Nov. 25, 2018 a.m.

RAISING KIDS

**Reading: Psalm 127**

* The Lord must have a sense of humor when he allows and even wants ‘20 somethings’ to have children. Some have said that they had learned how to raise their children about the time the children left home.
* Seriously, we can learn and do the job God expects because He believes that we can do the job and do it well. He has not left us without instructions.
* But there are questions – judgments that have to be made – no specific answers
* ‘Children don’t come with instruction booklets.’
* Won’t eat, cuts his sister’s hair off, late getting home, phones, TV, movies, schooling, when do they start dating, color their hair, etc.
* It’s possible to raise our children well and to know what it takes to do so. (**1 Tim.3:4**)
* We have the experience of those who have done well. Sound advice.
* We are not talking about impossible standards. You don’t have to be a perfect parent to raise good kids. But we can make some serious mistakes along the way.
* Good parenting – good kids. Bad parenting – bad kids. There are exceptions.
* How many of you are Christians but your parents were not?
* Children do have free wills. We hope to train them to use their wills for the Lord.
* Do we value God’s word and what He says on the subject of parenting?
* Do we value what He says about the roles of fathers and mothers? Is His way best?
* What is happening in the homes where the father is absent? Statistics are telling.
* *“He grants the barren woman a home (to keep house, KJV), like a joyful mother of children.”* (**Ps. 113:9**) (a home-maker, **Titus 2:5**)
* *“Her children rise up and call her blessed.”* (**Pr. 31:28**)
* Timothy did well with a believing mother and grandmother. (**2 Tim. 1:5**)
* I’ve seen single parents (men and women) do well – worked hard and had good help
* We must view raising children as an opportunity to raise believers.
* We have children to raise them up to have the *image of God* stamped on their hearts.
* Like Hannah, we vow to *give (them) to the Lord*. (**1 Sam. 1:11**)
* Their spiritual development must take precedent over everything else – this includes academic and athletic and financial success. They can be all-stars, valedictorians, doctors or CEO’s, but if they lose their souls, all will be lost. If they happen to be these, make sure they know it makes them no better than those who aren’t. And make sure they don’t think your love and approval is based on these kinds of successes.
* Our children will know what we value the most.
* As Jesus said, ‘out of the abundance of the heart, our mouths will speak.’
* This morning, I want to focus on the first 6-7 years of our children’s lives because research confirms this to be a very important time in their development. (spiritual, mental)
* “Dr. Meier summarized several hundred research articles on personality development to demonstrate that approximately 85 percent of our adult behavior patterns are firmly entrenched by our sixth birthday. In those crucial first six years of life, we copied our parents’ behavior patterns, especially the parent of the same sex. We learned to automatically do what they did.”

(Happiness is a Choice, p. 50)

* Don’t believe this? Are your children right now reacting to that statement the same way you are? As you’ve grown older, how do you respond to the stresses of life? The same way your parents responded?
* Parent’s example: Having read the above, may I say now and will again, there is nothing more important in raising our children to love the Lord than the example of their parents.
* Our examples are so much more important than what we teach them, which, by the way, can be cancelled out if our lives are inconsistent with what we teach.

**Finding balance between being too authoritarian or too permissive**

* ‘Because I said so’ will be necessary in the very early years of a child’s life.
* You cannot reason with a 2 year old! They’ll need to be disciplined w/o explanation.
* A two year old can make you rethink your position on Calvinism. (total depravity, an inborn sinful nature) At what point did they become demon possessed? ☺
* We are trying to lengthen their lives (**Eph. 6:3**) – the world’s a dangerous place to live.
* As they get older, explanations for our rules will be necessary. ‘Because I told you so’ or ‘I’m bigger than you’ will be replaced by the wisdom that accompanies the rules.
* The goal is not to have absolute control over them – the goal is for them to learn to discipline themselves as they are allowed to make choices and to fail. The home is a place where children learn to fail and learn how to respond to failure. There will be childish failures that need no discipline (making a mess, bringing you a bouquet of flowers you had just planted, doing something that they were not aware was unacceptable at the time) and then there will be times when they will test us to find out who is in charge.
* I can assure you that if you are holding a bible up in the face of your 22 year old son, asking him to read **Eph. 6** (Children, obey your parents) with a red face full of anger, you have missed it. Fear works for awhile but at some point you want your children to respect and to love you and not be afraid of or be intimidated by you.
* Don’t be a control freak – we are trying to guide them, not control them.
* Are you still trying to make decisions for your grown children?
* Having some input is one thing but putting pressure on them is another. (threats)
* Who makes (or made) your children’s decision to become a Christian?
* We want to teach our children “to be independent and self-confident about their own decisions.” (Leman, p. 106)
* We want their faith/trust in God to be their own and not ours.
* We do want them to respect our role as parents – to respect our authority. If they don’t learn this at home, how will they do at school, on the job, on the playing field, etc.?
* The permissive position is wrong. Don’t go to the other extreme. How you were raised.
* Sadly, David learned this with one of his sons. (Adonijah)
* *“And his father had not rebuked him at any time by saying, ‘Why have you done so?’”* (**1 Kings 1:6**) He never corrected him, he never told him no.
* *“His father had never at any time displeased him by asking”* (ESV)
* *“But a child left to himself brings shame to his mother”* (**Pr. 29:15**)
* From Sunday bulletin (edited by Whit Sasser)

Taken from Bob Buchanon’s report of his trip to Belgium and Sweden

* The government (Belgium) … You can’t spank, you can’t put the child in “time out,” you can’t pull their ear, you can’t give them a curfew, you can’t tell them “No drugs,” “No alcohol,” or “No sex.” Peter has been called before the court twice and reprimanded because of his attempt to discipline the children. Peter responded by saying, “I’m simply trying to do what I believe God wants me to do and that is the train them, teach them, and discipline them.” The court told him that he was to do no discipline. The children are not to hear the word “NO” when it comes to child rearing.
* What would you guess is the result of this kind of legislation?
* How are we doing when as of yet, the government is not keeping us from disciplining our children? I want this to be a lesson for us and what we can control. Pray otherwise.
* Have we been intimidated by some psychological studies and advice?
* The “overpermissiveness of the 1950’s and ‘60’s” – psychologists said that “disciplining children would inhibit their little psyches and cause all kinds of psychological havoc.” (Kevin Leman)
* Love doesn’t mean giving our children everything they want.

**MORE ABOUT THIS BUSINESS OF DISCIPLINE**

* Fathers (and this is specifically for fathers) are to *bring (their) children up in the training and admonition of the Lord.* (**Eph. 6:4**)
* This comes with the warning not to *provoke* our children to the point of *discouragement*. (**Col. 3:21**) We don’t want to exasperate them. We can be too hard on them, show little mercy and forgiveness, make too many rules that they cannot possible keep them all, be inconsistent in our discipline – do so according to moods and not principles/well thought out rules, or live inconsistently ourselves.
* Mothers are to *manage the house* (**1 Tim. 5:14**) and to *love their children*. (**Titus 2:4**)
* Mothers will be the ones responsible for much of the discipline in the early years because dad will be at work and some things have to be dealt with before he gets home.
* ‘Just wait till your father gets home’ won’t work until sometime later when the gap between the misbehavior and the punishment has to be narrow. As the kids get older, this will carry some weight. The waiting itself can be awful!
* *“But You are He who took me out of the womb; you made me trust while on my mother's breasts.”* (**Ps. 22:9**)
* “Many studies have shown that permanent damage is done to the personality of a newborn baby if tactual stimulating, loving, and cuddling aren’t present in the first few critical days and months of life.”[[1]](#footnote-1) (Leman)
* When we talk about discipline (training), while it certainly has its place, we are not just talking about punishment. (teaching, nurturing, example – needed from both mom & dad)
* We can learn to train them without nagging, coaxing or bribing them.
* It takes time to discipline them – to teach, to correct, to patiently wait for results.
* “It takes real commitment, perseverance, and courage to discipline our children.” (Leman, p. 84-5)
* Our kids need to know that we love them unconditionally.
* “Rules without relationship leads to rebellion.” (Josh McDowell) (authoritarian)
* “discipline without relationship leads to bitterness, anger and resentment”[[2]](#footnote-2)
* Discipline will not work unless the children feel genuinely loved.
* Our children spell love T-I-M-E. (It’s not about quality over quantity time!)
* We need to pay attention to and listen to our children – eye contact when listening.
* In the two-year study, which included 183 parents with a child under five years old, parents with high technology use were predictive of small but significant behavior problems in kids, with kids escalating being more hyperactive, easily frustrated, and having more temper tantrums. The study also found that parents may become less responsive to their children because digital distractions give parents less exposure to reading their children’s emotions. “Parents who frequently use mobile devices during parent-child activities showed lower understanding of their child’s mental states and intentions,” it concluded.[[3]](#footnote-3) (Byron Nash Facebook Post, 9-18-18)
* In a [recent US survey](https://qz.com/1379989/do-teens-spend-too-much-time-on-social-media/) about teens’ social media habits, for example, 33% of nearly 1,000 respondents between the ages of 13 and 17 said they wished their parents would get off their devices.
* This does not mean that we will be their best buddies, their best friends (comes later).
* “While I’m at it, let me just here say that I am against this “buddy system” so many child-rearing experts are fomenting. I think parents ought to be parents and kids ought to be kids. I think kids have buddies enough at school. What kids need today is parents—someone who will love, instruct, even discipline them. Someone who will really care for them.” (Dee Bowman)
* One mother said, “She wanted a parent, I wanted a friend, neither of us got what we needed.”
* Children also need to know that mom and dad’s relationship comes first.
* Date nights (or whatever you want to call them) – parents get some time alone on a regular basis. Blessing to have babysitters, especially family, nearby.

**What does the book of Proverbs have to say about spanking?**

* **Proverbs 13:24; 19:18; 22:15; 23:13-14; 29:15**
* *Promptly; while there is hope; foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child; deliver his soul from sheol* (grave, death); *gives wisdom*
* A rod – switch from a tree, a paint stir stick
* “Maybe a board in the hand is worth two courses in child psychology.”

(Stephen Goad, Avondale Parenting Class)

* Backside or hamstring area – on a diaper covered bottom?
* The sooner we do this, the less we will have to do so later.
* “Discipline should be swift, direct, effective, and as closely tied to the violation of the family rule as possible.”[[4]](#footnote-4) (Leman)
* These cute and adorable little ones will want to know where the lines are!
* “All children are self-centered and they tend to be concerned about number one at all times.”[[5]](#footnote-5) (Leman)
* This starts about the time they are two years old – the terrible twos. (18-24 months)
* “A swat on the bottom can be a very good disciplinary measure for a young child in the two-to-seven-year-old range when he is being absolutely willful and rebellious.” (Leman, p. 70)
* Nick when about 1 year old and turning the tippy cup upside down.
* I might do this differently now. Take away the cup. Let him get thirsty.
* Will the same rules apply at grandma and grandpa’s house? (grandparents ought to work with their children) At the church building? At Wal-Mart? (maybe you don’t spank them in the store, but they know when they get to the car/home/nursery (if it’s not too much time after the wrong behavior) they will be punished. (not to embarrass them, to shame them though they should be ashamed)
* We need to ‘house-proof’ the child rather than ‘child-proof’ the house. (crawling over to house plants and playing in dirt, then smacking their little hand)
* When we say no, we need to mean no. (“If you don’t stop that, I’m going to….”)
* Learning to respect the words of their parents.
* We are teaching our children self-control and that there are consequences for disobedient behavior. Defiant behavior must not be allowed!
* But beware of too many rules – rules you will not enforce.
* Not in anger. We must be in control of our emotions. It is not vengeance. (**Jer. 10:24**)
* Parents agree on the when and how. Disagree away from the children. United or else the kids will pit one parent against another. This is true well into the teen years.
* Be consistent (one day to the next), make sure the rules are clear.
* Great teaching moments can occur, when after we have spanked them, they come to us, wanting assurance that we love them.
* We may discipline the way we were disciplined, or we may reject completely the way we were disciplined especially if it was too severe. I can look back and realize that I would not have spanked my children on some occasions. (the last time I remember doing so)

**What are other forms of useful disciplinary measures?**

* Especially as the children get older – grounding, restrictions, natural and logical consequences
* What about temper tantrums? (Leman)
* Take them to their room, put them outside – let them know they are not going to control what you are doing. What about in the store? Step over them (say something like, “the children of some folks”) and walk away, even towards the door.
* Kevin Leman – money and hunger
* The children should have an allowance that is not based on certain chores.
* They are part of the family and have some daily/weekly responsibilities.
* If your 7 year old breaks another child’s toy, he pays for it. He’s held accountable.
* Pay other children from his allowance for doing something he refuses to do.
* We want them to learn that “losing money due to forgetfulness, sloppiness, or rebelliousness is not a wise choice.” (Leman, p. 63)
* If the 5 year old refuses to eat his supper (he ate it last week), you calmly throw it in the trash, tell him he’s free to go do as he wants, but when he comes to you saying he is hunger, tell him that breakfast will be ready first thing in the morning. This is a man with a great sense of humor. You may have to put with some whining, but….
* “Isolation is a very, very good disciplinary measure.” (Leman, p. 55)
* Rewarding good behavior – with what? Money?
* So the child thinks that if he does well, he ought to be paid for it?
* Do you pay them to get good grades?
* Encourage/praise the actions – not so much focus on them.
* They need to know that they are loved even when they don’t always perform well.

**THE EXAMPLE OF PARENTS**

**Common Sense (The world still sees this!)**

* “If you want to reduce alcohol abuse, ‘the single most important factor is parental example,’ says David L. Ohlms, a psychiatrist and the medical director of the chemical dependency unit at St. Mary’s Health Center in St. Louis.”

(*Teens & Drinking*, USA Weekend, August 12-14, 1994)

* While trying to impose a dress code in the Marion Community Schools, the assistant principal said that “the ones who complain are the ones who come in dressed just like (the students breaking the code).” (Chronicle Tribune, 9/5/2007)
* “I never see a child who has better eating habits than his parents,” says Keith Ayoob, associate professor of pediatrics at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in New York.” (If parents lighten up so will the kids, Chronicle-Tribune, Jan. 2003)
* “The lesson here is that it is important to remember that your kids look up to you and will follow your example. It’s no accident that the parent who sits in the stands screaming at the umpires, coaches, his or her child, or even other players will probably be the parent with a child who does the same thing.”

(Rick Martino, Be patient with youths, Golf Tips, Times-Daily, Florence, AL)

* “Jeffy! What are you doing?” Drivin’ like daddy.” (The Family Circus cartoon)
* “Daddy didn’t have to stand in the corner when he said that word.”

**WHAT CHILDREN SHOULD SEE IN THEIR PARENTS**

* **People who enjoy worshiping God.**
* Participates when in the assembly. (sings, listens, do their bible lessons)
* Talks about the sermon (a point in the sermon), a song, etc.
* Are you a critic only? Have you ever sat down at the dinner table and said that a point was made that day that you needed to hear and that you were going to do better?
* “Will you talk to my husband, as all he does when he gets in the car is complain?”
* Asks about what they have studied in the bible class.
* “A good example before your children will make them think more of the teaching in Bible class.” (Fred Shewmaker)
* “Parents who treat the church as optional, shouldn’t be surprised when their children treat Jesus as unnecessary.” (Facebook)
* **Bible study and prayer** [God must be a part of our daily lives.]
* Loves the word of the Lord more than gold. **(Ps. 119:127)**
* Reads the bible, father leads the family in prayer. (and not just at the table to eat)
* Talk about God, Jesus and the Bible in everyday conversation.
* “We should be able to talk about the Lord and His greatness as easily and naturally as we talk about the weather, food or sports.” (Billy Smith)
* “A significant part of our daily life was the reading of the bible by my father. After we had come in from the day’s working on the ranch, in the fields, milking the cows, and having dinner around nine o’clock (when we usually had an opportunity to finally eat), Mother would clear the dishes off the table, take them into the kitchen and put them in a big dishpan. (There were no sinks in those days!) When she returned with the Bible in her hand, she would place it at my father’s elbow. He would pick up the Bible, read a text that he had previously selected, and then he would pray. ...The daily Bible reading and prayer was a powerful influence in my life. We were free to ask questions and have a good Bible discussion. It was not a hurried act where you bring in the Bible, turn quickly and read a text, have a quick prayer, and then go listen to the television.”

(Ben Shropshire)

* ‘We never talked about the bible at home.’ (Lauren)
* “A steady diet of daily bible study and prayer must be an integral part of family life. At the supper table, around the coffee table, before the fireplace, in the automobile the scriptures must be read, analyzed and applied. If children are to remain free from the garbage of secular values, parents must shut off the TV, bow in prayer with them, open the bible, and take a little time each evening to teach them some spiritual truth. Do it, daddy and mama, when the children are babes and as adolescents they won’t be embarrassed by it and it won’t seem like ‘church stuff’ that is out of place in the home.” (L. A. Stauffer)

* **Fathers who know the place of their work and recreation.**
* He sees work as a means to an end, not the end itself.
* Not always easy – how much is too much? One man told me that he worked two jobs over 100 hours a week so his children could materially have what he didn’t have when he was a child. The look on his poor wife’s face. How did this turn out”
* “You announce what you want your child to be by the example you set (1 Cor. 11:1). It is amazing how some parents put ball games, camping, golf, and fishing above attending worship, and then are amazed that their children leave the church (Heb. 10:25). Someone wrote, “What you are thunders so loudly that I cannot hear what you say.”
* “I spend all day pushing around defenders, running sprints, studying plays, and giving 100% of my physical, mental, and emotional energies and skills to help the team get better. By the time the coaching staff lets us go, I’m running pretty much on empty. You may have been balancing a ledger, selling clothes, fixing computers, pumping gas, or putting wheel covers on cars. It doesn’t matter. You’re just as whipped as I am when you finally drag yourself home. If my most important job lies ahead when I pull the car into the garage, then I need to give my family the same effort I just gave the Packers. That’s what it takes to unleash the power God’s given us to be great fathers.This is a calling within our reach. We can do this.”

(Ken Ruettgers, Green Bay Packers all-pro tackle, Christian Reader, Nov/Dec 1995)

* **Serving others – workers in local churches (1 Cor. 16:15)**
* So our children will love the church and want to be servants of others.
* “A survey several years ago showed that 93% of kids remained faithful where both parents were actively involved. However only 6% of kids remained faithful where the parents attended infrequently and were not involved at all in the local work.” (Misconceptions of Parenting, Barry Gilreath)
* Hospitality – time and expense are non-issues. (elders)
* Good memories of having folks, even preachers in our home.
* L.J. Nicklas, when I was in high school – became a preaching mentor.
* “Where’s dad?” the kids may ask.
* “He went to visit someone - to study, encourage, exhort them.”
* **Character**
* Fruit of the Spirit, humble, forgiving, honesty.
* Self-control: tongue, appetite, temper, etc.
* A little boy, after displaying an ugly temper, was sent to bed with instructions to pray that he might be a better boy. His mother stood by his door and heard him pray, “Dear God, please take away my bad temper. And while you are at it, please take daddy’s too.”
* “If character training is a primary goal of parenting, and I believe it is, then the best way to instill it is through the demeanor and behavior of a father. … Boys watch their dads intently, noting every detail of behavior and values. … Your sons will imitate much of what you do. If you blow up regularly and insult your wife, your boys will treat their mother and other females disrespectfully. … If you curse or smoke or fight with your co-workers, your boys will probably follow suit. … If you are selfish or mean or angry, you’ll see those characteristics displayed in the next generation. Fortunately, the converse is also true. If you are honest, trustworthy, caring, loving, self-disciplined and God-fearing, your boys will be influenced by those traits as they age.”

(James Dobson, Like Father, Like Son, Focus on the Family, Nov. 2001)

* "A friend who has raised several wonderful children told me that the secret is less in shaping them than shaping ourselves. Whenever he confronted something in one of his children that he knew didn't belong there - selfishness, say, or the spirit of anger - he soon discovered some corresponding darkness in himself that needed changing."

("Somewhere More Holy" by Tony Woodlief)

* "I used to think that I could raise my boys to have honor, strength, and grace without attending to those qualities in myself. That's impossible. If we want our children to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with their God, then we have to do the same." (ibid)
* Our children can learn thankfulness and gratitude from our example.
* Do we say genuinely say thank you?
* “The greatest thing a man can do for his children is love their mother.”
* Does he appreciate her? Thank her? Compliment her? Time for her?
* Date nights (weekends) even after the kids come along.
* Children will “mirror their parents, including the affection they see taking place between Mom and Dad.” (John Rosemond, Better Homes and Gardens, Feb. 1990)
* “For many women life with father is a dress rehearsal for love and marriage. How a young girl is treated by her father can determine what she will expect from men in her life.” (Suzanne Fields, “The legacy from being Daddy’s little girl”)
* **Admits their mistakes, apologize when they need to, no excuses.**
* Children “have built-in hypocrisy detectors.”

(Sharon Begley & Claudia Kalb, Learning Right From Wrong, Newsweek, March 13, 2000)

* We need to be transparent with them.
* They see us a “real” people with our own struggles and fears.
* Pray with them – confess our faults
* Let them see the grace of God working in your life.
* We become approachable.
* “A while back, I had to do a thing that most distasteful to me. I had to apologize to one of my kids. “Perish the thought!” you say. Well, I did him wrong; and when you do somebody wrong aren’t you supposed to apologize to them? Kids notice everything. And if I let my kids grow up thinking I never make a mistake and am never wrong about anything, I have committed a gross error, for they’re going to find out, sooner or later, that I am human and that I make mistakes—even sin sometimes. And if they don’t see me react to that misnomer in the way the Bible directs, it may well be that they decide that all truth-teachers are in reality just hypocrites and don’t really practice what they preach. And when they do that, they will lose their respect for truth. Kids must learn that my failures regarding truth have nothing to do with altering that truth. I am wrong when I am wrong, even if I am Daddy!” (Dee Bowman, “Paying for your Raisin’”)

**Proverbs 22:6**

“The more correct Hebrew translation of the verse is ‘Train up a child in his own way….” (Leman)

Some methods of discipline work well for one child but not another.

Each child is unique. Try not to compare them with others.

‘I raised them all the same way.’

**Teaching our children – balance between grace and works**

* When their children asked about the Passover, what did the Lord tell the fathers to say to their kids?
* “God told us we have to do this. It’s the 14th day of the 1st month.”
* This has its place – **Exodus 12:26-27; 13:14-15**
* **Deut. 6:20-25**
* When our children ask us why we eat the Lord’s Supper, our answer should begin with, *“We were sinners and the Lord saved us by His.”*
* What happens when our emphasis is on obedience? Keeping the laws carefully?
* Have we made a distinction between the laws and our application? Our judgments?
* When we can spend 5 minutes telling our kids why it is unwise, even unlawful to eat a hamburger in the building or maybe even in our car in the parking lot, but we cannot talk to them about God’s grace for 1 minute, there is something terribly wrong.
* We need to teach them why we obey.
* We love him because He first loved us.
* We need to teach them that his gift is incomparable to anything we ever offer Him.
* Love is a doctrine of Christ just as is how we spend the contribution.
* On the other hand, if we emphasis grace, love and relationship to the neglect of sound teaching about why we do what we do in a local church, we have gone to another extreme.
* Do we teach our children what they can do or focus on what they cannot do?
* “There was once a woman who knew many true doctrines and twice as many false ones. With one very notable exception (which we will return to later), she was aware of all the dangers, perils and pitfalls the faithful could encounter. Daily, she warned her children about the falsehoods in the media, the errors of the cults and the evils of drugs, sex, and rock and roll. Being dutiful children, they listened to their mother intently and learned to be afraid of almost everything. Unfortunately, as they grew to adulthood, they ceased to be active in the Lord's work and one even gave up going to church all together. One day in a conversation with a friend it finally dawned on her that there was one spiritual danger she had forgotten. The danger of defining your faith solely by opposing the things that are wrong. This she should have done, without forgetting that following Jesus is about pursuing what is good and right. The exhortation is for us to inspire our children to go after all that is good and true and beautiful with a holy zeal and love for righteousness. Let us teach them to stand against what is wrong, but more importantly, to strive for what is right.”

(Lawrence Kelly, via Whit Sasser e-mail)

* “A second characteristic of the young people in the survey who rejected such behavior as drug use and alcohol abuse was that they engaged in “personal prayer, scripture reading and fasting.” Passive religion is not likely to have much influence on anyone’s life, but an active spirituality will surely change conduct. … While it is important to establish boundaries telling young people what they should not do, it is equally important to encourage them to see that there is much to do.”

(Ed Harrell, Religion and Kids, CM, Dec. 1996)

* Some things that can happen if we miss this balance:
* Our children will follow our example in either direction.
* Our children may have little convictions and therefore make poor personal evangelists.
* Our children will tire of all the fussing about keeping all the rules (they will see our hypocrisy), they will quit or find a church where love and patience exist.

**TEENAGERS!**

* I don’t have a clue, you will have to ask Allen (or Tim or David).
* I loved 0 to 12! At times, I hated 13-19!
* Having teenagers was God’s way of reminding me of what it has been like for Him to have me as a child!
* If 0 to 12 goes well, this time should be easier.
* Rules without relationships equals rebellion! (love, acceptance)
* We spent time together. (just eating together)
* Listen, be there, learn to tolerate annoying but not sinful behavior.
* Color of her hair, hair styles, the holes in the jeans,
* Show some affection, even hug your son (dads).
* Their “why’s” deserve reasonable answers. (“I said so” no longer works.)
* “Parents, never doubt your influence on your teen’s decisions about sex. Research released this month shows that teen girls who are close to their mothers are more likely to remain virgins. The results are similar to the landmark USA Weekend teen survey two years ago that also revealed the power of parents. Other studies have shown the powerful impact that caring, involved fathers have in preventing teen sexual activity. Unfortunately, more than one-third of the nation’s children live apart from their biological fathers.

Teen girls who have sex greatly reduce the likelihood that they will have a loving stable marriage. The harm to their children is huge. The good news is that parents who try to be a positive influence in their children’s lives can – and will – make a difference.” (The News-Sun, Kendallville, from the Chronicle-Tribune)

* When I found Nick looking at some pictures in some ads.
* We talked about what he was feeling. Didn’t berate him. Warned him.
* Sign of a very healthy relationship – children feel free to discuss whatever is on their minds with their parents.
* “We need two things from you – first, a set of guidelines so we will know what you expect of us and second, consistency in how you enforce these.” (a group of teens in a church in Lexington, KY, One Diaper at a Time, Avondale Material)
* Learning to let go – give them some more rope, more responsibilities.
* We are raising them to be able to live independently.
* Last July when I left Nick’s apartment.
* Leaving Amanda at her apartment in Gardendale.
* They will leave mother and father and cleave to their wife/husband.
* The empty nest is not all bad!
* *“I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.”*

**(3 John 4)**

1. Kevin Leman, Making Children Mind Without Losing Yours, p. 20 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. http://www.kltv.com/story/11458352/power-of-prayer-josh-mcdowell/ (Clint Yeatts, Nov. 6, 2009) [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. <https://qz.com/1384908/are-parents-suffering-from-smartphone-addiction/> [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Kevin Leman, Making Children Mind Without Losing Yours, p. 28 [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. ibid, p. 39 [↑](#footnote-ref-5)