

# Biblical Parenting

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A Biblical Guide to Parenting Teens

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# Introduction

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- We get a front row seat to see our children develop into who Christ has created them to be.
- Jeremiah 1:5– "Before I made you in your mother's womb, I knew you. Before you were born, I chose you for a special work."
- Psalm 139:15– "You formed the way I think and feel. You put me together in my mother's womb."

# Defining "Successful" Parenting

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- Successful parenting is the rightful, God-ordained loss of control. The goal of parenting is to work ourselves out of a job.

# The Goal of Parenting

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- The goal of parenting is to raise children who were once totally dependent on us to be independent, mature people who, with reliance on God and proper connectedness to the Christian community, are able to stand on their own two feet.

# The Role of the Family

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- The family is God's primary learning community. Parents have a platform for instruction that no one else has.
- Ephesians 6:4– "Father's, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord."
- Proverbs 22:6– "Teach children in a way that fits their needs and even when they are old, they will not leave the right path."

# Teach your child Jesus, Show your child Jesus.

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- Children were made for a relationship with God.
- They were made to know, love, serve and obey Him.
- Everything a child thinks, does and says was purposed by God to be done in submission to him.
- Matt 22:37-38- "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment."

# Pursue God

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- We want our children/teens to pursue God.
- The ultimate goal for teens is to have a heart for God.
- This is the root that will produce all other fruits of Godliness in their lives.

# Strategies for encouraging a heart for God

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- Make family worship a priority and make it engaging.
- Look for opportunities to point your teenager to God.
- Be positive and Christ centered in your use of scripture. ( 2 Timothy 3:17)
- Be willing to use yourself as an example of the forgiving, enabling, and delivering grace of Christ.



# Strategies for encouraging a heart for God

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- Be willing to ask for forgiveness, accountability and prayer.
- Be a picture of humility, dependence on Christ, and hope.
- Be a model of prayer without ceasing.

# Strategies for encouraging a heart for God

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- Be an example of hunger for God. Let your teenager see your commitment to be under the regular teaching of God's word.
- Let your teenager see you be in robust fellowship and ministry with the body of Christ.
- Ask yourself "Do I hunger after God and does my teenager see it?"
- Are you a model of the thing you are seeking to instill in your teenager?

# Qualities of a Spiritual Warrior

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- A spiritual warrior will understand that the world is a struggle.
- A spiritual warrior will have a heartfelt, internalized fear of God. The single motivation in a persons life should be to live a life so as to please The Lord.
- Second to the fear of God, but directly related is submission to authority.

# Qualities of a Spiritual Warrior

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- Separation from the wicked. The teenager who who fears God will want to be with other teenagers who fear God. (It is true that one is known by the company he keeps.)
- Thorough knowledge of scripture that allows him to apply its commands, principles, and perspectives to the many different situations that arise in everyday life. Be able to approach life with biblical wisdom.

# Cultural Pollutants

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- As parents, we make a great error in our tendency to emphasize the obvious cultural pollutants. (sex, drugs, alcohol, violence, abortions, etc.) while neglecting the more deceptive, unseen pollutants in the cultural air around us.
- The result is that our children may not participate in the "biggies" but they end up serving the idols of the surrounding culture.

# Cultural Pollutants

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- These idols should be feared more because they creep up on us, unseen and appearing harmless and attractive.
- These idols also play to the desires of the sinful nature. They feed the very thing that God is seeking to destroy.

# Cultural Idols

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- Relativism
- Individualism
- Emotionalism
- Presentism
- Materialism
- Autonomy
- Victimism

# Closing

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- We share a fallen nature with our teenagers, and we share progressive growth unto holiness with them.
- We must stand alongside them as the older sister in Christ and point them to the only hope—Christ.
- We must communicate that there is no answer we give them that we ourselves don't need.



# Closing

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- Never give in to thinking it is too late. God knows when it is the exact time and moment to teach us. He is never early, and He is never late.
- It is only by the power of Christ that we can do all things.

# Prayer

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- "Father we want to follow your example as we parent our children and teenagers, yet daily we find ourselves falling short in many ways. Today we ask that you would empower us so that we may use every situation to think, speak, and act in a way that pictures you, and what you, through your Son, have done for us. We pray that there would be no struggle so grave as to lead us to give up, since Christ's work for us daily gives us reason to continue. We pray that you would use us, to teach our children, and encourage them to take on the qualities of a spiritual warrior. May you give us God given opportunities to help our children to develop his internal convictions and apply them to every situation. We pray that our children will develop a heart for God, and that you will use us to produce children who love and serve God above all else. We pray there is a vertical Godward focus to everything our teenagers and children say and do. We pray that you rule their heart, so that they can live a godly life in a fallen world." Amen

# Credits

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- "Age of Opportunity" - Paul David Tripp
- "Parenting" - Paul David Tripp
- "Shepherding a Child's Heart" - Ted Tripp
- "The Faithful Parent" - A biblical guide to raising a family - Martha Peace and Stuart Scott