

# Lesson 5

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## Biblically Loving My Teens

(Seizing Opportunities to Show My Teens I Love Them)

by Becky Rush

*Give me your heart, my son,  
and let your eyes delight in my ways.*

~ Proverbs 23:26

"The world is tugging at our children's hearts, pulling them down and away from God. Loving our children means we are willing to get down in the trenches and fight to turn our children's hearts toward God-toward His Word and His ways."

~ Elizabeth George

Why do Mothers need to be encouraged to love their children?

---So that we will honor God's Word

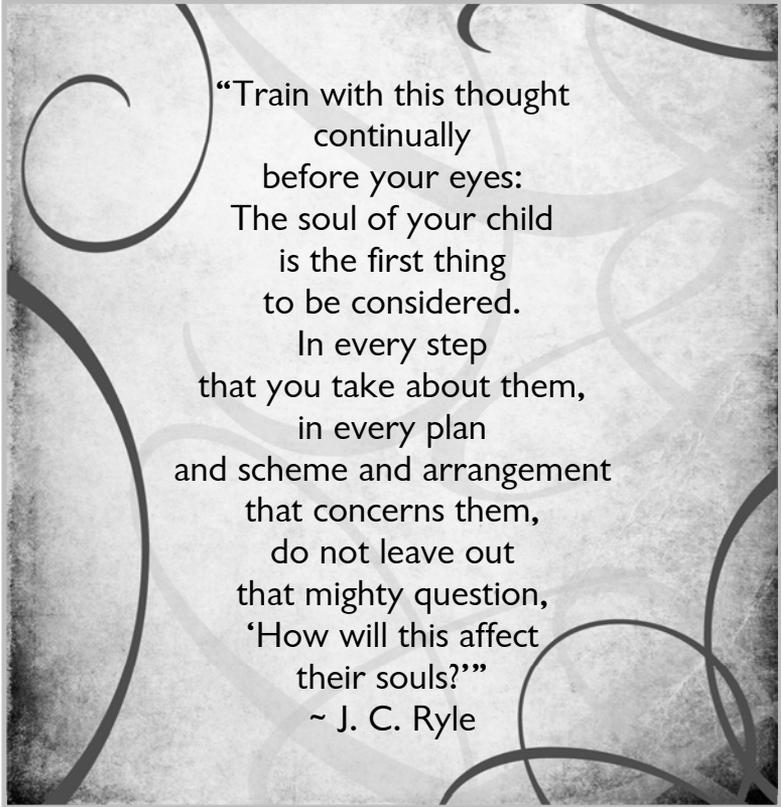
*So that they may encourage the young women . . . to love their children . . . so that the word of God will not be dishonored.*

~ Titus 2:4-5

---Teens aren't always lovable. They do things that are unwise or even hurtful.

# **In Biblically loving my teens I must first be committed to my own responsibilities.**

1. My first priority must be my relationship with God and His Word. (2 Corinthians 3:18)  
I can't be in right relationship with my teens if I am not in right relationship with my Lord.
2. I must pray for my teens and pray that my love for my teens will increase.
3. I must realize loving my teen won't just happen, but it involves commitment in many areas.
  - Commitment of my time
    - ⇒ You need to know them to love them (spend time with them to get to know their interests)  
My teens aren't robots—they each have their own interests
    - ⇒ Communicate with them
      - Be a listener
      - Don't take just "yes" and "no" answers—dig deep into their thoughts
      - Don't break their confidences
      - Texting, e-mail, sending them notes
      - Be your teen's biggest cheerleader—  
Do I correct more than I praise?
  - Commitment of my energy—Being a Mom is a 24/7 job
  - Commitment of my thoughts  
Give attention to them and their needs
  - Commitment to sacrifice (self-sacrificing for their benefit)  
Learning to give up my wants and desires  
Parenting with eternity in view



“Train with this thought  
continually  
before your eyes:  
The soul of your child  
is the first thing  
to be considered.  
In every step  
that you take about them,  
in every plan  
and scheme and arrangement  
that concerns them,  
do not leave out  
that mighty question,  
‘How will this affect  
their souls?’”  
~ J. C. Ryle

# **In Biblically loving my teens I must obey God's Word regarding disciplining my children.**

*My son, do not reject the discipline of the Lord or loathe His reproof, for whom the Lord loves He reproves, even as a father corrects the son in whom he delights.*

~ Proverbs 3:11-12

(Deuteronomy 8:5; Proverbs 13:24; 19:27; Hebrews 12:5-11)

1. Discipline using Scripture
  - Scripture is sufficient (2 Timothy 3:16-17)
  - Show your children by your words and actions that you have faith and confidence in the Bible and want to obey it (Proverbs 6:20)
  - *Give me your heart, my son, and let your eyes delight in my ways* (Proverbs 23:26)
  - Support other scriptural authorities
2. Let your children know your expectations of them
3. Be unified with your husband—pray and discuss situations and then act TOGETHER

4. Choose your battles.

- Some battles are not worth losing the war over.
- Adjust for your teen's styles, manners, and preferences
- Deal with your teen at the right time, right place, and with the right attitude—LOVE them with your tone
- Be willing and vulnerable enough to confront them—don't allow "little" sins to become big problems
- David's bad example with Adonijah (1 Kings 1:6), Eli's example with his sons

*For I have told him [Eli] that I am about to judge his house forever for the iniquity which he knew, because his sons brought a curse on themselves and **he did not rebuke them.***

~ 1 Samuel 3:13

- Don't "nitpick"—don't point out every little thing that bothers you—my children aren't perfect and neither am I



5. Dealing with a problem

- Ask questions
- Get to heart issues (Proverbs 20:5) Discern the root problem
- Again right time, right place, and right attitude
- Don't overreact—my response can set the tone for the discussion
- Encourage them with God's Word and Pray with them and for them

6. Not disciplining is not loving

Reasons we fail to discipline:

- Laziness-because implementing discipline takes work and energy
- Fear
  - Of what others will think of us (including our teens)

The fear of man brings a snare,  
but he who trusts in the LORD will be exalted.

~ Proverbs 29:25

- Of losing my child
- Doubts  
Lack of faith in God's Word is sin.

**In Biblically loving my teens  
I must help them learn  
to develop adult relationships.**

1. Have long term goals
2. Guide them in choosing friends (Proverbs 13:20; Proverbs 27:6, 9)
3. Remember, in the will of God we are training them to be someone else's husband or wife.
4. Help and counsel them in making right decisions in all areas of life. When they have made their own decisions, allow them to bear the consequences of those decisions.

How do you know when they are old enough to make their own decisions? When the decisions they make are right. If they consistently make wrong decisions, then they are not old enough to make their own decisions.

## **In Biblically loving my teens I must show them that I love them.**

---Show them affection frequently.

---Little things go a long way in showing love.

"Nothing trains and teaches so powerfully as love. Love attracts, it does not coerce. If the aim of the parents is to teach their children to love God they must show their love for Him by loving each other and loving the children."

~ Elisabeth Elliot



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