

PARENTING TEENS

Lou Gallo — 9/26/09

As parents we are called to obey the Lord and leave the outcome to Him.

I. Our Heartfelt desire:

"I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth." 3 John 4

A. Two Dangers

- 1. God will take care of my kids, I can't do much.**
- 2. If I do everything right, my kids are going to turn out great.**

B. God's Part: Only God can regenerate.

C. Our Part: Parents have a huge part to play in their teens life.

D. God remains faithful

II. A Teen's Relationship With Their Parent

1. God's Word instructs teens to obey or submit to their parents authority

2. God's Word requires that children honor their parents.

Honor means "to value, to prize, to esteem as valuable." By implication it means "to revere or to value very highly." It includes the idea of being valuable, dear, honorable, and precious. In the Hebrew, "honor" comes from the same root as the word, "glorify." It means "to make weighty" and "large or great".

Questions to ask your teens when you are working through issues:

- Do you believe God, through His Word, calls you to honor your parents? If honoring your parents' means considering their thoughts as weighty, how have you honored our thoughts in this decision?
- Have you seriously weighed our thoughts? Have you prayed about our questions and concerns, have you given thought to our perspective, and considered it carefully so that you can humbly and respectfully express disagreement? If so you should be able to articulate what we are saying to you and why you disagree in principle and/or practice.
- Honoring parents means showing respect in attitude and heart toward them.
- Are you more concerned about pleasing God than getting your way? Honoring your parents means you are more concerned about pleasing God than getting your way. Because then you can disagree and still be respectful.
- **What about when you disagree?**
 - What do you disagree with specifically? Is it the *principle* or the *practice*?
 - What do you believe is the correct course of action?
 - Why do you believe this is the right thing to do?
 - Can you think of any verses of Scripture that speak to this issue either directly or using principles of wisdom?
 - What other wise people agree with you?
 - Would you be willing to speak to a pastor, friend or parent that you respect and get their input?
 - Parents: When should you bring others into the discussion? I have seen parents at times try to coerce their children into behaviors without challenging them humbly. Sometimes adding another voice into the equation helps them to understand what you are saying. Illustration
- Any ongoing concerns that you or your spouses share as you think of your teenagers?
 - Do your children seek you for counsel? Do they look to you for guidance? If so give thanks, if not ask why not, and how can you help them to seek this grace?
 - Ask them if you are tempting them with your attitude or approach.