

Raising Teens Right

Instant Parenthood: ("I'm pregnant... now what?")

- Children came with no instructions
- We all learn by trial and error in the school of hard knocks.
- No one has the perfect family. We all can improve somewhere.
- Mixed feelings - kids are a joy -v- drain/frustration
We feel the enormous weight of responsibility as parents.



- What were your teen years like? (The good, the bad, and the ugly)
 - Self-conscious
 - Insecurity
 - Fear of rejection/crowd
 - Physical awareness
 - Awakening desires
 - Peer pressure

- Share one aspect of parenting teens that brings you joy and one that is really frustrating.

The Bitter Reality In Many Homes:

- rebelliousness/conflict in the home/survival mode
- parental shame/disgrace/embarrassment/excuses
- parental fear/mistrust/worry

(What other things are we unaware of?)

Genesis 24:3 "You shall not take a wife from the daughters of the Canaanites..."

Genesis 26:34,35 "Esau... married... and they brought grief to Isaac and Rebekah."

Genesis 28:2,8,9 "Esau saw that the daughters of Canaan displeased his father Isaac; and Esau went and married besides the wives they he had, the daughter of Ishmael."

1 Samuel 2:12,17,22-25 (Eli, Hophni, Phinehas) "Eli's sons were wicked men, they had no regard for the LORD." (priests 1:3) "They were treating the LORD's offering with contempt." "They slept with the women who served at the entrance to the Tent of Meeting." "I hear from all the people about these wicked deeds." "His sons did not listen to their father's rebuke."

1 Samuel 3:13 "For I told him that I would judge his family forever because of the sin he knew about; his sons made themselves contemptible, and he failed to restrain them."

Proverbs 10:1 "A foolish son brings grief to his mother."

Proverbs 11:29 "He who brings trouble on his family will inherit only wind."

Proverbs 12:1 "He who hates correction is stupid."



Proverbs 13:24 "He who spares the rod hates his son..."
 Proverbs 14:1 "... with her own hands the foolish woman tears her house down."
 Proverbs 15:5 "A fool spurns his father's discipline..."
 Proverbs 15:32 "He who ignores discipline despises himself..."
 Proverbs 17:1 "Better a dry crust with peace and quiet, than a house full of feasting with strife."
 Proverbs 17:21,24,25 "To have a fool for a son brings grief; there is no joy for the father of a fool." "A foolish son brings grief to his father and bitterness to the one who bore him."
 Proverbs 19:26 "He who robs his father and drives out his mother is a son who brings shame and disgrace."
 Proverbs 28:7 "He who keeps the law is a discerning son, but a companion of gluttons disgraces his father."
 Proverbs 28:24 "He who robs his father or mother and says, 'It is not wrong'..."
 Proverbs 29:11 "A fool gives full vent to his anger..."
 Proverbs 29:15,17 "A child left to himself disgraces his mother."
 Proverbs 30:11,13 "Those who curse their fathers and do not bless their mothers." "Those whose eyes are ever so haughty, whose glances are so disdainful."
 Proverbs 30:17 "The eye that mocks a father, that scorns obedience to a mother..."
 Psalms 101:7 "He who works deceit shall not dwell within my house; he who tells lies shall not continue in my presence."

Question: What may be the causes behind troubled homes? Why are the teen years seen as a time of conflict? Is the view of "a teenage phase of rebellion" a Biblical idea? (Recent invention) Do the teen years have to be turbulent years that we only survive?

Issues of the heart are the main reason for conflict in the home (James 4:2,3; Prov. 4:23)
 What rules your heart rules you! You are in a battle for the heart and mind of your teens.

Negative Characteristics Of Our Present Teenage Culture:

(Romans 1:29,30; 2 Timothy 3:2-5)

Disobedient/Rebellious
 Apathetic/Indifferent
 Unmotivated/Confused
 Self-Centered/Selfish
 Pursuing pleasure/fun
 Feelings rule
 Easily distracted
 Sensual/Seductive/Immoral
 Lost innocence/hardened
 Impulsive/Self-destructive
 Disinterest in spiritual things
 Hopeless/Empty

Disrespectful/Defiant
 Untrustworthy
 Desensitized to sin
 Entitlement mentality
 Self-gratification now
 People pleasers
 Violent/Without mercy
 Irrational
 Angry/Arrogant
 Lazy
 No fear of God
 Numb



- How is the Church or Christian homes any different?
- How does the Bible addresses these heart issues? (2 Peter 1:3,4)

Age Of Opportunity:

- There is no guarantee of a perfect family/perfect parenting.
 - bad parents can raise children who turn out good (through coming to Christ).
 - seemingly godly parents can have a rebellious unbelieving child within the home.
- However, there is a definite connection to godly parents producing godly kids. (Mal. 2:15)
"Train up a child in the ways of the Lord and when he is a teen, he will not depart from it." (paraphrase of Proverbs 22:6)
- Life is short. Time is precious. The early years directly effect the later years.
- As a general rule: Parents who follow Biblical principles in bringing up their children will see a positive effect on the character of their children/teenager.
- The family is God's primary learning community. Parents are the primary educators where we find our personal identity in God.
(Deut. 4:9,10; 6:2,6-9; 11:18-20; 29:29; 31:12,13; Ps. 78:3-8)
- God uses faithful parents as instruments in the salvation process of their kids.
Question: How many of you were introduced to Christ through your parents?

The Goal Of Parenting: (end product)

What are you trying to accomplish in your teenager?

What should the end result look like? (AoO p.180-184,202-7)

Colossians 1:9,10,28

Ephesians 6:4 (Discipline/Discipleship, Instruction/Training)

A Spiritually Maturing Teenager Should...

- Come to Christ in repentance and faith and give evidence of that profession in his/her lifestyle choices
- Have Godly fear and a desire to glorify God by turning from sin to God in obedience
- Pursue a heart for God with time in God's Word & prayer (internally motivated)
- Have a brokenness over lost people and desire to share the gospel with unbelievers
- Demonstrate a diligent, hard work ethic (dependable/responsible)
- Demonstrate a teachable spirit with a positive attitude towards learning
- Demonstrate a humble, servant's heart (sacrificial)(personal initiative to serve others)
- Honor, respect, and obey God-given authority
- Maintain a clean conscience before God demonstrating personal purity and self-control
- Have a generous, giving, compassionate, content heart
- Demonstrate good stewardship and thankfulness
- Desire godly friendships/relationships and want to be with God's people (fellowship)
- Have a sense of personal direction & life goals, be self-disciplined, wise in use of time.
- Demonstrate Christ-likeness in word, attitude, thought, behavior
- Demonstrating trustworthiness (truthful) and faithfulness in the little things

Proverbs 20:11 "A (teen) is known by his actions, by whether his conduct is pure and right."

"Living Proof" (1 Timothy 4:12)



The Ultimate Goal:

- * To work ourselves out of a job.
- * To train and prepare them to leave home (Genesis 2:24) and begin a new family unit.
- * To glorify God in our parenting and family. (1 Corinthians 10:31)("Well done...")

Teenagers Should Be Seen As A Joy & Blessing From The Lord:

Genesis 4:1,25 – The child was a gift from God.

Psalms 127:3-5 “Children are a heritage from the LORD, the fruit of the womb is a reward. Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, so are the children of one’s youth. Happy is the man who has his quiver full of them. They shall not be ashamed...”

Proverbs 10:1; 15:20 “A wise son brings joy to his father...”

Proverbs 17:6 “... parents are the pride of their children.”

Proverbs 23:24,25 “The father of a righteous man has great joy; he who has a wise son delights in him. May your father & mother be glad; may she who gave you birth rejoice.”

Proverbs 27:11 “Be wise, my son, and bring joy to my heart; then I can answer anyone who treats me with contempt.”

Proverbs 29:3 “A man who loves wisdom brings joy to his father...”

Proverbs 29:17 “Correct your son, and he will give you rest; yes he will give delight to your soul.” (The discipline process is hard at times, but rewarding in the end - Heb. 12:7-11)

Question: How have we communicated to our kids that they are a burden and hardship?
How can we communicate to them that they are a great joy and blessing from God to us?
How have we focused on the negative more than the positive with our teens?

It Is Important To Be A Godly Parent To Raise Godly Teenagers:

- You can’t give away something you personally don’t possess.

- You can’t mentor teenagers into something we ourselves don’t have.

Genesis 18:19 “He (Abraham) will direct his children and his household after him to keep the way of the LORD by doing what is right and just, so that the LORD will bring about for Abraham what he has promised him.” (obedience brings blessing)

2 Timothy 1:5 “I have been reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois, and in your mother Eunice, and I am persuaded now lives in you also.”

2 Timothy 3:14,15 “Continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, and how from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.”

Malachi 2:15 “Has not the LORD made them one? In flesh and spirit they are his, And why one? Because he was seeking godly offspring, so guard yourself in your spirit and do not break faith with the wife of your youth. I hate divorce.”

- Only when both parents remain faithful to their marriage vows can the children be given the security which provides the basis for godly living.

Proverbs 14:26 “In the fear of the LORD, there is strong confidence, and his children will have a place of refuge.”

Luke 6:40 “Everyone, after he has been fully trained, will be like his teacher.”

Proverbs 22:6 “Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not depart from it.” (General rule: How a person is trained determines what he becomes)

Psalms 127:1 “Unless the LORD builds the house, they labor in vain who built it...”

1 Timothy 2:15 “She will be saved in childbearing if they continue in faith, love, and holiness with self-control.” (MacArthur: “Even though a woman bears the stigma of being the

initial instrument who led the race into sin, it is women through childbearing who may be preserved or freed from that stigma by raising a generation of godly children. Because mothers have a unique bond and intimacy with their children, and spend far more time with them than do fathers, they have far greater influence in their lives and thus a unique responsibility and opportunity for rearing godly children. While a woman may have led the human race into sin, women have the privilege of leading many out of sin to godliness.”)

- 1 Timothy 4:7, 15, 16 “Train yourself to be godly... Be diligent in these matters, give yourself wholly to them, so that everyone may see your progress. Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers.” (your family)
- 1 Thessalonians 2:11, 12 “For you know that we dealt with each of you as a father deals with his own children, encouraging, comforting, and urging you to live lives worthy of God...”
- Titus 2:1-8 The older is called to set an example to the younger in godliness.

- The child’s most important influence comes from parents. Parents must insure that no other influence takes precedence. Parents must never abdicate their God-given parental role. Character is neither inbred by genetics nor picked up by osmosis. Children are taught to be what they become. As parents, we will be held accountable if we have turned our children over to other influences that shape their character in ungodly ways. Parenting is an issue of stewardship. Good parenting involves both quality and quantity time. The parenting in the early years sets the tone for the teen years to come.

The Question Of Example:

1 Corinthians 11:1 “Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ.”

Philippians 4:9 “Whatever you have learned or received, or heard from me, or seen in me – put it into practice.”

- Can you say this to your teenager?
- What are you modeling before your kids?
(Philippians 3:7; 2 Thessalonians 3:9)
- It is important that before we confront our teenager on issues of self, we face our own areas of sin and inconsistency. (Matthew 7:1-5; Romans 2:1-4, 17-23, 27)
Raising teens usually brings out the worst in us and exposes our own sinful hearts.
Remember, your teenager is not the only sinner in the house!

Challenge To Parents: Dewey Bertollini, Back To The Heart Of Youth Work

“How can we exert a godly influence if we ourselves are not godly? Answer: “We can’t.”
How can we set a godly standard if we ourselves are not godly? Answer: “We can’t.”
How can we communicate a godly message if we ourselves are not godly? Answer: “We can’t.” “The young people whom God has committed to our spiritual oversight will never develop such a heart if we do not possess one ourselves.”

Question: Who or what are the significant influences in your teen’s life?

How is your time with your teen overcoming those other secular voices and instead presenting a lasting, Christ-centered, Biblical worldview?

- What about teenagers in an unbelieving household?
1 Corinthians 7:13,14 "For the unbelieving husband has been sanctified through his (believing) wife, and the unbelieving wife has been sanctified through her believing husband. Otherwise your children would be unclean, but as it is, they are holy."
- The presence of one believer in a family brings blessing and protection and may be an avenue for the children to come to Christ.

Exemplary Godly Leadership In The Church Is A Reflection of A Godly Home:

1 Timothy 3:1-5 "An overseer (pastor/elder) must be above reproach, the husband of but one wife... he must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him with proper respect. If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God's church?"

1 Timothy 3:12 "A deacon must be the husband of but one wife and must manage his children and his household well."

Titus 1:6 "An elder must be blameless, the husband of but one wife, a man whose children believe (faithful) and are not open to the charge of being wild and disobedient."
(The word "believe" is translated "faithful" or trustworthy." It is never used in Scripture of an unbeliever. Faithful to who or what? It can not mean externally obedient but internally rebellious. The spiritual condition of a leader's child is at the center of his qualification.)

Hebrews 13:7,17 "Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith."

A Father's Confession:

"My family's all grown and the kids are all gone. But if I had to do it all over again, this is what I would do. I would love my wife more in front of my children. I would laugh with my children more - at our mistakes and our joys. I would listen more, even to the littlest child. I would be more honest about my own weaknesses, never pretending perfection. I would pray differently for my family; instead of focusing on them, I'd focus on me. I would do more things together with my children. I would encourage them more and bestow more praise. I would pay more attention to little things, like deeds and words of thoughtfulness. And then, finally, if I had to do it all over again, I would share God more intimately with my family; even ordinary things that happen in every ordinary day I would use to direct them to God."

EKG: Self-Examination Of The Heart

Regardless of the time frame you have had with your kids, looking back, what would you do differently? How could you personally improve in your view of parenting, your attitude toward parenting, and what you model every day to your kids? Do you personally have a heart for God? Remember, it is never too late to begin to live in obedience.

