

BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES FOR REBELLIOUS TEENS

Text: Ezekiel 18:4-30

1. **A rebellious teen is making a choice.**
Realize it is not the fault of the father, society, a tragedy or a rough life. It is a personal choice on the part of the individual.
 2. **A rebellious teen can choose right.**
Realize they can learn from their fathers either way. They can either learn from what the father did wrong and thus choose right, or they can learn from what their father did right. Either way it is the same choice. A teen from a good family must make the same choice that a teen from a bad family must make.
 3. **A rebellious teen must be warned of consequences.**
In dealing with them, make it very clear that they are in a state of rebellion. This means telling them what they are doing wrong and why, and it is possible to do this in a spirit of love. As long as they are in this youth group, they must constantly understand that they have a problem. This may make them feel uncomfortable.
 4. **A rebellious teen must have someone praying and burdened for them.**
God's sorrow and brokenness over the rebellion of Israel is obvious in this passage. The youth leader must also carry a brokenness in his heart for these teens, sorrowing for what they will face because of their rebellion, and the blessed life they will miss. They must understand this burden and brokenness for their lives. Never let them think their waywardness brings pleasure to those around them.
 5. **A rebellious teen always has a way out.**
God offers, to all who will but ask, forgiveness, restoration, a new heart and a new spirit. Oftentimes the teen knows this but refuses to accept God's answer. A person who refuses help simply cannot be helped. Love, pray for, warn, and express a burden for them. At any time, no matter what the condition or lifestyle, the teen can come back to God and obtain forgiveness and restoration.
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