders, "This son of ours is stubborn and rebellious. He will not obey us. He is a profligate and a drunkard." {21} Then all the men of his town shall stone him to death. You must purge the evil from among you. All Israel will hear of it and be afraid

Deu 27:16 "Cursed is the man who dishonors his father or his mother." Then all the people shall say, "Amen!"

Prov 20:20 If a man curses his father or mother, his lamp will be snuffed out in pitch darkness.

Prov 30:17 "The eye that mocks a father, that scorns obedience to a mother, will be pecked out by the ravens of the valley, will be eaten by the vultures.

1 Tim 3:4-5 "one that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity; For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?"

Titus 1:6 "An elder must be . . . a man whose children believe and are not open to the charge of being wild and disobedient."

III. What age must children reach before parents are no longer responsible to control them?

Our children should be required to obey us as long as they are

- 1 Sam 3:13-14 -- Eli lost the priesthood for his family line, because he failed to control the behavior of his grown sons.
- 1 Sam 8:3 -- Samuel (who was raised by Eli) also lost the priesthood for his family line, because his grown sons were out of control.
- 1 Kings 1:5-6 -- Adonijah, David's son, rebelled and tried to take Israel's throne, because David didn't assert proper control over him.
- Deut 22:20-21 -- By God's law, Israelite fathers were held responsible to exercise control over their daughters, sufficient enough to insure their chastity. If a young woman married and was found by her new husband to not be a virgin, God decreed that she be taken to their father's doorstep and stoned to death by the men of her town. For years to come, the bloodstains of a man's daughter on his porch caused him to bear the shame of her infidelity and his irresponsibility.
- Luke 2:51 -- Jesus, when he was 12 years old, left the temple with his parents and we are told that "*he was subject unto them.*" For Jesus, as a teenager, to live obedient to his parents' authority, meant that they were exercising parental authority. Setting an example of a perfect teenager, he received from them commands and direction in his life, and obeyed.
- Luke 15:11-32 -- The prodigal son abandoned his father's authority when he left home, and knew he needed to *resubmit* himself to it when he returned. His older brother acknowledged (vs 29) what was typical of God-fearing homes -- adult sons, living at home, were expected to live *obediently* to their fathers.

IV. The modern approach: "NONRESTRICTIVE PARENTING"

- Let teens make all or most of their own decisions
- Limit or eliminate parental input
- Don't force your values on them

V. What occurs if parents neglect their responsibility to exercise strong authority over all their children?

Gal 6:7

- We saw by Israel's example that children grew up as rebellious idol-worshippers.

Jud 2:10 After that whole generation had been gathered to their fathers, another generation grew up, who knew neither the LORD nor what he had done for Israel. 11 Then the Israelites did evil in the eyes of the LORD and served the Baals. 12 They forsook the LORD, the God of their fathers, who had brought them out of Egypt. They followed and worshiped various gods of the peoples around them.

- Without firm discipline, children fail to be trained in maturity and godliness.

Prov 29:15 The rod of correction imparts wisdom, but a child left to himself disgraces his mother.

- Children not controlled, fail to learn self-control which brings grief, bitterness, and disgrace on the family.

Prov 10:1 ... A wise son brings joy to his father, but a foolish son grief to his mother.

Prov 17:21 To have a fool for a son brings grief; there is no joy for the father of a fool.

Prov 17:25 A foolish son brings grief to his father and bitterness to the one who bore him.

Prov 13:24 Parents who withhold strong discipline, do their children such a disservice that it is as though they hate them.

- Children, left to themselves, turn their back on morality and God, and may even blaspheme God. 1 Sam 3:13-14; 8:3; 1 Kings 1:5-6

- The parents who fail to restrain their children and accidentally lead them into sin, incur for themselves God's anger. Mat 18:6

- Children who are merely rebuked for misbehavior, and not disciplined or required to obey, will not respect their parents and therefore, will no longer listen to them. 1 Sam 2:22-25

- Rebellious teens model and incite rebellion in their younger brothers and sisters.

Prov 13:20 He who walks with the wise grows wise, but a companion of fools suffers harm.

1 Cor 15:33 Do not be misled: "Bad company corrupts good character."

- Without the protection of firm parental control, children are more prone to violating the law and will reap civil penalties.

Deu 22:20 If, however, the charge is true and no proof of the girl's virginity can be found, 21 she shall be brought to the door of her father's house and there the men of her town shall stone her to death. She has done a disgraceful thing in Israel by being promiscuous while still in her father's house. You must purge the evil from among you.

- Those parents who aspire to spiritual leadership within the Church are disqualified from being entrusted with it, or may lose the position they already hold. 1 Tim 3:4-5; 1 Sam 8:3

VI. Do teens become mature by being granted full authority over their lives?

A. The _____ approach does not produce maturity

B. It usually _____

VII. Should a parent exercise the same level of control over his teen as he does his younger children?

Our teens must have the opportunity to fail. However, the consequences we want our teenagers to learn from should be _____ ones, ie:

- Mismanaging money
- Staying up too late and reaping exhaustion
- Over-commitment to too many people
- Losing a bike which was not put away properly
- Assuming a new responsibility
- Not setting the alarm and being late for school
- Entrusting something to an irresponsible friend

VIII. HOW DO TEENS GAIN GREATER FREEDOM?

PREMISE: Liberty is a _____ -- not a _____

A. They must demonstrate _____ to earn the privilege

- a. self control
- b. wisdom
- c. personal responsibility -- faithfulness to duties

B. They must be _____ to parents and _____ of authority to earn the privilege

☞ The biblical principle: Those who prove _____, are _____ with much

Mat 25:21 "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'

Luke 16:10 "Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much.

Luke 19:17 "'Well done, my good servant!' his master replied. 'Because you have been trustworthy in a very small matter, take charge of ten cities.'

IX. Learning from Israel's parenting failures

A. God gave Israel guidelines for raising children Deut 6:6-9; 11:16-23

B. God commanded them to avoid intimate association with pagans Deut 7:1-6, 16; 8:19-20; Ex 23:32-33; 34:12; Num 33:51-56; Josh 23:7,12-13

C. Israel disobeyed God, and gave their families opportunity to develop close relationships with idol-worshippers. Judges 1:27-33; 2:3; 3:5-6

D. Their children were drawn into idolatry and rebelled against God Judges 1:27-33; 2:3
(See Prov 13:20; 23:17; 24:1; 1 Cor 15:33.)

X. A basic lesson we can learn from Israel's parenting failures:

A. Parents must _____ their children's exposure to moral and spiritual temptation.

⇒ If you believe something is a bad influence on them, you have an

⇒ Music? Magazines? Comics? TV? Movies? Friends? Activities? Sports? Youth groups? School?

B. When parents _____ their children are capable of withstanding strong temptation, and therefore _____ to _____ them, those children will likely _____ into _____ and _____ against God.

XI. WHAT IS THE BASIS FOR EVALUATING PARENTING DECISIONS?

A. Determine first: What will this activity, organization, or relationship foster within our teen?

or

B. _____ them to influences which foster within them maturity

C. _____ to influences which foster immaturity

XII. Tool for helping parents make leadership decisions

Questions for evaluating experiences:

Does it teach them self control?

- Does it teach them to say "NO" to themselves?
- Will it reduce their self-indulgence or will it feed it?
- Do they return home preoccupied with themselves and their "own life," or does it help them become more selfless and thoughtful of others?
- Does a particular activity reinforce the significance of their family or will it draw their heart away from the home?
- Does spending time in certain relationships encourage them in their faith and inspire them to be more Christ-like, or do they become more sullen and angry?

Does it teach them wisdom?

- Will the input they receive be more full of eternal truths or of worldly wisdom? Which does it feed: their spirit or their flesh?
- Have they demonstrated in the past the ability to remain uninfluenced by carnal associations?
- Have they shown themselves able to discern the difference between Truth and error, and are they capable of standing for Truth?
- Will the responses of those they are with encourage them to make wise decisions or foolish ones?
- Will they be encouraged to honor their parents or to despise them?
- Will their participation in the activity glorify God?

Does it teach them to be responsible?

- Will it encourage them to be honest with themselves and others, and own up to their personal responsibilities?
- Will it encourage them to live with the consequences of their actions?
- Will it reinforce that everything that happens to them is someone else's fault, and that they are a victim of others?
- Will continued participation reinforce to them that life is about *fun* or about *responsibility*?
- Will it feed their desires for constant excitement and entertainment?
- Will it teach them that life is not always easy? And will they learn by it how to relinquish their personal comfort and to do without?
- Will it teach them to serve others before themselves?

SESSION #3 -- THE PARENT AS DISCIPLINARIAN

I. Parents must _____ and bring _____

Prov 3:12 because the LORD disciplines those he loves, as a father the son he delights in.

Prov 13:24 He who spares the rod hates his son, but he who loves him is careful to discipline him.

Prov 19:18 Discipline your son, for in that there is hope; do not be a willing party to his death.

Prov 22:15 Folly is bound up in the heart of a child, but the rod of discipline will drive it far from him.

Prov 23:13-14 Do not withhold discipline from a child; if you punish him with the rod, he will not die. {14} Punish him with the rod and save his soul from death.

Prov 29:17 Discipline your son, and he will give you peace; he will bring delight to your soul.

II. Establishing standards of behavior -- Identifying rebellion

A. Active rebellion

1. Knowingly disobeying
2. Defiantly verbal resistance
3. Assaulting parents
4. Throwing temper tantrums
5. Ignoring instructions
6. Resisting a parent-initiated action

B. Passive rebellion

1. Consistent forgetfulness
2. External obedience with a bad attitude
3. Obeying only on own terms
4. Doing *what* is required, but now *how* it should be done
5. Walking away while being spoken to
6. Lying to escape discipline
7. Violating unspoken, but understood rules

III. Identifying Disrespectful Behavior:

1. Raising their voice for any reason, except an emergency
2. Knowingly disobeying direct commands or wishes
3. Snide looks, rolling of the eyes, mockery of adults; ie: *"Ha, ha, so funny I forgot to laugh."*
4. Calling parents derogatory names, no matter how innocent sounding, or how playful the context.
5. Taunting or teasing. If it is unacceptable towards children, it is more inappropriate towards parents, ie: *you ask for the salt and they hand it to you, but hold it back just out of reach.*
6. Giving orders, even playful ones, such as, *"Say, 'please'."*
7. Threatening statements such as, *"I can't wait until I'm old enough to move out of here!"*
8. Rude, intentionally hurtful remarks such as, *"I hate you."*
9. Criticizing parents, pointing out mistakes, making fun of failures, correcting them without first securing their permission
10. Grumbling about any parental decision qualifies as disrespect. Objections such as, *"That's a dumb idea,"* are insulting. Threats such as, *"I'm going to have a rotten time,"* are not only impolite and ungrateful, but are a defiant attempt to manipulate a parent.
11. Ungratefulness shown for a gift given them shows contempt and disrespect for the feelings of the giver. Complaining about what has been given them for dinner or what has been ordered for them at a restaurant is both impolite and ungrateful.
12. Giving sass. Any talking back in response to an adult statement without permission is "sass" or "back-talk." The only appropriate responses are *"Yes, Dad," "Yes, Mom," "May I appeal?,"* or possibly, *"Excuse me, Dad, may I offer you new information before you decide?"* For further discussion of sass see the next section.
13. Speaking in an irreverent manner such as with sarcasm or a voice raised in anger.
14. Defiant statements such as, *"I'll do it when I get around to it,"* or responses such as: *"Yeah, yeah, yeah."* *"Hold your shirt on."* *"What ever!"* *"Don't have a cow."*
15. Trying to show they are unfazed by discipline; accepting it casually -- an attitude of "no big deal"

IV. Disciplining teenagers -- A few typical punishments & principles to consider:

The penalty should be related to the crime.

- Restitution -- paying the cost of replacing or re-pairing items lost or broken.
- Restoration -- cleaning up any mess made -- no matter how long it takes.
- Eating dinner cold for breakfast the next morning if food is complained about.
- They are allowed only water to drink if they are unthankful for what is ordered for them at a restaurant.
- If they verbally push to get something, they should automatically lose it.
- They repeat the chore, get extra jobs, or miss the next meal (2 Thes 3:10) if they are lazy or irresponsible in work.
- Confiscating clothes or personal possessions which were left out -- permanently or for a period of time.
- If they are in total rebellion and blatantly defiant, consider they may need to leave the home.

Penalties should be increased in proportion to the number of offenses; repeated infractions should be treated as rebellion. "Grounding" or "restriction" should only be used when it relates to the offense and not as a generic punishment.

V. Teaching teens to assume responsibility for themselves:

A. Helping them live with the consequences of their actions

- If they dirty something, they must clean it.
- If they leave a door open, they must go back and close it.
- If they leave something on, they must turn it off.
- If they leave a chore unfinished or poorly done, they must redo it until it is done properly. Don't do it for them no matter how much you fear it won't ever be done right.
- If they break something, they must pay for it. Give them a deadline for payment and don't lead them by the hand to find a means of earning the money. If you loan them the money because something must be repaired immediately, don't forget the debt or neglect to collect.
- If they are expected to pay for a new item themselves, don't back down and make up the difference. Make them save longer.
- If they make an unwise business decision, or make a foolish purchase, let them live with their choices.
- If they are of driving age, but irresponsible in life, don't allow them the privilege of a driver's license.
- If they are in trouble at school or their behavior lands them in jail, make them live with the consequences of their actions. Don't bail them out.
- If they use illegal drugs, don't give them clean needles.
- If they are sexually promiscuous, don't give them birth control.
- If your daughter is pregnant, don't help her abort the child God gave life in her womb.

B. Examples of how we coddle our children:

- Making empty threats, ie: *"If you're not ready, we're leaving you behind."* *"If you don't have it done, you're not going."* *"If you want to buy it, you must pay the entire amount."* *"If you complain about the food, you'll go without."* Parents should be ready to follow through with every warning or they shouldn't make them.
- Waking them daily when they are old enough to set an alarm.
- Always being ready to drive them to school and write them an excuse when they get up late and miss the bus.
- Doing their homework assignments for them.
- Giving them lunch money or making an extra trip back to school rather than making them fast when they continually forget their lunch.
- Giving them constant reminders and corrections, causing them to grow dependent on you to remember their responsibilities.
- Stating, time after time, the established guidelines for chores and standards for behavior.
- Always giving them a second chance when they fail
- In an effort to get away with little work, their first efforts at cleaning their room are sloppy, but they know that all you will do is point out their mistakes and give them another chance. Why should they try their hardest the first time?

The fundamental principle is that a child should be held responsible to do everything he is capable of doing, as young as possible. Those who are not, will mature more slowly than they need to, and will be hampered in their walks with Christ.

VI. The importance of having your children's respect

A. The Word says we are to _____ them to _____ toward us

Exo 20:12 "Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you.

Lev 19:3 "Each of you must respect his mother and father, and you must observe my Sabbaths. I am the LORD your God.

Deu 5:16 "Honor your father and your mother, as the LORD your God has commanded you, so that you may live long and that it may go well with you in the land the LORD your God is giving you.

Exo 21:17 "Anyone who curses his father or mother must be put to death."

B. We do not _____ from those we do not

VII. What things do parents do to lose their children's respect?

A. They crave their children's _____ Seek to be their

B. They allow _____ or _____ behavior.

C. They share _____ with them

D. They make themselves _____ to them.

E. They don't require _____ to their word, but _____ and _____ themselves instead

F. They _____ something they are not

VIII. Gaining your children's respect

A. Clearly establish for them your _____ and lay out the

B. Forbid _____ behavior

C. Don't settle for _____ (Like Eli did in 1 Sam 2:22-25)

D. _____ for all infractions. Be _____ .

E. Become _____ their respect

IX. Teaching teens respectful ways of changing a parent's mind

- A. They should never be allowed to dishonor parents by responding with .
- B. A raised voice is
- C. They must be required to exercise and show honor
- D. Those teens who do not learn in their homes to be in their communication, will lack it in all other .

RULES FOR RESPONSES TO PARENTAL AUTHORITY:

APPROPRIATE RESPONSES

Ones which indicate respectful subjection to authority:

- *"Yes, Dad"*
- *"Sure, Mom"*

Ones which indicate respectful subjection to authority and acknowledge the need for permission to not carry out the directive:

- *"May I appeal?"*
- *"May I have your permission to discuss this?"*
- *"Excuse me, Dad, may I offer you new information before you decide?"*

INAPPROPRIATE RESPONSES

- Answering back without being invited, ie: interrupting, objecting, denying, challenging, correcting, mocking, sarcasm, questioning, etc.
- Giving "sass" might be grumbling or blurting out objections about parental decisions. Offering unsolicited explanations during correction or "talking back" when given instructions is disrespectful. It is not an acceptable "venting" of true feelings. If you allow them to continue they will make themselves obnoxious to their future employers and will limit their success in social relationships as well. It is an act of defiance and reveals a lack of submission to authority.
- Contradicting a parent's statement; the same as calling them a liar. If a child believes his parent is mistaken about something then they should be allowed to offer their opinion, but only after they have secured their parents' permission to do so.

Whatever the appeal process we give our teens, they should never be permitted to respond with "sass" or "back-talk." If they respond argumentatively or with anything other than a preestablished response, then parents must guard themselves from responding to them with anything except correction. To continue in dialogue is to reward it and encourage future sass.

SESSION #4 -- THE PARENT AS COACH

I. What is the difference between parenting *teens* and parenting *children*?

A. Parenting children is more

B. Parenting teens is more like

C. The apostle Paul modeled the 2 different approaches:

1. With Corinth he dealt with them like an authoritarian parent scolding a disobedient child
1 Cor 3:1; 4:21

2. With Thessalonica he dealt with them like a coach, coming along side of them to encourage them in their pursuit of their goals 1 Th 3:6-12; 4:9-10

II. Are teenagers *kids in transition* from childhood to adulthood, or are they *adults*?

Historically, physiologically, intellectually, we know that teens are

III. What happens to the teen whose parent continues to direct them in the same authoritarian manner they did in their childhood?

A. The parent may lose their

Mal 4:6 He will turn the hearts of the fathers to their children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers; or else I will come and strike the land with a curse."

Prov 23:26 My son, give me your heart and let your eyes keep to my ways,

B. The teens may then become _____ their parents

C. The teen will then cease to be

D. The teen will then be far more _____ to the carnal influences they face in the world

IV. How to relate as a spiritual coach

A. If they want to follow Jesus, help them establish a _____ for godliness.

B. Help them identify their _____ of godliness (Use the blank form in the appendix)

C. Break the habit of _____. Don't always _____ of them.

D. Come along side of them, _____ in achieving their goals

V. How can parents help teens grow in responsibility?

1 Cor 9:25 And everyone who competes in the games exercises self-control in all things. They then do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. 26 Therefore I run in such a way, as not without aim; I box in such a way, as not beating the air; 27 but I buffet my body and make it my slave, lest possibly, after I have preached to others, I myself should be disqualified.

A. Teach them that devotion to _____ is a young person's primary duty

Mat 15:4 For God said, 'Honor your father and mother' and 'Anyone who curses his father or mother must be put to death.' 5 But you say that if a man says to his father or mother, 'Whatever help you might otherwise have received from me is a gift devoted to God,' 6 he is not to 'honor his father ' with it. Thus you nullify the word of God for the sake of your tradition. 7 You hypocrites! Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you:

B. Keep in mind that teen years are the final season of _____ for adult responsibilities

C. Assign them daily and weekly _____

D. Emphasize to them that life is about _____ -- not _____

E. Do not _____ when they must _____ younger siblings

F. Do not _____ for doing household duties

G. Find them many opportunities to _____

VI. Helping teens fulfill the purpose for which God has given them their single years

A. God's purpose for giving singleness is the _____ of his _____

*1 Cor 7:32 I would like you to **be free from concern**. An unmarried man is **concerned about the Lord's affairs**-- how he can please the Lord. 33 But a married man is concerned about the affairs of this world--how he can please his wife -- 34 and his interests are divided. An unmarried woman or virgin is concerned about the Lord's affairs: Her aim is to be **devoted to the Lord in both body and spirit**. But a married woman is concerned about the affairs of this world--how she can please her husband. 35 I am saying this for your own good, not to restrict you, but **that you may live in a right way in undivided devotion to the Lord**.*

1. Young people should preoccupy themselves with _____

*Acts 2:17 "In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your **young men will see visions**, your old men will dream dreams.*

*Acts 5:6 Then the **young men** came forward, wrapped up his body, and carried him out and buried him ... 10 ... Then the **young men** came in and, finding her dead, carried her out...*

Num 11:28 Joshua son of Nun, who had been Moses' aide since youth ...

2. Young adults should NOT themselves with

Eccl 11:9 Be happy, young man, while you are young, and let your heart give you joy in the days of your youth. Follow the ways of your heart and whatever your eyes see, but know that for all these things God will bring you to judgment. 10 So then, banish anxiety from your heart and cast off the troubles of your body, for youth and vigor are meaningless. 1 Remember your Creator in the days of your youth, before the days of trouble come and the years approach when you will say, "I find no pleasure in them"—

2 Tim 2:22 Flee the desires of youth, and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

1 Cor 13:11 When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put childish ways behind me.

B. Single years are to be spent in preparation and provision for from parents

1. Growing strong

*1 John 2:14 I have written to you, fathers, because you know Him who has been from the beginning. I have written to you, **young men, because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the evil one.***

2. Preparing for and life

a. Pursuing a

1 Chr 5:18 "... trained for battle ..."

1 Chr 25:7 "... trained and skilled in music ..."

2 Chr 2:14 "... trained to work in gold and silver, bronze and iron, stone and wood ..."

b. Learning to be and

John 5:19 ... the Son ... can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does.

Titus 2:4 Then they can train the younger women to love their husbands and children, 5 to be self-controlled and pure, to be busy at home, to be kind, and to be subject to their husbands, so that no one will malign the word of God.

c. Learning to be a

*Prov 1:8 **Listen, my son, to your father's instruction** and do not forsake your mother's teaching. (Prov 2:1; 3:1, 21; 4:1, 10, 20; 5:1,7; 6:20; 7:1,24; 8:32; 13:1; 19:27; 23:19)*

d. Providing for a

John 14:3; Deut 20:7; 28:30

John 14:3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.

SESSION #5 -- TEACHING TEENS TO BE WISE

I. How can parents pass wisdom on to their teens?

Teach them to _____, rather than _____ for them.

Typical areas of liberty needing discretion:

Grooming: hair, clothes, make up, jewelry

Entertainment: TV, radio, music, films, electronic games

Recreation: sports, hobbies, clubs, performing arts, dancing

Education: public, private, home school, college

Relationships: friends, organizations, marriage

Possessions: homes, cars, tools, equipment, appliances

Occupations: career, parenthood, investments

Here are some questions we can ask to determine if possible activities, experiences, or relationships are wise and pleasing to God:

1. Does the Bible say anything specifically about this? Does it give related principles?

2 Peter 1:3 His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness.

2 Timothy 3:16 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,

2. How will this choice affect us -- will it risk our moral or spiritual health in any way? Which will this feed -- our *flesh* or our *spirit*? In what way will it benefit us?

Galatians 6:8 The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life.

Prov 13:20 He who walks with the wise grows wise, but a companion of fools suffers harm.

Rom 13:14 But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfill the lusts thereof. (KJV)

2 Timothy 2:22 Flee the evil desires of youth, and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

3. Can this become habit-forming, or give anything mastery over us? ie: **Drugs, sex, smoking, music, food, TV, video games, popularity, etc**

2 Pet 2:19 They promise them freedom, while they themselves are slaves of depravity--for a man is a slave to whatever has mastered him.

1 Cor 6:12 "Everything is permissible for me"-- but not everything is beneficial. "Everything is permissible for me"-- but I will not be mastered by anything.

4. Does the choice draw attention to us? Is our motive to glorify God? Will He receive glory because of it?

1 Timothy 2:9-10 I also want women to dress modestly, with decency and propriety, not with braided hair or gold or pearls or expensive clothes, {10} but with good deeds, appropriate for women who profess to worship God.

1 Corinthians 10:31 So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.

5. Does the activity take excessive time or money to do? Will the investment of time or money return to us important benefit? How significantly does it contribute to our life goals?

1 Timothy 2:9-10 I also want women to dress modestly, with decency and propriety, not with braided hair or gold or pearls or expensive clothes, {10} but with good deeds, appropriate for women who profess to worship God.

Mat 6:19 "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. 20 But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal.

John 6:27 Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. On him God the Father has placed his seal of approval."

1 Cor 7:29 What I mean, brothers, is that the time is short. From now on those who have wives should live as if they had none... those who use the things of the world, as if not engrossed in them. For this world in its present form is passing away.

Col 3:1 Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God 2 Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.

6. Will the exercise of our liberty cause others to perceive us as sinning? Will it cause us to lose the trust of those we want to influence for Christ?

1 Corinthians 9:22-23 To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some. {23} I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings.

7. Is this activity more important than others? If it tempts them to violate their consciences, or causes them to not listen to us, are we willing to sacrifice it for them?

Philippians 2:3 Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves.

Romans 14:19-21 Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification. {20} Do not destroy the work of God for the sake of food. All food is clean, but it is wrong for a man to eat anything that causes someone else to stumble. {21} It is better not to eat meat or drink wine or to do anything else that will cause your brother to fall.

Romans 15:1-3 We who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak and not to please ourselves. {2} Each of us should please his neighbor for his good, to build him up. {3} For even Christ did not please himself but, as it is written: "The insults of those who insult you have fallen on me."

1 Corinthians 10:31-33 So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God. {32} Do not cause anyone to stumble, whether Jews, Greeks or the church of God-- {33} even as I try to please everybody in every way. For I am not seeking my own good but the good of many, so that they may be saved.

8. Does our choice clearly distinguish us as unconformed to the world?

Romans 12:1-2 Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God--this is your spiritual act of worship. {2} Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is--his good, pleasing and perfect will.

John 17:16 They are not of the world, even as I am not of it.

James 4:4 You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world is hatred toward God? Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God.

9. Does our (biblically educated) conscience tell us God is happy about our decision? Do we feel He is there with us, encouraging us in this?

Ephesians 5:10 and find out what pleases the Lord.

2 Corinthians 5:9 So we make it our goal to please him, whether we are at home in the body or away from it.

Colossians 1:10 And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God,

1 Thessalonians 2:4 On the contrary, we speak as men approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel. We are not trying to please men but God, who tests our hearts.

1 Thessalonians 4:1 Finally, brothers, we instructed you how to live in order to please God, as in fact you are living. Now we ask you and urge you in the Lord Jesus to do this more and more.

(Also consider Col 3:20; 1 Tim 2:3; 2 Tim 2:4; Heb 11:6)

10. How will this decision impact my family? Will my absence keep me from my family responsibilities or create difficulties in household routines?

Deuteronomy 5:16 "Honor your father and your mother, as the LORD your God has commanded you, so that you may live long and that it may go well with you in the land the LORD your God is giving you.

1 Tim 5:8 If anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for his immediate family, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

Luke 11:11-13 "Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead? {12} Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? {13} If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

11. What guidance do our parents offer about this? If we trust God is using them to direct our lives, does our action and attitude reflect that?

Deuteronomy 5:16 "Honor your father and your mother, as the LORD your God has commanded you, so that you may live long and that it may go well with you in the land the LORD your God is giving you.

Proverbs 23:22 Listen to your father, who gave you life, and do not despise your mother when she is old.

Ephesians 6:1-2 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. {2} "Honor your father and mother"--which is the first commandment with a promise.

Colossians 3:20 Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. (See also 1 Samuel 3:13; Joshua 24:15; Acts 16:15, 33; 1 Tim 3:4-5)

12. How will this decision prepare us for our role in life? ie: career, husband/father, wife/mother, etc. Might this choice require time and energy, and do little to prepare us for our future roles?

Titus 2:4-5 Then they can train the younger women to love their husbands and children, {5} to be self-controlled and pure, to be busy at home, to be kind, and to be subject to their husbands, so that no one will malign the word of God.

Ephesians 5:22-28 Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. {23} For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. {24} Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything. {25} Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her {26} to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, {27} and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. {28} In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.

13. Will this decision help reinforce a clear distinction between the sexes?

1 Corinthians 11:3-15 {6} If a woman does not cover her head, she should have her hair cut off; and if it is a disgrace for a woman to have her hair cut or shaved off, she should cover her head. {7} A man ought not to cover his head, since he is the image and glory of God; but the woman is the glory of man. {8} For man did not come from woman, but woman from man; {9} neither was man created for woman, but woman for man. {10} For this reason, and because of the angels, the woman ought to have a sign of authority on her head. ... {14} Does not the very nature of things teach you that if a man has long hair, it is a disgrace to him, {15} but that if a woman has long hair, it is her glory? For long hair is given to her as a covering.

Deu 22:5 A woman must not wear men's clothing, nor a man wear women's clothing, for the LORD your God detests anyone who does this.

14. Which will this more likely foster -- laziness or productivity?

Titus 3:14 Our people must learn to devote themselves to doing what is good, in order that they may provide for daily necessities and not live unproductive lives.

1 Th 5:14 And we urge you, brothers, warn those who are idle, encourage the timid, help the weak, be patient with everyone.

Eph 4:28 He who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with his own hands, that he may have something to share with those in need.

15. How will this help us grow in maturity? Which will it foster more -- self indulgence or self control; foolishness or wisdom; irresponsibility or responsibility?

Mat 5:48 Be mature, therefore, as your heavenly Father is mature.

Eph 4:14 Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming. 15 Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ.

1 Pet 2:2 Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation,

SESSION #6 -- Restoring Peace to Parents & Teens in Turmoil

I. _____ them (Rom 2:4; 1 John 4:19)

A. If you put an _____ at the end of their name, it is time to _____ it

B. Be _____ toward them

C. Discipline yourself to _____ at them.

D. _____ them when they do well

II. _____ them

A. Do you communicate to them that you are never completely _____, _____, or _____ with them or their efforts?

B. Is it possible they feel like they can never _____? ... like they can never _____?

C. Have you led them to believe they are a big _____ to you?

D. When they share their spiritually immature values with you, do you quickly _____ them?

III. _____ them

A. Abiding _____ will _____ you and them

Eph 4:26 "In your anger do not sin" : Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, 27 and do not give the devil a foothold.

B. Give them continued _____. Don't _____ of them.

Eph 4:32 Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

C. Don't bring up _____ and _____ them for them time and again

Heb 10:17 Then he adds: "Their sins and lawless acts I will remember no more."

D. Ask _____ of them

Mat 5:23 "Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, 24 leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to your brother; then come and offer your gift.

E. Do not _____ your anger

James 1:20 for the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God.

IV. to them

A. Begin to give them opportunities to with you.

B. Learn to listen to their feelings without you think they need.

C. Be with their heart. Following a leader requires

D. Share with them or you are having in your own life.

V. Draw them

A. Regular

B.

C. Involve them with

D. Take them on private

E. Plead with them for if need be

VI. Starting in afresh

A. with your spouse to make certain you agree on the direction you want to go

B. Call a with your teens

C. Ask their for failing to properly them for adulthood.

D. Clarify for them both your and their -- as

E. Explain what will be

F. Communicate to them the , as well as the

G. Consider having a 4 week

1. It will help them learn to get control over their

2. It will get them the new arrangement

H. Pray with them and away from them

HOW TO EXASPERATE YOUR TEENAGERS

*Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.
Ephesians 6:4*

- 1. Never admit you are wrong.** Always be right. Acknowledge no mistakes -- excuse, justify, and rationalize every error.
- 2. Model hypocrisy.** Hold them to a higher standard than you hold for yourself. Require perfectly of them that which you fail in *miserably*.
- 3. Fail to keep promises.** Frustrate them and teach them to mistrust your word by rarely following through on that which you say you will do for them.
- 4. Demand too much of them.** Tolerate nothing less than perfection. Catch their every failure and stay on their case when they fall short of your perfect standard. Know no mercy.
- 5. Over-protect them.** No matter how old they are, limit their freedom and independence. Give them few opportunities to fail. Make all decisions for them, without consideration for their feelings or desires.
- 6. Batter them with words.** Rather than responding to misbehavior with appropriate disciplinary actions, habitually lecture them for long periods of time.
- 7. Abuse them verbally.** Bark out your orders. Yell at them when they blow it. Let your tone consistently demonstrate harshness. Demean them by name-calling, character assassination, and predictions of failure. Swear at them when they tick you off.
- 8. Make discipline too severe.** Mete out punishments which are overly harsh for the crime.
- 9. Show favoritism towards their brothers or sisters.** Give unequal disciplines for similar violations. Consistently trust one child over the other. During correction, compare them to their siblings. Respond harshly to one child and sweetly to another for the same crime.
- 10. Embarrass them.** Show them disrespect by disciplining and scolding them in front of others, particularly in front of their teenage friends. Talk openly about their weakness and mistakes to others.
- 11. Give no time warnings.** When it is near time for a schedule change, give no advance warning. Regularly wait until the last minute and demand them to immediately stop whatever they are doing, no matter what it is, however involved they are, or how close to finishing they may be.
- 12. Imbalance your parental authority.** Allow them over-familiarity. Tease, chat, and play with them like a peer one moment and step into your superior role to exercise adult authority the next. Permit them to show disrespect to you, teasing you, correcting you, playfully calling you names, and then turn around and exercise firm authority over them in some matter.
- 13. Discipline inconsistently.** Most parents are afraid of exasperating their children by being too firm, but most children are frustrated by parents who are not firm consistently. Enforcing rules inconsistently sets unclear boundaries, which beg to be violated. It is also like giving them occasional permission to disobey. The temptation to risk violating your standards leaves them insecure and anxious. If you make a rule -- enforce it. Otherwise, your kids will "stress out" trying to figure when to take you seriously.
- 14. Assert parental authority weakly.** Not only will you exasperate your kids with inconsistent discipline, but you will frustrate them by sending mixed messages. With your lips you will say, "NO, and that's final," but you will permit them to bring up the subject over and over, and you may eventually cave in. Your words draw a line, but you allow them to step over it. The parents whose limits are not firm, allow their children to partially shoulder responsibility for running the home -- a job for which they have not been equipped. They are always

planning, plotting, and scheming. There is no rest for the child who is always testing their parents to see how far they can be pushed.

15. Consistently believe evil of them.

In correcting misdeeds, jump on them like you expected the worst, as if you are picking up where you left off last time. Communicate to them your mistrust by rarely greeting them with a smile. Let them see you looking at them suspiciously whenever they come into your presence. In correction, remind them of all the times they have failed throughout their lifetime. Give them no genuine fresh starts.

16. Do not listen to them. Give them no opportunity for expression of their opinions, complaints, or frustrations. Refuse to allow them to speak their mind, even when communicated respectfully.

17. Continually criticize and critique them when they share their innermost feelings and thoughts. When they are being vulnerable, expose their hidden heart motives. Tease them about sensitive issues.

18. Communicate to them how unwanted they are. Let them know they are an inconvenient nuisance, that you could have had a successful career if it wasn't for them. Allow them to overhear you promise others that you won't have any more children, and that you will be glad when they move out of the house. Let them hear you speak to others of "teenagers" with regret or contempt in your voice. When you are angry at them, tell them you hate them.

19. Threaten them with rejection. When they misbehave, frequently warn them that they may have to leave home. If they are a child of divorce, hold over their heads that they may have to go live with their other parent.

20. Never communicate to them approval. Force them to hunt for it outside the home from their friends, teachers, or youth leaders. Find fault with everything they do. Never allow them to think they have satisfied you.

21. Neglect them. Always be too busy to give them *positive* time. Give them attention only when they need discipline.

22. Overindulge them. Allow them such an influential voice in family decisions that they will come to expect that they should have their way. They will think of the family as a democracy, and therefore will resent any parental decisions made without their input. Permit them so many personal decisions when young, that by their teen years, they will think they have a right to run their own life. Grant them so many of their wishes, that they will think they are owed everything, and will appreciate nothing.

23. Reward insolence. When they express themselves angrily or speak to you with disrespect, reward them by allowing continued discussion. When they don't get their way, and they sulk or pout, don't discipline them, try hard to cheer them up. Distract them. Buy them a treat. Cave in and change your mind. You will send them the message that they are in-charge and you fear their disapproval. As the years go on they will become more and more angry when they do not get their way. After all, you have accidentally sent them the message that they should have it.

CONTRACT OF GODLINESS

I, _____, being a devoted follower of Jesus, value godly character, and therefore desire to become like Christ. My top 7 goals and plans to achieve them are as follows:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

Being under my parents' authority, until such time as I marry, or have begun my own household, I will not resist their correction or reminders, regarding these goals, and in fact, will seek their help in accomplishing them.

Teen's signature

Father's signature

date

Mother's signature

Other materials by Reb & Beverly Bradley

BOOKS AND BOOKLETS BY REB BRADLEY

Child Training Tips -- What I wish I knew when my children were young -- An absolutely invaluable tool for helping parents shape children's behavior and identify their own blind spots; book

Solving the Crisis in Homeschooling: Exposing seven major blind spots of conscientious parents that increase prodigal tendencies in children; booklet

DATING: Is it worth the risk? -- An examination of modern dating practices and their contributions to sexual promiscuity and divorce; booklet

FIG LEAVES: Exposing hindrances to successful repentance -- Reb, as an instructor of Biblical Counseling, documents the defense mechanisms we use to avoid taking personal responsibility; booklet

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