

Parenting Teens According to the *Bible*

by Linda Minnick

*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*

Why does God have to command us to love our teens?

1. Because Biblical love is not according to the flesh: mine or my child's!

What is Biblical Love?

- **Agape**—emphasizes the selfless love that gives and gives with no expectation of return; the selfless love that gives what it knows is best for the beloved. It's used for God's love for us and our love for one another. It is an action love—a love of the will. It's described in I Corinthians 13 and I John 4.
 - **Phileo**—the emphasis of this word adds a new dimension: the tender affection of our feelings for the beloved.
2. Because God's testimony is at stake.
So that the Word of God will not be dishonored.

How do I love my Teens with Biblical love?

If all we had was the Bible, that would be enough.

Survey of Biblical Teaching on Parenting

The Spiritual State of Parents

Exodus 34:6-7 (Moses)

Then the LORD passed by in front of him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD God, compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in lovingkindness and truth; who keeps lovingkindness for thousands, who forgives iniquity, transgression and sin; yet He will by no means leave the guilty (*unbelieving*) unpunished, **visiting the iniquity of fathers on the children and on the grandchildren to the third and fourth generations.**" (Exodus 20:5; Deuteronomy 5:9; Numbers 14:18)

Deuteronomy 24:16

Fathers shall not be put to death for their sons, nor shall sons be put to death for their fathers; everyone shall be put to death for his own sin.

Deuteronomy 12:28

Be careful to listen to all these words which I command you, **so that it may be well with you and your sons after you forever**, for you will be doing what is good and right in the sight of the LORD your God.

(Deuteronomy 5:29; 12:25)

A. Our relationship with the Lord has everything to do with how our children will respond to the Lord.

B. I cannot be a loving parent without my own transformation into the image of Christ.



...so that the man of God may be adequate,
equipped for every good work.

~2 Timothy 3:17

"At a pastoral conference, held not long since, at which about one hundred and twenty American clergymen, united in the bonds of a common faith, were assembled, each was invited to state the human instrumentality to which, under the Divine blessing, he attributed a change of heart. How many of these, think you, gave the honour of it to their mother? Of one hundred and twenty, above one hundred! Here then are facts, which are only selected from myriads of others, to prove a mother's power, and to demonstrate at the same time her responsibility."

~John Angell James

Teaching Your Teens

A. A Mandate from God

Deuteronomy 4:9

Only give heed to yourself and keep your soul diligently, so that you do not forget the things which your eyes have seen and they do not depart from your heart all the days of your life; but make them known (TEACH) to your sons and your grandsons.

Deuteronomy 4:10

Remember the day you stood before the LORD your God at Horeb, when the LORD said to me, "Assemble the people to Me, that I may let them hear My words (faith cometh by hearing) so they may learn to fear Me all the days they live on the earth, and that they may teach their children."

(Genesis 18:19, Deuteronomy 11:19, 32:46)

Psalms 78:5-8

*For He established a testimony in Jacob
And appointed a law in Israel,
Which He commanded our fathers
That they should teach them to their children,
That the generation to come might know, even the children
yet to be born, that they may arise and tell them to their children,
(content of teaching)
That they should put their confidence in God (personally)
and not forget the works of God, but keep His commandments.*

B. *A Method From God*

Deuteronomy 6:6-7

“These words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart—first...then You shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up.”

Example of a Proverbs Parent:

Proverbs—Teaching Your Teen (see supplement)

1. Notice the heart issue
2. Underline verbs
3. Circle subjects

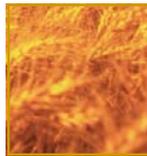


*... and that from childhood you have known the sacred writings...
~2 Timothy 3:15*

The Goals of Teaching Your Teen

A. *Salvation*

Be discerning of your child's spiritual state.



*And that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.
~2 Timothy 3:15*

B. Character

Proverbs—Get Wisdom (see supplement)

-Look at words in bold

wisdom

+ understanding

+ discernment

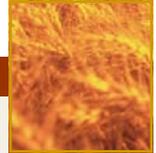
+ knowledge

+ discretion

= WISDOM OF GOD

Wisdom is the skill of taking all the facets of the *“Wisdom of God”* and putting them into practice.

...the sacred writings which are able
to give you the wisdom...
~2 Timothy 3:15



The Fruit of Wisdom

A. A Life of Value

Philippians 1:9-11 *And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in real knowledge and all discernment, so that you may approve the things that are excellent, in order to be sincere and blameless until the day of Christ; having been filled with the fruit of righteousness which comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.*

Proverbs—Get Wisdom (see supplement)

-Look at words in green

B. Honored Parents

Ephesians 6:2-3

HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER (which is the first commandment with a promise), SO THAT IT MAY BE WELL WITH YOU, AND THAT YOU MAY LIVE LONG ON THE EARTH.

Proverbs—Honored Parents (see supplement)

1. Look at the parents of a wise son (in orange)
2. Look at the parents of a foolish son (in purple)

“Every child wants the approval of his parents and every parent wants the respect (honor) of his child.”

~Pastor Minnick



*All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable...
for training in righteousness;
~2 Timothy 3:16*

The Tools of Discipline

Deuteronomy 8:5

Thus you are to know in your heart that the LORD your God was disciplining you just as a man disciplines his son.

Proverbs—Discipline (see supplement)

-Look at first 4 passages

Proverbs 29:15

*The **rod** and **reproof** give wisdom,
But a child who gets his own way brings shame to his mother.*

A. The Scripture

2 Timothy 3:16

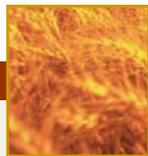
All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness;

Ephesians 6:4

... bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

Discipline—(see supplement)

-Look at Proverbs 6 passage



*All Scripture is inspired by God
and profitable... for reproof, for correction,....
~2 Timothy 3:16*

B. Your Relationship With Them

Positive

Hebrews 12:5-11

*And you have forgotten the exhortation which is addressed to you as sons, "MY SON, DO NOT REGARD LIGHTLY THE DISCIPLINE OF THE LORD, NOR FAINT WHEN YOU ARE REPROVED BY HIM; FOR THOSE WHOM THE LORD **LOVES** HE DISCIPLINES, AND HE SCOURGES EVERY SON WHOM HE RECEIVES." It is for discipline that you endure; God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom his father does not discipline? But if you are without discipline, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. Furthermore, we had earthly fathers to discipline us, and we respected them; shall we not much rather be subject to the Father of spirits, and live? For they disciplined us for a short time as seemed best to them, but He disciplines us for our good, so that we may share His holiness. All discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful; yet to those who have been trained by it, afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness.*

Love requires discipline and correction, but it will be the outpouring of both the "agape" love of I Corinthians 13 and the "phileo" love of Titus 2.

Our teens need us to be the kind of person that they can love, respect and confide in.

Negative

Ephesians 6:4

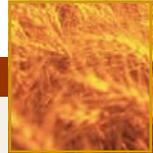
Fathers, *do not provoke* your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

Colossians 3:21

Fathers, *do not exasperate* your children, so that they will not lose heart.

How is this done?

1. Reproving without love
2. Never being pleased
3. Hypocrisy in us
4. Forcing conformity



and that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.
~2 Timothy 3:15-17

“What is a godly mother? A godly mother is one who loves the Lord her God with all her heart, soul, mind, and strength and then passionately, consistently, and unrelentingly teaches her *child* to do the same.”
~Elizabeth George

Proverbs 31:28

Her children rise up and bless her.

Resources for further reading:

A Woman's High Calling by Elizabeth George
Feminine Appeal by Carolyn Mahaney
Shaping of a Christian Home by Elizabeth Elliot
Disciplines of a Godly Woman by Barbara Hughes
Girl Talk by Carolyn Mahaney

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