

SEVEN THINGS THAT COULD DESTROY YOUR TEEN THIS SUMMER

Ephesians 6:4 *And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.*

Proverbs 22:6 *Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.*

Both of these verses mandate a strong and weighty commitment on the part of the parent. It's not easy to bring up a child... to nurture and admonish a child... it takes time, commitment, patience, selflessness, personal sacrifice, hard work and tireless toil.

There are some influences this summer that could take your teen downhill fast. I want to identify them, and give you some tools for combating them. Remember... Satan is AFTER your teen and will throw things at him of which you would be shocked to know. Sometimes, simple things... simple precautions can make all the difference.

1. Idle Time

Will your teen have large amounts of idle time this summer? This is a harvest field of opportunities to do wrong... follow wrong... and be misled.

Solutions: summer job... summer ministry involvement... youth group involvement... camp, trips, family time.

2. Lack of Supervision

Will your teen be alone and unsupervised much of the summer? No matter how much you trust your teen... he is still human... open to sins temptations... and an easy target for Satan if he is unsupervised.

Solution: Know where your teen is, what he is doing, who he is with, when he will be back... check up on him. Do you know what's in his room? Who are his friends? What he listens to and watches? Where he goes? It's your responsibility to know!

3. Carnal Friends

There is nothing wrong regulating your teen's friendships! It again is your DUTY as a parent. Put your foot down... make him hang with right influences. Could your teen end up having sex... doing drugs... falling away this summer... sure...

Solution – be his best friend! Know his friends. Regulate his friendships.

4. Ungodly Entertainment

Movies and TV will program your teen with a carnal philosophy. It's more than just entertainment... even music (Christian)

Solutions: Guard what he watches... regulate it... know what's going into his mind. Good books!

5. Family Fragmentation

Your teen needs your time this summer! He needs your ears... direction... smile.... heart... give it to him. Don't let your family get fragmented and going every different direction apart from each other!

Solutions: plan family time, family fun... have a blast together. Deliberately get time that is unhindered and unrushed to just talk and get into his heart!

6. Unfaithfulness to God

Faithfulness to church is a key of the Christian life. Church is God's tool for doing His work in the lives of His people... without church, he will suffer.

Solution: Keep the same spiritual schedule that you do all year long!

7. Inconsistency at Home

Your teen will own your example... not necessarily your words! The way you act must be consistent with what he is taught or your are short cutting the process.

Solution: Be real. When you're right, stand strong! When you're wrong, say you're sorry! Be a genuine Christian with your teens... lead them to a sincere relationship with Christ!
