

Parenting Teens with the Wisdom of Solomon

*What the Bible says about
raising teenagers*

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SECTION #1 – THE GOAL OF PARENTING

I. WHY DO SO MANY PARENTS OF TEENS WANT HELP?

A. Their teens are the _____ of _____ in the _____

> Good news: The Scriptures _____ for bringing _____ to a family in turmoil

B. They _____ their child will not _____ their teen years

> Good news: God wants them _____ we do.

C. They are concerned that _____ may not _____ their _____ teen years

> Good news: You will _____ if your goal is more than _____

II. WHAT ARE GOD'S GOALS FOR PARENTS?

A. Cultivate spiritual, emotional, and mental _____ in their children

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

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

(Hebrew – REAR a child: gadal, gaw-dal'; twist unto greatness)

III. WHAT CHARACTERIZES MATURITY?

A. There are 3 basic elements to emotional and mental maturity:

1. _____ : 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; capacity to delay gratification; fosters the *selflessness* necessary for love of others. Prov 29:11, 20; 14:16; 21:20; 22:15; 26:11; 12:16, 23; 13:16

> the ability to be guided by a biblically _____ ; to be self-governing

Heb 5:14 But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.

James 3:2 We all stumble in many ways. If anyone is never at fault in what he says, he is a mature man, able to keep his whole body in check.

2. _____ : 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) Prov 10:21; 29:15; 17:16; 18:2; 12:15

3. : accepting personal accountability for one's own actions; faithful and conscientious work habits; integrity; reliability; possible only when not ruled by passions (self-controlled) Prov 17:16; 6:6; 24:30; 26:6; 26:16

B. Spiritual maturity is characterized by the following traits:

teleioo, tel-i-o'-o; complete, finished, mature, perfect, whole

1. Welcomes the good fruit born from

Heb 2:10 In bringing many sons to glory, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the author of their salvation perfect [teleioo] through suffering.

Heb 5:8 Although he was a son, he learned obedience from what he suffered 9 and, once made perfect [teleioo], he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him

James 1:2 Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, 3 because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. 4 Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature [teleioo] and complete, not lacking anything.

2. and in relationships

1 Cor 3:1 Brothers, I could not address you as spiritual but as worldly--mere infants in Christ. 2 I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for it. Indeed, you are still not ready. 3 You are still worldly. For since there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not worldly? Are you not acting like mere men?

3. enemies

Mat 5:44 But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, ...48 Be perfect [teleioo], therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

4. Theologically ; not easily

Eph 4:13 until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. 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.

Col 4:12 Epaphras, who is one of you and a servant of Christ Jesus, sends greetings. He is always wrestling in prayer for you, that you may stand firm in all the will of God, mature and fully assured.

> God's goal for parents of teenagers is to plan experiences and make leadership decisions that will

IV. HOW DO WE KNOW RAISING TEENS TO MATURITY IS NOT AN IMPOSSIBLE TASK?

A. Historically, we know that teens were regarded as

1. _____ marked onset of adulthood.
2. For thousands of years the minimum age for marriage was _____ for women and _____ for men.
3. Teens were not _____ for their _____ they were in their
 - John Quincy Adams - 1781: Held an ambassadorial post in Russia at age _____
 - Laura Ingalls Wilder - 1882: Taught public school at age _____
 - David Farragut - 1813: Commanded a captured British vessel at age _____

B. Biblically, teens were _____ as

- By the end of their twelfth year Hebrew boys [na'ar] were recognized as beginning manhood.
na'ar, nah'-ar; a boy, from the age of infancy to adolescence; babe, boy, child, damsel, lad, servant, young man
- The spies who interacted with Rahab were teens [na'ar] (Josh 6:23)
- David's small army consisted of teens [na'ar] (1 Sam 25:5)
- Teens [na'ar] did the fighting for Abner and Joab (2 Sam 2:14)
- Teens [na'ar] sat at the city gate with the other men of the city (Job 29:7)
- Eli's married sons, who assisted him in the priesthood, were teens [na'ar] (1 Sam 2:17)
- Joshua, one of the teenage Jericho spies, served Moses as an aid throughout his youth (Num 11:28)
- Like in Israel, in the early church it was the teens [neos] who served as assists to leaders (Acts 5:6)
neos, neh'-os; "new", i.e. youthful or fresh

V. WHY ARE TEENS SO IMMATURE THESE DAYS?

A. G. Stanley Hall - 1904 -- First psychologist and author to promote the idea that young adult teens were still "children." Invented the phase we call "adolescence"; based ideas on

B. John Dewey (1859–1952) -- Built American education system around

C. Child labor laws -- Formally identified adults as

- 1916 -- Owen-Keating Act

D. The _____ that characterizes society reinforces immaturity

E. Modern _____ approaches foster immaturity

F. _____ treats teens as children – _____ expectations

- Almost every message teens receive reinforces

VI. WHAT CAN WE CONCLUDE? Teens today are _____ their God-given

> We must biblically _____ our young children and do all we can to biblically _____ our teens

SECTION #2 – MATURITY THROUGH FOLLOWING LEADERSHIP

I. THE FAMILY AS AN ORGANIZATION

A. The importance of order in creation

- > occurs in any organization lacking clearly defined roles

1 Cor 14:33 For God is not a God of disorder but of peace...

B. Father and mother are the

- > The parents' job is to bring children to maturity -- physical, emotional, mental, and spiritual. This means overseeing their education, training, and discipline. Eph 6:4; Dt 6:6-9; Prov 22:6

Prov 1:8 Listen, my son, to your father's instruction and do not forsake your mother's teaching. (Prov 7:1-3)

Prov 3:1 My son, do not forget my teaching, But let your heart keep my commandments;

*Prov 4:1 Hear, O sons, the instruction of a father, And give attention that you may gain understanding, 2 For I give you sound teaching; Do not abandon my instruction. 3 When I was a son to my father, Tender and the only son in the sight of my mother, 4 Then he taught me and said to me, "Let your heart hold fast my words; **Keep my commandments and live;***

Prov 6:20 My son, observe the commandment of your father, And do not forsake the teaching of your mother

C. Children are the

- > Children's duty is to follow their parents' leadership and cooperate with their training. Ex 20:12; Dt 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

Dt 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.'

II. WHAT CAN MOTIVATE TEENAGERS TO RECEIVE PARENTAL LEADERSHIP?

1. Strong *inciting* of consequence (Luke 22:25-26)
> By itself, *control shapes only* behavior,
2. *and* for parent (1 Cor 3:4)
> Parent's *or* in some area earns the opportunity to coach them
3. (1 John 4:19)
> They feel parents' *for them and respond with*
4. Constant (Deut 6:6-9)
> They may *parents, but the seeds constantly sown will one day bear fruit*
5. Their own *for God* (1 Pet 3:1-6)
> The parents have not *to train, but the teen still*
6. Parents are sincere and real, and their faith is (1 John 4:7-8)
> An earnest faith is *more than*
7. Parents employ a system of *and* (Ex 23:8; 1 Cor 3:8)
> It is biblical to offer incentives for *issues not* issues

III. THE IMPORTANCE OF PARENTAL CONTROL

- A. Parent-established *controls give children* controls
- *to authority is a key means of learning*
 - The way to true *is the path of* and

Heb 5:8 Although he was a son, he learned obedience from what he suffered 9 and, once mature [teleioo], he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him (Also Heb 2:10)

- B. Submission to parental authority prepares them to *to*

- C. Firm controls give *to everyone*

Ps 119:165 Great peace have they who love your law, and nothing can make them stumble.

Prov 29:18 Where there is no vision, the people are unrestrained, But happy is he who keeps the law.

Prov 3:13 Happy is the man who finds wisdom, And the man who gains understanding ... 21 My son, let them not depart from your sight; Keep sound wisdom and discretion, 22 So they will be life to your soul, And adornment to your neck. 23 Then you will walk in your way securely, And your foot will not stumble.

D. Control a parent the necessary for

- We tend to those who have but fail to it.
- Parents who may initially find contempt and resistance.

IV. FALSE NOTIONS OF PARENTAL LEADERSHIP

A. Maturity comes and without -- "NONRESTRICTIVE PARENTING"

1. Let teens make all or most of their own decisions
2. Limit or eliminate parental input
3. Don't force your values on them
4. They will mature by being granted independence
5. This "sink or swim" approach does not produce -- it feeds

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.

B. The family is a

- Allow the children to be part of the parental
- Permit their negative responses to your
- Never them do they do to do

C. Teenage rebellion is a and so nothing can be done.

V. THE FOUR SEASONS OF THE PARENT/CHILD RELATIONSHIP

A. Parenting a young child - ages 0 - 5:

Mat 16:24-26; 10:38; Rom 8:13; Col 3:5; Titus 2:12; Rom 12:1

B. Parenting a preadolescent - ages 5 - 12:

Mat 28:19; Col 3:16

C. Parenting a teenager - ages 12 - 19 (or 12-16):

Phile 1:8-9; 2 Tim 2:5; 4:7; Heb 12:1; Phil 2:16

Phile 1:8 Therefore, although in Christ I could be bold and order you to do what you ought to do, I yet I appeal to you on the basis of love...

D. Parenting a single adult - ages 20+ (or 16+):

John 15:15 I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.

SECTION #3 – MATURITY THROUGH DISCIPLINE

I. THE IMPORTANCE OF SETTING STANDARDS AND BRINGING DISCIPLINE

Those who _____ their children will

Prov 3:12 ... 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 29:17 Discipline your son, and he will give you peace; he will bring delight to your soul.

Heb 12:11 No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.

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 – *If disrespect tolerated, contempt grows*

- A. Speaking in an irreverent manner such as with sarcasm or a voice raised in anger. Raising their voice for any reason, except an emergency.
- B. 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 toward you, but hold it back just out of reach.*
- C. Threatening statements such as, *"I can't wait until I'm old enough to move out of here!"*
- D. Criticizing parents, pointing out mistakes, making fun of failures, correcting them without first securing their permission. Snide looks, rolling of the eyes, mockery of adults; ie: *"Ha, ha, so funny I forgot to laugh."*
- E. 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.
- F. 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.
- G. Giving sass. Any talking back, voicing opinions, or offering explanations in response to an adult statement without permission is "sass" or "back-talk."
- H. 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."*

IV. THE IMPORTANCE OF HAVING YOUR CHILDREN'S RESPECT

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

Ex 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.

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

B. Like _____ our children do not _____ from those they do not

V. 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. By hypocrisy, excessive control, disrespect, or denial of wrongdoing, they _____ them

VI. GAINING YOUR TEENS' RESPECT

A. Clearly establish for them the _____ and specify the _____

B. _____ for all infractions. Be _____ .

C. Show them _____

VII. DISCIPLINING TEENAGERS -- *A few examples of natural consequences:*

The penalty should be related to the crime:

- Restitution or Restoration – replacing or repairing lost or broken items; Cleaning up any mess made -- no matter how long it takes.
- Eating dinner cold for breakfast the next morning if food is complained about.
- Loss of privilege for irresponsibility, ie: came home late = lost use of the car; irresponsibility merits postponement of getting driver's license 1 month for each infraction
- "Grounding" or "restriction" should only be used when it relates to the offense and not as a generic punishment.
- They are allowed only water to drink if they are unthankful for what is ordered them at a restaurant.
- If they verbally push to get something, they should automatically lose it.
- If they are lazy or irresponsible in work, they repeat the chore, get extra jobs, or miss the next meal (2 Thes 3:10)
- Clothes or personal possessions which were left out are confiscated for a period of time.
- If they are in total rebellion and blatantly defiant, they may need to leave the home.

VIII. 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 _____ .
- E. To curtail sass and defiance, have a 6-week _____ in which no _____ or _____ for _____ are tolerated.

Boot Camp for eliminating sass

- You should approach your children and apologize for failing to properly develop within them maturity and prepare them for adulthood.
 - Explain how they must learn to humbly accept parental directions without always knowing the reasons why.
 - Give them a time period for demonstrating quiet, humble obedience (perhaps 6 weeks), during which all parental commands will be given without reasons, and no appeals will be considered.
 - Tell them they will be required to respond, "Yes, Mom," or "Yes, Dad," to every command, unless it is an emergency. Only then, may they make an appeal.
 - An emergency is defined as a time when they have no ability to carry out the command, or they know the parent giving the command lacks information which will most certainly affect the command given, ie: *The other parent has given a contradictory command; they have no transportation to go somewhere; there is insufficient food for preparation of a meal; the detergent box is empty, so clothes cannot be washed, etc.*
 - Explain to them that for every occurrence of sass (anything, but "Yes, Mom" or "Yes, Dad."), one week will be added to the boot camp.
 - So that the boot camp does not continue until they are 30 years old, I suggest that after their accumulated penalties increase the length to 10 weeks, start adding one day per offense.
 - Let them know that if, at the end of boot camp, they consistently obey quickly and respectfully, then you will begin to give wisdom behind your commands.
 - You must make clear to them, however, that when you begin sharing wisdom behind commands, it will not be the same as your former habits, when you allowed debates. The reasons you give will be brief and may not be discussed at the moment of instruction.
 - To kick off boot camp have them practice saying to you, "Yes, Mom" and "Yes, Dad." Repeat the exercise until they can do it without a sour attitude.
 - Keep in mind that as they grow and demonstrate they can submit unquestioningly to authority, you can entrust them with more reasons for obedience.
- F. Require that all responses to parental authority reflect _____ to _____, ie:
- "Yes, Dad" "Sure, Mom"
 - "May I appeal?" "Excuse me, Dad, may I offer you new information before you decide?"

IX. EMPLOYING LOVE-ORIENTED RATHER THAN CONTROL-ORIENTED MANAGEMENT

A. **Control**-oriented management

Control-oriented management competes for dominance, and is therefore characterized by intimidation and manipulation, not-to-mention a need for hyper-sheltering and out-smarting your teen. The relationship is typically marked by intensity, diminished trust, and distant hearts. Defiance or disrespect is responded to with great indignation, which carries on into the following days and/or weeks or years.

B. **Love**-oriented management

Love-oriented management is secure and does not compete for control. Compliance with parental leadership is required, and is enforced by loss of privilege. A secure parent does not respond to misbehavior or disrespect with indignation and enduring exasperation. Consequences are meted out calmly and not in passion. In such a home, the day after the disciplinary episode the teen looks into his parents' eyes and sees love and acceptance. A *love*-oriented parent accepts his child based on his *identity* – not his *behavior*.

1. Parents must create consequences, but not allow _____ to be motivating factor

- _____ is key

2. Teens must see that _____ by their actions have _____ the discipline.

3. Three examples of creating natural consequences:

- lose the lock
- grounded until relationships at home improve
- loss of privilege – car, computer, outings

4. The key for this approach is communicating that the _____ is not

- A *love*-oriented parent accepts his child, based on his _____ – not his _____ .

SECTION #4 – MATURITY THROUGH RELATIONSHIP

SOLOMON’S MODEL FOR RAISING TEENS

I. SOLOMON PREPARED HIS YOUNG ADULT SONS FOR INDEPENDENCE BY EMPHASIZING GUIDANCE OVER DISCIPLINE

A. Solomon’s approach was **NOT** chiefly _____ based.

1. Gave _____ but remained non-threatening or domineering

*Prov 6:20 My son, **observe the commandment of your father, And do not forsake the teaching of your mother;** 21 Bind them continually on your heart; Tie them around your neck. 22 When you walk about, they will guide you; When you sleep, they will watch over you; And when you awake, they will talk to you. 23 For the commandment is a lamp, and the teaching is light...*

*Prov 2:1 My son, if you accept my words and **store up my commands** within you, ...5 then you will understand the fear of the LORD and find the knowledge of God. (Also Prov 3:1; 7:1-2)*

2. Cautioned them with _____ of natural consequences
ie: Anger, lust, laziness, bad relationships, finances, pride, disobedience to parents, etc.

*Prov 22:8 He who sows wickedness reaps trouble, and the rod of his fury will be destroyed.
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.*

3. He appealed to them based on _____

*Prov 8:32 "Now then, my sons, listen to me; **blessed are those who keep my ways.**
Prov 3:33 The Lord's curse is on the house of the wicked, but he **blesses the home of the righteous.**
Prov 9:12 If you are wise, **your wisdom will reward you;** if you are a mocker, you alone will suffer."
Prov 3:13, 18; 5:18; 8:34; 10:6; 10:7; 10:22; 11:11, 18, 26; 12:14; 13:13, 21; 14:14, 21; 16:20; 19:17; 20:7; 20:21; 22:9; 24:25; 25:22; 27:14; 28:14; 28:20; 29:18; 30:11; 31:28*

B. He came _____ of them like a _____

1. He coached them about what to _____ in _____

2. He directed them on how to _____ their own _____
*Prov 3:1 My son, do not forget my teaching, but keep my commands in your heart, 2 for **they will prolong your life many years and bring you prosperity.***

3. Prepared them for _____

C. He encouraged, comforted, advised toward _____ and _____ living

*Prov 2:1 My son, if you will receive my sayings, And treasure my commandments within you ... 5 then you will understand the fear of the LORD and find the knowledge of God.
Prov 9:12 If you are wise, your wisdom will reward you; if you are a mocker, you alone will suffer."
1 Th 2:11 For you know that we dealt with each of you as a father deals with his own children, 12 **encouraging, comforting and urging** you to live lives worthy of God, who calls you into his kingdom and glory.*

D. Appealed to them based on their need for

Prov 1:1 The proverbs of Solomon son of David, king of Israel: 2 for attaining wisdom and discipline; for understanding words of insight; 3 for acquiring a disciplined and prudent life, doing what is right and just and fair; 4 for giving prudence to the simple, knowledge and discretion to the young

E. Equipped them with practical help for handling

Prov 1:10 My son, if sinners entice you, do not give in to them.

Prov 22:24 Do not make friends with a hot-tempered man, do not associate with one easily angered, 25 or you may learn his ways and get yourself ensnared.

Prov 5:3 For the lips of an adulteress drip honey, and her speech is smoother than oil... 8 Keep to a path far from her, do not go near the door of her house

II. RESPECTING THEIR ADULT DIGNITY

A. If disciplinary consequences are necessary, administer -- don't take defiance

B. Listen to them as adults

> to their if they are than yours

C. Do not continue to make for your teens, but teach how to make based on God's Word.

(See article "Learning to Make Wise Choices" on our website www.familyministries.com/articles.html)

III. SOLOMON UNDERSTOOD THE POWER OF RELATIONSHIP

A. Motivation was based -- not based

Phile 1:8 Therefore, although in Christ I could be bold and order you to do what you ought to do, 9 yet I appeal to you on the basis of love...

B. He appealed to to invest in relationship with

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

IV. CULTIVATING RELATIONSHIP WITH OUR CHILDREN

Rom 2:4b ...God's kindness leads you toward repentance

them for who they are at the stage of growth they have attained

A. If our kids fail to find our acceptance, they will welcome it from the or who offers it.

B. Don't mistake for

1. is characterized by a tender manner and a caring touch

2. says, "Although you fall short, I still like you as you are now."

C. Do not _____ until they achieve your standard

1. Quickest way to _____ loved ones is to communicate that they do not measure up
2. They may _____ and begin to _____ you
3. Our children read our _____ every time we greet them.

D. Jesus _____ in his experience with the woman at the well (John 4:4-42)

1. He did not agree with her moral choices, but communicated _____
2. He did not return her _____
3. He was _____ with her

E. Are you a _____ person for your children?

1. Stop _____ your anger
James 1:20 for the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God.
2. Listen to their feelings without immediately giving them the _____ you think they need.
3. Values come out of the _____ and _____ who a person
Luke 6:45 ... out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.
4. If their values are immature, then devise a plan to _____ the _____ that those values.

F. Consider: Is it possible you have difficulty accepting your children as they are, because you do not believe you as you _____

Rom 5:8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us...10 For if, when we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life!

Rom 8:31 What, then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us? 32 He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all--how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? 33 Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. 34 Who is he that condemns? Christ Jesus, who died--more than that, who was raised to life--is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. 35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? 36 As it is written: "For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered." 37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. 38 For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, 39 neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Eph 3:16 ... I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, 18 may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, 19 and to know this love that surpasses knowledge--that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

G. to them when they share their heart

1. Begin to give them opportunities to with you.
2. Be with their heart. Following a leader requires
3. Share with them or you are having in your own life.
4. Open dialogue by expressing ie: Do not ask, "Have I offended you?" Rather ask, "If you could change anything in our home or family, what would it be?"

H. Express to them in ways

1. Be toward them.
1 Th 2:7 but we were gentle among you, like a mother caring for her little children.
Isa 66:13a As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you ...
2. Discipline yourself to at them.
Prov 16:15 When a king's face brightens, it means life; his favor is like a rain cloud in spring.
Mark 10:21a Jesus looked at him and loved him...
3. Remove the at the end of their name.
Eph 6:4a Fathers, do not exasperate your children...
1 Th 2:11 For you know that we dealt with each of you as a father deals with his own children, 12 encouraging, comforting and urging you to live lives worthy of God, who calls you into his kingdom and glory.
4. Are they or
1 Tim 3:4a He must manage his own family well ...

SECTION #5 – MATURITY THROUGH RESPONSIBILITY

I. What does it mean to be responsible?

Three key traits of responsible people...

- A. Believe it is their _____ to _____ for themselves
- Unless forgiven a debt, they feel it is their obligation to pay their own bills
 - They do not expect others to assume responsibility for them
- B. _____ for their mistakes and will not _____ it to
- They don't hide behind "fig leaves"
 - They are not "victims," blaming others for their own poor responses
 - They hold no one else responsible for their choices and reactions
 - They are honest enough to admit failures and weaknesses
- C. Are _____ and _____ in duties
- They have a strong sense of obligation to fulfill their job
 - They have personal integrity
 - They are self disciplined – not ruled by laziness or desire for pleasure

II. Raising children to accept responsibility for themselves and their obligations

- A. Do not do for your children that which they _____ for
- 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. Do not do it for them no matter how much you fear it will not ever be done right.
 - If they break something, they must pay for it. If they are too young to have money, they must assist their parent in its repair or attend the purchase of a new one. If they are an adolescent, give them a deadline for payment and don't lead them by the hand to find the means of earning the money. If you loan them the money because something must be repaired immediately, do not forget the debt or neglect to collect.
 - Do not indulge them and buy whatever you can afford. As they reach adolescence, require them to pay for some of their own non-necessities. If they are expected to pay for something themselves, do not back down and make up the difference. Make them save a little longer.
 - If they are of driving age, but irresponsible, do not allow them the privilege of a driver's license.
- B. Do not constantly _____ them. Allow them to _____ what they _____ (Gal 6:7)
- If they make an unwise business decision, or make a foolish purchase, let them live with their choices.
 - If they are in trouble at church or their behavior lands them in jail, let them live with the consequences of their actions. Don't bail them out.
 - If they use illegal drugs, do not give them clean needles.
 - If they are sexually promiscuous, do not give them birth control.
 - If your daughter is pregnant, do not help her abort the child.

III. RAISING CHILDREN TO AVOID A “VICTIM MENTALITY” AND ACCEPT RESPONSIBILITY FOR THEIR ACTIONS

A. Identifying a “victim mentality”

Gen 3:12 Then the man said, "The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate."

1. A **full** victim is one who is a _____ of some _____
 - It is one who has _____ over the _____ of the negative action
2. A **semi** victim is one who may endure a negative action, but is _____ for his _____
 - It is one who _____ responsible for that which is under his control

Prov 19:3 A man's own folly ruins his life, yet his heart rages against the LORD.

- Because he _____ his _____ to his problems, he _____ personal growth.

Prov 10:8 The wise in heart accept commands, but a chattering fool comes to ruin.

Prov 14:24 The wealth of the wise is their crown, but the folly of fools yields folly.

B. Helping children to own their responsibility in life

1. _____ personal responsibility and not defensiveness
John 13:15; 1 Cor 4:16; 11:1; Phil 3:17; 2 Th 3:7; 1 Tim 4:12; Tit 2:7; Heb 6:12; 13:7; 1 Pet 2:21; 5:3

2. Identify their _____ and start holding them responsible for their behavior
Prov 16:2 All a man's ways seem innocent to him, but motives are weighed by the LORD.
Prov 28:13 He who conceals his sins does not prosper, but whoever confesses and renounces them finds mercy.
(See Chapter 8 of Child Training Tips.)

3. Do not _____ them from everyone who _____ them, but help them view their offenders through the _____ of _____
Luke 6:27 "But I tell you who hear me: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, 28 bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. 29 If someone strikes you on one cheek, turn to him the other also. If someone takes your cloak, do not stop him from taking your tunic. 30 Give to everyone who asks you, and if anyone takes what belongs to you, do not demand it back.

4. Require that they properly make _____ for _____ they _____ others.
Prov 14:9 Fools mock at making amends for sin, but goodwill is found among the upright.
 - A proper apology does not _____ the other of how he _____ the

IV. RAISING CHILDREN TO BE FAITHFUL AND CONSCIENTIOUS IN DUTIES

Prov 21:25 The sluggard's craving will be the death of him, because his hands refuse to work.

- A. _____ must take responsibility for themselves and not be _____ on _____
(Tit 3:14; 1 Th 4:11-12; Eccl 11:6; 1 Th 5:14; 2 Th 3:6-12)

*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 4:11 Make it your ambition to lead a quiet life, to mind your own business and to **work with your hands**, just as we told you, 12 so that **your daily life may win the respect of outsiders** and so that **you will not be dependent on anybody.***

B. Identifying

Prov 19:15 Laziness brings on deep sleep, and the shiftless man goes hungry.

Prov 10:26 As vinegar to the teeth and smoke to the eyes, so is a sluggard to those who send him.

- Expects each day to offer fun instead of work; great disappointment when wishes for recreation go unfulfilled.
- Avoids work: attempts to persuade parents that there is a better use for their time; offers excuses why unable to work; begs to have workload reduced. Avoids the task-assignor.
- Does as little as possible; works slowly. Puts off starting a job; chooses to play before work.
- Works inefficiently, ie: with one hand, sitting down, carries one at a time, etc.
- Finds multiple excuses to stop work, ie: bathroom breaks, drinks, looking for tools, etc.
- Does an incomplete job; quits before finished; jobs done sloppily with little attention to details.
- Works slowly or does such an inadequate job that the parent takes over and finishes the task.
- Negotiates with a sibling or friend to do the job.
- Works for "eye service;" only works hard when being supervised. (Eph 6:6)
- Sleeps-in every opportunity; stays in bed after called. (Prov 6:9-11)

C. How to avoid children

- Do not repeatedly state for them the established guidelines for chores and standards for behavior.
- Do not give them constant reminders to do their duties. It causes them to grow dependent on you to remember their responsibilities and inhibits development of independence and self-reliance.
- Parents should be ready to follow through with every consequence or they should not propose them. Do not make 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,"* etc.
- Do not wake them daily when they are old enough to set an alarm, or you will create dependence.
- When teens get up late and miss the car pool, do not be too willing to drive them or write them an excuse if other transportation is available, such as a city bus or their feet. Let them be late.
- Do not do their homework assignments for them.

D. Practical ways to cultivate a hard-work ethic:

1. weekly and daily

- They are not just a of for you. This is for

2. Employ system of for faithfulness in duty and for skills learned., ie:

"If we finish on time, then this..." If no one disappears then this..."

*1 Cor 3:8 The man who plants and the man who waters have one purpose, and each will be **rewarded** according to his own labor.*

- must be kept high.
- Increase as they show

3. Give them _____ congruent to their _____

• Reject the idea that the teen years are a time to be _____ from _____ .
Childhood and adolescence is a time for the cultivation of _____

• The fundamental principle: A child should be held responsible to do everything he is capable of doing, as _____ as possible.

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

_____ to them that life is about _____ -- not _____

5. Do not _____ when they must _____ younger siblings

6. Tolerate no _____ about work. If they regularly complain, consider that they are not yet used to working as a part of life. They have developed a worldview around their own comfort. Cure their perspective by _____ more regular _____

7. Consider implementing the “_____ principle” – 1 hour of rest or play for every 6 of labor

8. For irresponsible teens, postpone _____ until they complete their tasks (1 Thes 3:10)

E. The fruit of learning to work hard is _____ than the _____ of play

1. Our _____ is _____ when we actively love and serve others

John 15:10 "If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love; just as I have kept My Father's commandments, and abide in His love. 11 "These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be made full. 12 "This is My commandment, that you love one another, just as I have loved you. (John 13:34; 1 John 3:23; 2:8-11; 4:21; 2 John 1:5-6; 1 Cor 9:21; Rom 13:8-10; Jam 2:8; Gal 5:13-14; John 13:14-15; Gal 6:2, 1 John 3:16; Eph 5:2; Rom 12:10)

2. We grow to _____ when we endure the _____ of work (Heb 2:10; 5:8-9)

3. Youthful diligence bears _____

Prov 13:4 The sluggard craves and gets nothing, but the desires of the diligent are fully satisfied.

Prov 10:4 Lazy hands make a man poor, but diligent hands bring wealth.

V. HOW DO TEENS GAIN GREATER FREEDOM?

PREMISE: Liberty is a _____ -- not a _____

A. They must demonstrate _____ to earn the privilege _____

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 ...

SECTION #6 – MATURITY THROUGH LIFE PREPARATION

I. HOW CAN PARENTS HELP TEENS GROW INTO ADULT RESPONSIBILITY?

A. Help them grow 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.***

B. Prepare them for _____ and _____ life

1. 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 ...”

2. 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.

3. 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)*

4. Providing for a

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. (Also Deut 20:7; 28:30)

C. Teach them to handle

- Devise a way for them to _____
- Set them up with a _____
- Have them pay the _____ and balance the checkbook

II. HELPING TEENS GROW IN PURPOSE

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**.*

- Raise them to see their teen years as their years of _____ – not the

1. Young people are wise to 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...*

2. Young adults are foolish to _____ 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. 12:1 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.*

B. Find a _____ for the family and _____ every member

Josh 24:15 "And if it is disagreeable in your sight to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves today whom you will serve: whether the gods which your fathers served which were beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."

- Get in the _____ and remain _____ yourself

1 Cor 4:16 Therefore I urge you to imitate me.

1 Cor 11:1 Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ.

III. DRAWING THEM CLOSE TO JESUS

A. Regular

B.

C. Force yourself to _____ to them, even if they have

D. Take them on _____ or private

E. Pull them aside and _____ with them for _____ if need be

IV. 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 _____ and

E. Explain what will be

F. Communicate to them the _____, as well as the

G. Consider having a 6-week

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

2. It will get them _____ the new arrangement

H. _____ Pray with them and away from them

I. Remember that your job is to _____ and _____ them. It is God's job to make all

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