

PARENTING TEENS WITH THE WISDOM OF SOLOMON

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I. 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, 9 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.

II. As a Hebrew, Solomon viewed teens as fellow adults

- 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, child, damsel, lad, 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

III. Under Old Covenant tradition, at age _____ a young man became entirely himself, and received all adult responsibilities and privileges

1. Most young men by that age were married
2. Unmarried men were counted in the census as independent men (Ex 38:26; Num 1:18; 26:2)
3. They were required to give their own offerings (Ex 30:14; 38:26).
4. They could be drafted into the army (Num 1:3, 45; 2 Chr 25:5).
⇒ Younger men were exempt in order to preserve the next generation (1 Chr 27:23)
5. They were counted among the adults cut off from the Promised Land (Num 14:29; 32:11).
6. They were old enough to begin their ministries as priests (1 Ch 23:24, 27; 2 Chr 31:17).

IV. 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 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

V. 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)

VI. 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

VII. 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. They 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.