

Teen Expectations & Hot Spots

Question: What should we expect of our Teenagers?

Parental Expectations Of Teenagers: (basic house rules)

- Obey and honor us as your parents (as unto the LORD).
- Our commitment to Jesus Christ is our primary goal.
- Tell the truth, be transparent, and honor your word.
- We expect you to verbally respond to what you have been asked to do, remember it, and take action (first time obedience).
(We do not accept the excuse "I forgot..." or "I am busy")
- Get permission first before you go anywhere or do anything.
- All TV, phone, computer, music, and friendships will be monitored.
- Expect that there will never be absolute privacy or ownership. As long as you are in our home and under our authority, everything is a privilege and not a right. We will respect your limited personal privacy.
- Serious consequences will follow immoral or illegal behavior. Obedience always brings blessing; sin will bring painful consequences.
- We should be informed of school behavior (subjects, grades, teachers, after school events, sports) and personal plans.
- Family comes first. We will strive for balance in our outside involvement.
- We will eat meals together.
- Expect a reasonable curfew and restriction to certain events.
- Trust is earned by obedience. (Trustworthy = greater freedom)
- Never have friends over without us being present.
- Finish first things first/obedience comes before privilege
(chores: yard, dishes, laundry, clean room)
(finish homework, work hard for any outside jobs)
- We all will share in the care of our home.
- Group dating only will be allowed till in College (no serious relationships)
- You pay half for special events (camps, school/youth events)
- We will strive for daily Bible reading and family devotions
- Our family will sit together in church.
- We will honor God on Sundays by dressing our best.
- Boys should act like God-honoring men, girls like God-honoring women.
- Siblings should treat each other with honor (siblings should feel safe - free from criticism, pestering, or teasing).
-

Hot Spots:

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

Ephesians 6:1-3 "Children obey your parents in the Lord for this is right."

1. Clothing

Question: What should we allow our teenagers to buy, wear, or do to their body?

Principles:

- Modesty

1 Timothy 2:9,10 "Women should adorn themselves in respectable apparel, with modesty and self-control, not with braided hair and gold or pearls or costly attire, but with what is proper for women who process godliness – with good works."

Proverbs 11:22 "Like a gold ring in a pig's snout, is a beautiful woman who shows no discretion."

1 Corinthians 8:9,12 "Be careful that the exercise of your freedom does not become a stumbling block to the weak." "When you sin against your brothers in this way and wound their weak conscience, you sin against Christ."

1 Corinthians 10:31,32 "Whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God. Do not cause anyone to stumble."

- Focus on internal beauty/character over external charm

Proverbs 31:30 "Charm is deceptive and beauty is fleeting, but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised."

1 Peter 3:3-5 "Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as braided hair and the wearing of gold jewelry and fine clothes, Instead, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit which is of great worth in God's sight. For this way the holy women of the past who put their hope in God used to make themselves beautiful..."

- Purity

2 Timothy 2:22 "Flee youthful lusts..."

1 Corinthians 6:18 "Flee from sexual immorality."

1 Thessalonians 4:4 "Do not defraud your brother..."

- Honor God with your body

1 Corinthians 3:16,17; 6:19,20 "Your body is the temple of God and God's Spirit lives in you. Honor God with your body."

Leviticus 19:28 "You shall not make any cuttings in your flesh for the dead, nor tattoo any marks on you. I am the LORD."

Deuteronomy 14:1 "You are the children of the LORD your God; you shall not cut yourselves... for the dead... for you are a holy people to the LORD your God..."

1 Kgs. 18:21,24,28 "they cut themselves as was their custom"

Exodus 23:2 "You shall not follow the crowd to do evil."

Question: Who are they trying to identify with? Why?

- Gender distinction (Men should be men, women like women)
Deuteronomy 22:5 "A woman shall not wear anything that pertains to a man nor shall a man put on a woman's garment for all who do so are an abomination to the LORD your God."
1 Corinthians 16:13 "...act like men, be strong."

2. Curfews/Cars/Cell phones/Computers

Question: How much freedom should we allow our teenager to have?

Principle:

- Things are not a right but a privilege.
1 Corinthians 4:7 "What do you have that you did not receive?"
 - Trustworthiness gains greater freedom.
1 Corinthians 4:2 "It is required that those who have been given a trust must prove (themselves) faithful."
Proverbs 20:6 "...who can find a trustworthy man?"
Matthew 25:14-30 "Well done good and faithful servant, you have been faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things."
- * Parents, once a freedom is given, it is very difficult to remove. Carefully consider granting the privilege only after you have seriously thought through the dangers, the negative influence it may have, the benefits, the possible secrecy, and the long-term cost to you and your teen (example: chat rooms, MySpace or Facebook, computer games, texting, vehicle use, etc.). Make sure you talk through safe guards and restraints together.

3. Music

Questions: What should we allow our teens to listen to and how will it influence their thinking?

Principle:

- Only what is good, right, true, reasonable, worthy of praise
2 Corinthians 10:5 "We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ."
Proverbs 23:7 "As he thinks within himself, so he is."

Proverbs 27:19 "As in water face reflects face, so the heart of man reflects man."

Proverbs 4:23 "Watch over your heart with all diligence, for from it flows the springs of life."

Philippians 4:8 "Whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable – if anything is excellent or praiseworthy – think about these things (let your mind dwell on these things)."

James 1:8; 4:8 "A double minded man is unstable in all his ways."

Colossians 2:8 "See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ."

4. Media (TV, movies, magazines)

Question: What should we allow our teen to view of the media and how might it effect the way they think and act?

Principle:

- Only what is good, right, true, reasonable, worthy of praise
Psalms 101:2-4 "I will be careful to lead a blameless life... I will walk in my house with a blameless heart. I will set before my eyes no vile thing... I will have nothing to do with evil."

Psalms 12:8 "The wicked freely strut about when what is vile is honored among men."

Psalms 119:37 "Turn my eyes away from worthless things."

Proverbs 23:17 "Do not let your heart envy sinners, but always be zealous for the fear of the LORD."

Luke 11:34-36 "Your eye is the lamp of your body. When your eyes are good, your whole body also is full of light, but when they are bad, your body also is full of darkness. See to it then that the light within you is not darkness. Therefore, if your whole body is full of light and no part of it dark, it will be completely lighted, as when the light of a lamp shines on you."

Ephesians 5:3 "But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper of God's holy people, nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk, or coarse joking which are out of place..."

Philippians 4:8 "Whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable – if anything is excellent or

praiseworthy – think about these things (let your mind dwell on these things).”

5. Dating/Relationships/Sexuality

Question: What is the point of dating? Who should we allow our teenagers to date?

Principle:

- The last person you date is the person you marry.
Christians should date & marry only another believer.
Christian teenagers should only date those who potentially have the qualities they could see in a future mate.
2 Corinthians 6:14,15 “Do not be yoked together with unbelievers, for what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? What does a believer have in common with an unbeliever?”
1 Corinthians 7:39; 9:5 “...She is free to marry anyone she wishes, but he must belong to the Lord.” “Don’t we have the right to take a believing wife?”
Deuteronomy 7:3,4,6 “Don’t intermarry with them. Don’t give your daughters to be their sons or take their daughters for your sons, for they will turn your sons away from following Me to serve other gods...”
- Resist exclusiveness, false intimacy, and emotional promiscuity
- Include parents in boy/girl relationships.
- Christian group dating/events
- Protect emotional and physical purity
Hebrews 13:4 “Marriage should be honored by all and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral.”
1 Thessalonians 4:4-7 “Each of you should learn to control his own body in a way that is holy and honorable, not in passionate lust... and no one should defraud his brother or take advantage of him... for God did not call us to impurity, but to live a holy life.”
- Marriage is for life (till death do us part). Divorce is not an option. Choose wisely whom you date. Resolve conflict.
Romans 7:2,3
1 Corinthians 7:39
Malachi 2:14-16
Matthew 19:5,6

6. Work Ethic

Question: What should we expect from our teenagers concerning work around the home and outside employment?

Principle:

- Diligence in work (work hard/without distraction/finish well)
 - 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13 "We were not idle... nor did we eat anyone's food without paying for it. We worked night and day laboring... so that we would not be a burden to any of you." "If a man will not work, he shall not eat." "...some among you are idle... busybodies... we urge.. to earn the bread they eat."
 - Proverbs 10:4,22 "Lazy hands make a man poor, but diligent hands bring wealth."
 - Proverbs 13:4 "The desires of the diligent are fully satisfied."
 - Proverbs 14:23 "All hard work brings a profit."
 - Proverbs 21:5,20 "Diligence leads to profit, haste leads to poverty." "The foolish devours all he has."
 - regular home responsibilities/chores
(cook, clean, yard work, laundry – w/o pay)
 - work together as a family on a home project
 - finish a project once started
 - accept work cheerfully (right attitude important)
- Laziness leads to lack.
 - ~~Prov. 10:4,5,22; 13:4,21; 14:23,24; 12:24; 28:19,20; 6:3-11; 19:15,24,25; 20:4; 21:5,20,25,26; 24:30-34 15:19; 26:13-17~~
- Respond righteously to employers
 - Ephesians 6:5-9
 - work as unto the Lord from your heart (do your best)
 - not just when someone's eye is watching you
 - self-motivated, takes initiative without being asked
 - Colossians 3:22-24 - give it your best regardless
 - Titus 2:9,10
 - not talk back
 - not rob your employer/be trustworthy in all things
 - a good reputation/opportunity for the gospel
 - 1 Peter 2:18-23; 1 Timothy 6:1,2
 - youth fundraisers/raising money for church projects
 - part-time jobs
- Honor your word/keep your promises
 - Psalms 15:4 "...who keeps his oath even when it hurts."

7. Friendships

Question: Who should we allow our teenagers to hang out with?

Principle:

- "A person is known by the company he keeps."
- Nurture godly friendships/relationships
 - Proverbs 12:26 "A righteous man is cautious in friendships."
 - Proverbs 13:20 "He who walks with the wise grows wise; but a companion of fools suffers harm."

Proverbs 14:7 "Stay away from a foolish man, for you will not find knowledge on his lips."

1 Corinthians 5:11 "Do not associate with anyone who calls himself a 'brother' and yet leads an immoral life."

1 Corinthians 15:33 "Do not be misled. Bad company corrupts good character. Come back to your senses as you ought and stop sinning."

2 Thessalonians 3:6,14 "Don't associate with an 'brother' who does not live according to (Biblical) our teaching."

Proverbs 27:9,17 "Iron sharpens iron, one man sharpens another."

1 Samuel 23:16 "Jonathan... helped (David) find strength in God."

Psalms 14:5; 119:63

- Balance with time with friends

Proverbs 25:16,17 "If you find honey, eat just enough – too much of it and you will vomit. Seldom set foot in your neighbor's house – too much of you, and he will hate you."

8. View Of Things And Personal Pursuits

Question: How much stuff should we allow our teenagers to desire, pursue, or accumulate? What do your teenagers want?

Principle:

- Guard against covetousness or envy.

Proverbs 23:17 "Do not let your heart envy sinners, but always be zealous for the fear of the LORD."

Exodus 20:17 "You shall not covet your neighbor's house... or anything that is your neighbor's."

Hebrews 13:5 "Let your conduct be without covetousness, be content with such things as you have..."

Romans 12:2 "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect."

1 John 2:15,16 "Love not the world or anything in the world... for everything in the world – the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes, and the boasting of what he has and does – comes not from the Father but from the world. The world and its' desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever."

- Life is not about the accumulation of things. Keep temporal things in right perspective.

Luke 12:15-21 "Watch out. Be on your guard against all kinds of greed. For a man's life does not consist in the

abundance of his possessions.” “You fool, who will get what you have prepared for yourself? This is how it will be with anyone who stores up things for himself but is not rich toward God.”

Ecclesiastes. 5:10-15 “Whoever loves money never has money enough; whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with his income. As goods increase, so do those who consume them.”

Matthew 6:19-21 “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. Store up for yourselves treasures in heaven... for where your treasure is there your heart will be also.”

Matthew 16:26 “What will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what would a man give in exchange for his soul?”

- Life is more than just having fun (happiness/pleasure/hedonism).

Proverbs 21:17 “If you love pleasure, you will become poor.”

Luke 8:14 “They are choked by life’s worries, riches, and pleasures and they do not mature...”

Titus 3:3 “We too were foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures.”

2 Timothy 3:4 “Lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God.”

James 4:3.4 “You ask with wrong motives that you may spend what you get on your pleasures... we lived in malice and envy...”

Ecclesiastes 2:1,10 “I will test you with pleasure to find out what is good... but that also proved to be meaningless... and what does pleasure accomplish? I denied myself nothing my eyes desired; I refused my heart no pleasure... yet when I surveyed all that my hands had done... everything was meaningless, chasing after the wind.”

Ecclesiastes 2:25,26 “For without him who can eat or find enjoyment? To the man who pleases him, God gives wisdom, knowledge, and happiness.”

- Life is not about just making money. (future occupation goals)

1 Timothy 6:9,10,17 “People who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many

grief's. Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life."

Proverbs 23:4,5 "Do not wear your self out to get rich, have wisdom to show restraint. Cast but a glance at riches, and they are gone..."

Proverbs 15:16,27 "Better is little with the fear of the LORD, than great wealth with turmoil." "A greedy man brings trouble to his family."

Hebrews 13:5 "Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have."

Proverbs 28:19,20 "The one who chases fantasies will have his fill of poverty. A faithful man will be richly blessed, but one eager to get rich will not go unpunished."

Proverbs 13:8 "A man's riches may ransom his life."

Proverbs 22:1 "A good name is better than riches."

9. Use Of Money

Question: What should we expect of our teenager regarding money?

Principle:

- Giving

Proverbs 3:9 "Honor the LORD with your wealth, with the first fruits of your crops."

2 Corinthians 9:6-8,12,13 "Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly, or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver... You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God... supplying the needs of God's people... overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God... obedience that accompanies your confession... for your generosity in sharing..."

Acts 20:35 "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

1 Corinthians 16:1,2 "On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income..."

- Saving
Proverbs 13:11 "He who gathers money little by little makes it grow."
- Stewardship
Luke 16:10,11 "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. If you have not been trustworthy in banding worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches?"
- Responsible for own personal expenses
1 Thessalonians 4:11,12 "Work with your hands so that your daily life may win the respect of outsiders and so that you will not be dependent on anybody."
- Having a heart of gratitude/thankfulness
Colossians 3:15-17 "...be thankful... with gratitude in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him."
Deuteronomy 8:18 "It is He who gives you the ability to produce wealth."
Proverbs 10:22 "It is the blessing of the Lord that makes rich, and He adds no sorrow to it."
1 Chronicles 29:11,12 "Both riches and honor come from You, Oh Lord..."

10. Use Of Time

Question: What should we expect of our teenager concerning time management and self-discipline? When do you rest?

Principle:

- Life is short, so use your time wisely.
- Balance is best.
- Family is first. (Independence ≠ disconnect from home/family)
Ephesians 5:15-17 "See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, **redeem the time**, because the days are evil. Therefore, **do not be unwise**, but understand what the will of the Lord is."
Psalms 90:12 "Teach us to number our days aright, that we may gain a heart of wisdom."
1 Corinthians 14:33 "God is not the author of confusion, but of peace."
Mark 6:31 "Then because so many people were coming and going that they did not even have a chance to eat, Jesus said to them, 'Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest'."

11. Serving Others

Question: What should we expect from our teenagers concerning serving others?

Principle:

- Be willing to serve (asked or not)
 - learn to see things that need to be donePhilippians 2:4 "Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus."
Galatians 5:13 "Serve one another in love." (Matt. 20:28)
- With a joyful heart
Philippians 2:14 "Do all things without grumbling or disputing."
1 Thessalonians 5:16,17 "Be joyful always... give thanks in all circumstances..."

Teen Creed

*"Don't let your parents down; they brought you up.
Be humble enough to obey; you may give orders someday.
Choose companions with care; you become what they are.
Guard your thoughts; what you think, you are.
Choose only a date, who would make a good mate.
Be master of your habits, or they will master you.
Don't be a show-off when you drive; drive with safety and arrive.
Don't let the crowd pressure you; stand for something
or you'll fall for anything."
(author unknown)*