

## Biblical Parenting Basics #3 - *Parenting Teens: Rom 6:1-14*

**Introduction** – Surpassing the myth today that spanking young children equates to child abuse is the myth that teenagers *must* rebel against their parents. Our youth-worship culture only promotes the lie. The blight of the modern church is it's catering to the folly of youth rather than commanding and cultivating the respect of elders. What we want to do is think biblically about this time of life for our sons and daughters and seek how we might best shepherd them as parents. And remember the goal (Psalm 127:3-5): faithful offspring standing at your side against the darkness, walking in the light.

**Natural Rebels?** (Rom 6:1-14) – Teenagers are not exempt from obedience to God. There is no genetic or psychological reason that justifies sin. Paul teaches here that you do not have to sin in order to grow in grace. What a teenager does have is more knowledge, imagination, strength, and a host of new temptations. One result of this is that your teenager needs a father and a mother more than ever before even though he or she looks more self-sufficient.

**Identified and Grabbed by Our Baptism** – Once a person is baptized, they are united together with Christ in His death and resurrection (v5), declaring their old man crucified (v6) and that their life is now found in Christ (v7). When they (just like us) are tempted to disobey Christ, Paul calls us to grab them and say, “hey, you’re baptized, you can’t do that.” We are to reckon ourselves dead to sin and alive to Christ (v11). And then we are to live like what has been declared (vv12-14). The difference for teenagers is not that they are the only ones who go through a crisis of faith (“am I really saved, and am I really going to live like it?”) The difference is that it is becoming a self-conscious crisis for the first time (or times) in their lives.

**Loving Teenagers** – What is the second greatest commandment? And who is your neighbor? The answer is the teenager living in your home, who often appears to be less lovable than when he was a cute, little toddler. 1 Tim 5:8 teaches us that the commandments of God are even more important in the home. Loving them should be a response of our obedience to the Lord, and not how we are feeling toward them. Therefore...

**Forgiveness** (Col 3:13) – They appear more responsible, and so their sins or shortcomings seem somehow more personally offensive. You must discipline for the sin, but not take it personally.

**Affection** – Pour it on, and don’t wait for them to ask for it. Sure, it is different now – but all the more reason you must pour it on in appropriate ways. They are young enough to be insecure, but old enough to hide it from you.

**Be a Parent, not a Peer** – Don’t try to be their best friend. Be their father or mother. We have this mixed up in our egalitarian society and in our relationship towards God our Father. There should be intimacy, but not equality. At the same time, fathers are not preachers and mothers are not lecturers. They are fathers and mothers and instruction comes in the midst of daily life (Deut 6).

**Training For Maturity** – Deut 6:6-9 takes on new applications as these children spread their wings and begin to fly on their own:

**Fear God** (Prov 1:7) – They don’t need flashy testimonies. They need faithful obedience – that will be flashy enough in today’s culture. Do not trust their regeneration to a slender thread – “she made a commitment when she was...”, or “he was baptized...”.

**Adorned With Instruction** (Prov 1:8-9) – They must learn to consciously seek their parents’ instruction and wisdom. And part of that should be a rigorous pursuit of education.

**Avoid Evil Companions** (Prov 1:10-14) – They must learn to choose their friends, and you must have oversight over this (1 Cor 15:33).

**Going Pert** (Prov 27:17) – Learn to enjoy a good argument, showing respect to elders, learning to listen, when to be vigorous, etc. You want them thinking....

**Encourage Submission/Oppose Over-dependence** – This is difficult. There is a time for doing what you are told, and there is a time to do what you think is right even if you were not told. As they grow up, you want less restrictions, not more.

**New Forms of Discipline** – At some point, spanking is out. But sin must still have consequences and you want to magnify those consequences for the sake of teaching. Do not subsidize sin, rebellion, or laziness, with free room and board (2 Thess 3:10). It may mean losing privileges (keys to car, tonight’s dinner, etc.), but these things should not be ‘grounding’. Restitution should be paid, public confessions for public sins need to be made, and all with a thankful spirit.

**Forms of Courtesy** – This is ‘love in the trifles’, and is a key to maturity. For the teen, it is a physical way to remember who they are. This covers learning not to talk too much, table manners, personal hygiene, how to use humor.

**Boys** – Need to be taught to be covenant heads. It should be practiced on how they treat their mother (with great respect) and their sisters (with caring devotion). He must fight sloth and learn the value of hard work, how to take a hit, and how/when to give one.

**Girls** – Need to learn how to live under and alongside a covenant head, willing to receive physical affection, emotional protection and sustained leadership from her father, she knows she is looking for a man she can respect as much as her Dad. And in that security, she learns how to give herself away for the sake of others. In that security as well, she learns the importance of godly modesty and beauty.

**Imitate the Message** (Deut 7:9-11) – A covenant amplifies everything. Everything a teenager does “amps up” the manifestation that he or she is a covenant member in your household and with God. The power of the glorious blessings or the great curses is coming forth. The seriousness of both parts of the message must be stated, imitated, and promoted in your home.

Dave Hatcher, May 10, 2015