

SAVING YOUR TEEN FROM RUIN

1. Don't Be Naïve

Understand the culture in which they are growing up. Be aware of the temptations they will face. Don't take the attitude that it can't happen to your teen.

2. Be Informed

Know where they are going, who they spend time with, and in what they are participating. You are their authority and will answer to God for directing them and keeping them accountable.

3. Start Listening

There must be times in your life when you turn off all outside interference and communicate with your children. There must also be times when you purpose to stop talking and lecturing and just let them open up and talk to you.

4. Be Discerning

Ask God for the ability to discern. Seek God's wisdom in every situation. God can give you the ability to understand and discern each and every circumstance. See what is not outwardly visible; hear what is not being said; and understand what is carefully being hidden.

5. Start Talking

Talking takes time, and in this society it must happen on purpose. You cannot parent if you never talk with your kids, and you cannot talk to them if you are never there or if you never make the time to make it happen. They need to hear you talk with and nurture them.

6. Embrace Them

Your kids need your affection! Studies suggest that the absence of physical affirmation and affection within a family can have devastating consequences. Hug them, hold their hands, put your arms around them, kiss them, write loving notes to them, cheer them, encourage them, and express love and affection to them. Five important words to say: You did a good job.

Model the Message

Your kids will doubt what you say, but they will always believe what you do. Kids mirror their parents – attitudes, values, convictions, and lifestyles. Be assured that your kids will mimic you. What do they see as they view your life? Sincerity? Genuine Christianity? Authentic faith? Loving marriage

7. Care Enough to Correct

When you don't discipline, you communicate that your child is not worth enough to you to take the time to train them properly. Discipline fairly, consistently, with compassion, in private, with communication, and with prayer... but by all means please discipline.

8. Nurture the Dream

Encourage their uniqueness in God's plan for their lives. Build them, nurture them, invest in them, cheer them, develop them, and fan the flames of their unique giftedness as God made them. Encourage them to fulfill their God-given purpose! With a purpose to fulfill they are far less likely to waste their lives!

9. Teach Prepared Responses to Expected Temptation

You could sit and predict what temptations the Devil will throw at your kids. Take a pen and a piece of paper and the chances are, you could accurately list almost every temptation they will face in the young years. Why? Because you've been there, and because God has given you the skill of parenting. Yet, have we prepared our children for what we know they will face? If not, how fair is that? Take time to teach them what to expect and how to respond when it comes their way.

10. Instill Their Personal Value to God

Help them identify and develop their gifts. Play with them. Have fun together as a family. Nurture them through problems. Assist them in setting and reaching goals. Don't demand perfection.

11. Pray with Them

Something happens during a time of personal prayer with your children. When they hear you speaking to God about them... they know you are serious. They then can sense your true heart, burden and love for them.
