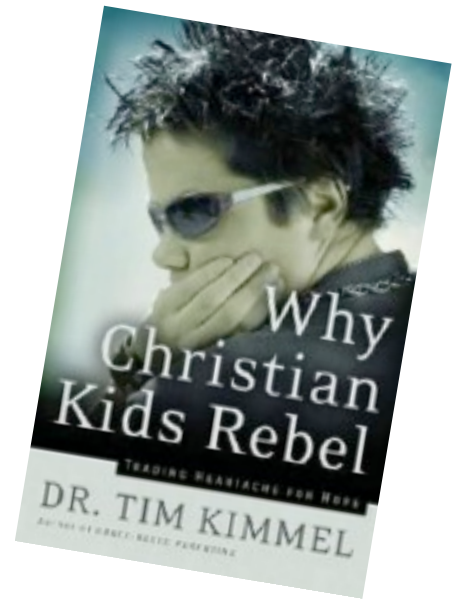


“Get Outta My Face”

Ephesians 6:4 “Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, instead, bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.”

Review: The child’s duty is to obey.
The parent’s duty is to teach their teen obedience in the context of godly nurturing, without exasperating them in the process.



What discipline (chastisement) is not:

- verbal abuse, out-of-control unrighteous anger, or empty threats
- physical abuse
- psychological warfare, manipulation, intimidation, emotional abuse
- negotiation, begging, reasoning, or nagging

Discipline is discipleship.

Provoked Anger:

Ephesians 6:4 “Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger...”

Colossians 3:21 “Fathers, do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged.”

Hebrews 12:15 “See to it that no one misses the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many.”

- “provoke to wrath” “exasperate” “embitter” “enrage” “aggravate”
- Outward/open anger or inward smoldering/seething/submerged/hidden anger
- Rigid, domineering, “overbearing” rule/authority that drives a family to anger, despair, resentment, bitterness, and withdrawal.
- **Roman society** – dad was king. A newborn child was placed at the father’s feet to determine its fate. Most devastating abuse is that of neglect – treated as if they don’t exist. “patria potestas” (the father’s power/patriarch)
- Issue of stewardship –v- dictatorial rule (creation/Gen. 18:19)
- There is a difference between righteous and unrighteous anger.
Ephesians 4:26,27,29,31 “Be angry, but do not sin...”
James 1:20 “For man’s anger does not bring about the righteous life that God desires.”



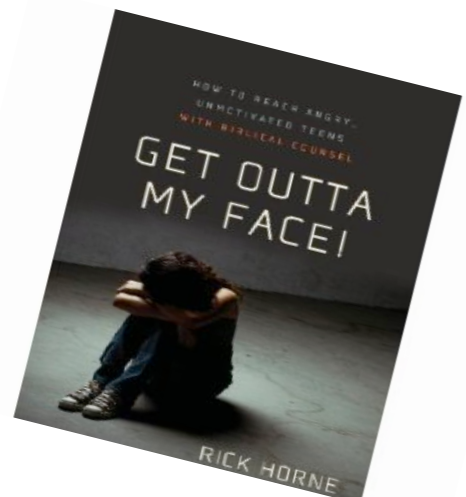
- Regenerated parents still struggle with fleshly habits/desires
Romans 7:15-24 "I do the very thing I hate"
- Anger in the child may be the result of the sin of the child.
James 4:1,2 "What causes fights and quarrels among you? Do they come from your desires that battle within you? You want something but don't get it. You kill and covet, but you cannot have what you want. You quarrel and fight. You do not have because you do not ask God. When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with the wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures..."
- Anger may be the result of deliberate aggravation or neglect on the part of the parents. (intentional or unintentional)
- There is a danger of children in "Christian" families being more hostile to the things of God because of hypocrisy in the home (Galatians 6:7-10 We reap what we sow).
- Discipline should never try to beat the child into submission or allow the use of brute force. ("I will show you who's boss")



Faith Of The Fatherless, Paul Vitz

Many of the most influential atheists of the 1600-1900 were men whose own fathers were either abusive or absent (Nietzsche, Hitler, Hume, Russell, Sartre, Camus, Freud, Voltaire, Stalin, Mao Zedong). Those who had a good example of a God-fearing father influenced culture for good (Pascal, Burke, Wilberforce, Schweitzer, Barth, Mendelssohn) Our view of our earthly father directly effects our view of our Heavenly Father.

Question: What are ways we as parents exasperate our children and cause them to be embittered?



Possible Causes Of Anger In Teenagers:

(Heart of Anger, Lou Priolo)

(Successful Christian Parenting, John MacArthur)

Question: Is your teens' anger a chronic condition or just occasional?

1. Lack of marital harmony/divorce/resentment

Hebrews 12:15 Root of bitterness/
many may be defiled

Malachi 2:15 "Guard your spirit and do not
break faith with the wife of your youth."
"seeking godly offspring"

*Question: What are ways in which your
marriage has not been in harmony?
If someone asked your children, what
would they say?*



2. Little or no discipline or boundaries/neglect/impulsive

Proverbs 29:15 "A child who gets his own way brings shame."
(A child-centered home)

Hebrews 12:7,8 "For what son is not disciplined by his father? If
you are not disciplined, and everyone undergoes discipline,
then you are illegitimate children and not true sons."

*Question: In what ways have you not given appropriate or
needed discipline?*

3. Unrighteous anger modeled in the home, out-of-control parents disciplining in their anger, harsh, abusive, or excessive in punishment.

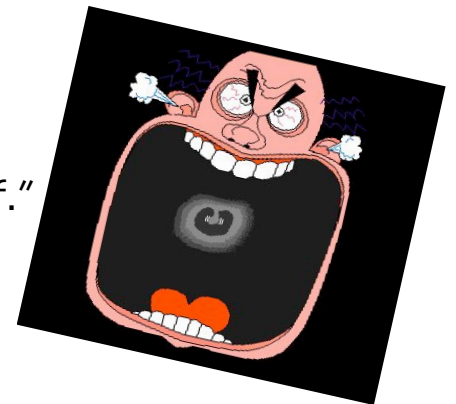
Proverbs 22:24,25 "Do not associate with
a man given to anger; or go with a
hot-tempered man, lest you learn
his ways, and find a snare for yourself."
(Proverbs 15:18; 29:11,22; 17:19;
14:17; Psalms 37:8)

Ecclesiastes 7:9 "Do not be eager in your
heart to be angry, for anger resides
in the bosom of fools."

Psalms 39:3 "My heart grew hot within me, and as I meditated,
the fire burned; then I spoke with my tongue..."

Galatians 5:20 "discord, fits of rage, dissensions"

Colossians 3:8-13 "rid yourself of... anger, rage, malice..."



- Don't correct when you are irritated or angry. Take some time to cool down and start again.
Psalms 38:1; 39:3 "O LORD, do not rebuke me in your anger or discipline me in your wrath."

Question: What are you modeling at home regarding conflict resolution? What is your personal plan to not discipline your children in anger? Are you an angry, bitter person?

4. Put downs, sarcasm, scolding, nagging, labeling ("you always" "you never" "you usually"), name calling, demeaning tone of voice/body language/haughty eyes, belittling, mocking, ridicule, teasing
Ephesians 4:15 "Speaking the truth in love..."

Ephesians 4:29 "Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, that it may give grace to those who hear."

Prov. 10:19,32; 12:18,25; 13:3; 15:23,28; 16:23; 17:27,28; 18:21; 28; 29:11

James 3:2-11

1 Peter 3:8-11

* We say such hurtful things to our family we would never think of saying to anyone else.

Question: What are some words you have said or things you have done which have been unwholesome?

5. Inconsistent discipline/different parental standards/unclear expectations/confusing messages

Question: How have you been inconsistent in your discipline?

6. Double standards (hypocritical – expecting from the child that which the parent is personally unwilling to do.)

Philippians 4:9; 1 Corinthians 11:1; Matthew 23:3

Question: Is there any confusing double standards in your home?

7. Unwillingness to listen

James 1:19 "Be quick to hear, slow to speak, and slow to get angry."

Proverbs 18:13 "He who answers before listening that is his folly and his shame."

Question: Have you been a good listener?

8. Favoritism or comparison among siblings (gifts/privilege)
 “Why can’t you be like your brother...?”
 * Don’t use one child’s virtues or talents as the standard against which to measure another’s performance.
 Results: bitterness, trickery, deceit, jealousy, tension
 Isaac favored Esau over Jacob – Genesis 25:28; 27:
 Jacob preferred Joseph over brothers – Genesis 37
 2 Cor. 10:12
Question: How have you shown preference or favoritism for one child over the next? Have you been guilty of comparison?
9. Parents not admitting they’re wrong or asking forgiveness
 Issue of pride and self-denial
 James 5:16 “Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed...”
Question: When is the last time you admitted you were wrong and said you were sorry to your teenager?
10. Negative criticism/discouragement/lack of approval/being overly critical/condemning/accusing/judgmental/never feeling encouraged/limited praise
 “No matter what I do, I can’t seem to please you.”
 Proverbs 16:24 “Pleasant words are a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and healing to the bones.”
 Proverbs 15:23; 19:11
Question: How are you praising your teenager? How are you being an encouragement to them? Do you focus more on what they do wrong than what they do right? How have you focused only on the negative behavior of your teen? What are some things you can praise your teenager for doing? List 5 positive qualities in your kids.
11. Broken promises
 Proverbs 20:25 “It is a trap for a man to dedicate something rashly, and only later to consider his vows.” (6:2)
 Hosea 10:4 “They make many promises, take false oaths, and make agreements, therefore lawsuits spring up like poisonous weeds.”
 Proverbs 26:19 “I was only joking.”
 Proverbs 13:12 “Hope deferred makes the heart sick...”
 Psalms 15:4 “Honor your word even when it hurts.”
 Matthew 5:37 “Yes be yes, no be no” (James 5:12)
Question: What promises have you not kept to your teenager that you need to ask forgiveness?

12. Overprotection/lack of trust/assuming the worst/stifling/limiting their chance for freedom because of fear/worry
 Genesis 29-31 Laban and Jacob
 * need for balance: protection/space to grow up
 * children need opportunities to make mistakes
 * greater trust = greater freedom
Question: How much freedom do you allow your children to have? What do your teens have to demonstrate to gain more freedom?
13. Overindulgence/excessively permissive/spoiled
 * children given too much freedom feel insecure and unloved.
 (Prov. 13:24)
 * parents who lavish the child with things may try to compensate for the lack of time together.
 * parents who indulge or coddle their misbehaving children are actually displaying unloving behavior toward them.
Question: How have you spoiled your kids rather than giving them what they desperately needed?
14. Unrealistic expectations/pressure to achieve/conditional love
 1 Thessalonians 2:11,12 "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, who calls you into his kingdom and glory."
 "No matter what I do, it never satisfies my parents."
 "I love you if you..." (Matt. 5:44-46)
Question: Do you have any unrealistic expectations you have placed on your children? How do you communicate to your children you are pleased with what they do accomplish? Do your kids have fear of failure which keeps them from trying their best? Is your love conditioned on their response?
15. Neglect/feeling unwanted/an intrusion/interference/unloved/failing to show affection/spend time with you/communicating indifference/unconcern/disinterest/conditional love – "I will love you if..."
 2 Samuel 14:24
 1 Corinthians 13:4-8
 1 Peter 4:8 "Love each other deeply, for love covers a multitude of sins."
 Proverbs 10:12

*Question: How are you communicating you love your kids?
Have you tried to lavish them with gifts to make up for the
lack of time with them?*

16. Public chastisement or embarrassment

*Question: How have you embarrassed your teenager in public or
before their friends?*

17. Questioning a child's judgment or opinion/thoughts or never
allowing them the freedom to fail.

"That was really stupid what you did..."

*Question: How have you communicated your teenager's
thoughts or opinion were ridiculous? Do you give them a
chance to try something with the possibility they might
fail?*

18. Using Scripture as a club to verbally beat up the child.

*"If you beat up your children with God's Word, they will shrink
from it when they are young and flee from it when they live
independently. We must be sensitive to times when our children
feel overwhelmed by us verbally. Bring God's word with care and
compassion, even when it speaks to correct or rebuke."*

(Instructing A Child's Heart, Tripp, p. 21)(2 Timothy 3:16,17)

Make sure you have balance between law and grace and are not
living a life of spiritualizing everything while you yourself
are living in hypocrisy. Teens see the inconsistency or
contradiction between what you say and what you do.
(Matthew 23:3,4,13,23-28) Make sure we are listening to our
own preaching.

*Question: Have you been inconsistent in your use and application
of Scripture in your own home?*

19. Unjust discipline/hasty judgment or false accusation

Proverbs 18:17 "The first to present his case seems right, till
another comes forward and questions him."

Proverbs 17:26 "It is not good to punish an innocent man..."

1 Samuel 17:28-30 "(David's brother said) I know how conceited
you are and how wicked your heart is, you came down only
to watch the battle." (David) "Now what have I done? Can't
I even speak?"

Psalms 35:11,12; 38:20; 59:4; 109:3 "They question me on things I
know nothing about..." "They slander me when I pursue

what is good." "I have done no wrong, yet they are ready to attack me." "They attack me without cause."

- Make sure you separate facts from assumptions

Question: How have you been unfair in your discipline? How have you reconciled with your teen when you unjustly accused or misunderstood their true motives?

- What are 3 things you plan to do differently?

"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."