

The Teen Years

“...Bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord... Eph 6:4b



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Introduction to the Teen Years

- ▶ Anyone remember when we were teens?
- ▶ “Teens” - not mentioned in scripture, nor until recently in history, but a helpful description of the age
- ▶ Much less is expected of them than at any other time in history

Introduction to the Teen Years (continued)

- ▶ God gives us instruction in this age, and all ages in **2 Tim 2:22**
 - a. So flee **youthful** passions and **pursue** **righteousness, faith, love, and peace**, along with those who **call on the Lord from a pure heart**.

Being God's Agents on the watch!

- ▶ Focusing on ourselves as much as our teens
- ▶ These are years of extraordinary opportunity!
- ▶ We are God's agents on the watch- **EVERY DAY!**

The Reality of the Age

- ▶ Physical
- ▶ Mental
- ▶ Psychological
- ▶ Spiritual

Making Clear Their True Identity

- ▶ Root our children's identity in the existence and glory of God
- ▶ Deut 6:20-25

Making Clear Their True Identity

► Deut 6:20-25

20 “When your son asks you in time to come, ‘What is the meaning of the testimonies and the statutes and the rules that the LORD our God has commanded you?’ 21 then you shall say to your son, ‘We were Pharaoh's slaves in Egypt. And the LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand. 22 And the LORD showed signs and wonders, great and grievous, against Egypt and against Pharaoh and all his household, before our eyes. 23 And he brought us out from there, that he might bring us in and give us the land that he swore to give to our fathers. 24 And the LORD commanded us to do all these statutes, to fear the LORD our God, for our good always, that he might preserve us alive, as we are this day. 25 And it will be righteousness for us, if we are careful to do all this commandment before the LORD our God, as he has commanded us.’

Goals should NOT Be:

- ▶ (This is a BATTLE that Satan wages)
- ▶ Goal is NOT to REGULATE BEHAVIOR
 - ▶ It would only be a short term victory
- ▶ Not a detective but to Pastor/Shepherd their hearts
- ▶ Col 2:20-23

Col 2:20-23

20 If with Christ you died to the elemental spirits of the world, why, as if you were still alive in the world, do you submit to regulations— 21 “Do not handle, Do not taste, Do not touch” 22 (referring to things that all perish as they are used)— according to human precepts and teachings? 23 These have indeed an appearance of wisdom in promoting self-made religion and asceticism [*severe self discipline and avoidance of all forms of indulgences*] and severity to the body, but they are of no value in stopping the indulgence of the flesh.

Col 3:12-14

12 Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, 13 bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. 14 And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

Not as Detectives but as Pastor/Shepherd

Ask Good Questions (not all at once, of course...) (Tripp p 100)

- ▶ 1. What were you thinking/feeling at the time?
- ▶ 2. Why was it so important to you?
- ▶ 3. What were you seeking to accomplish when you..?
- ▶ 4. What was the most important thing to you at that moment?
- ▶ 5. Why was it that you were afraid in that situation?
- ▶ 6. What was it you were trying to get?
- ▶ 7. Why did you become so angry?
- ▶ 8. If you could go back and do something differently, what would you change?

5 Goals for Pastoring/Shepherding our Teens

- ▶ Goal #1- Focus on the spiritual struggle
 - ▶ The things Unseen
 - ▶ 2 Cor 4:16-18

5 Goals for Pastoring/Shepherding our Teens

► 2 Cor 4:16-18

16 So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. 17 For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, 18 as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.

5 Goals for Pastoring/Shepherding our Teens

- ▶ Goal #1- Focus on the spiritual struggle (cont)
 - ▶ Make them aware of the battle that Satan wages for their soul!
 - ▶ Eph 6:12 (and all of Eph 6:10-18)

5 Goals for Pastoring/Shepherding our Teens

► Eph 6:12 (and all of Eph 6:10-18)

For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

5 Goals for Pastoring/Shepherding our Teens

- ▶ Goal #2- Develop a Heart of Conviction and Wisdom
 - ▶ By our example
 - ▶ Make decisions on principles from God's word and stand firm
 - ▶ Clear Boundary Issues (plain commands of scripture)
 - ▶ VS
 - ▶ Wisdom Issues (guided by principles but not as clearly defined- thus needing wisdom)

5 Goals for Pastoring/Shepherding our Teens

- ▶ Goal #2- Develop a Heart of Conviction and Wisdom
- ▶ 6 characteristics of biblical conviction
 - ▶ 1. Based on study of scripture
 - ▶ 2. Predetermined
 - ▶ 3. Will not change with circumstances
 - ▶ 4. Inflexible
 - ▶ 5. Bold
 - ▶ 6. Always lived out

5 Goals for Pastoring/Shepherding our Teens

- ▶ Goal #2- Develop a Heart of Conviction and Wisdom
- ▶ Quote from Age of Opportunity, page 120

The truths of Scripture are like the music of a great symphony orchestra. In an orchestra, each instrument is made more beautiful by the other. You do not understand or experience a symphony by hearing the separate notes of one violin, oboe, or drum. It is only as you hear all the instruments play together that you understand the beauty and majesty of the symphony. Each complements and balances the other. Similarly, Scripture gives us a symphony of truth. Not just one note but many contribute to the rich, harmonious tones of truth. As parents, we need to have a symphonic mentality as we train our children for godly living. We cannot hammer away at one note. We must introduce them to the whole symphony of biblical wisdom so that they can make biblically sound decisions...it is of paramount importance that we do not think for our children, but teach them how to think about life and employ the symphony of perspectives God has given us in His word

5 Goals for Pastoring/Shepherding our Teens

- ▶ Goal #3- Teach Thoughtful, Redemptive Interaction with the Culture
 - ▶ Cultural Awareness
 - ▶ 3 responses
 - ▶ Rejection/Isolation Response
 - ▶ Assimilation Response
 - ▶ Best Response

5 Goals for Pastoring/Shepherding our Teens

- ▶ Goal #3- Teach Thoughtful, Redemptive Interaction with the Culture (cont)
 - ▶ Best Response to Cultural Awareness- Forming a biblical plan
 - ▶ Be aware of the poisons of the culture
 - ▶ Provide a protection of a biblical worldview
 - ▶ Have eyes of faith- see every opportunity to engage them to rethink, and carefully apply scripture
 - ▶ TALK, TALK, TALK with your children, especially teens

5 Goals for Pastoring/Shepherding our Teens

- ▶ Goal #3 Teach Thoughtful, Redemptive Interaction with the Culture (cont)
 - ▶ Raise Teens who are fully able to interact with their culture without becoming enslaved to it's idols
 - ▶ **Matt 5:13-16**
 - ▶ Attach what we learn from scripture to a biblical system of thinking

5 Goals for Pastoring/Shepherding our Teens

► Matt 5:13-16

13 “You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet.

14 “You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. 16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that[a] they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

5 Goals for Pastoring/Shepherding our Teens

- ▶ Goal #4 Develop a Heart for God in your Teenager
 - ▶ Equip them with a sense of awe over God and the glories of His grace
 - ▶ We must have this in ourselves if we want to impart in them
 - ▶ Make engaging family worship a priority

5 Goals for Pastoring/Shepherding our Teens

- ▶ Goal #4 Develop a Heart for God in your Teenager (cont)
 - ▶ Be a model of the things you hope to impart in your children
 - ▶ Confessing sins and asking forgiveness
 - ▶ Desire for corporate worship

5 Goals for Pastoring/Shepherding our Teens

- ▶ Goal #5 Prepare Your Teenager to Leave Home
 - ▶ Few teens leave due to rules as much as due to the relationship
 - ▶ We are not finalizing God's work in our teens live. Think BEGINNING, not ends. God will water the seeds and make them grow

5 Goals for Pastoring/Shepherding our Teens

- ▶ Goal #5 Prepare Your Teenager to Leave Home
 - ▶ 4 Verbs for parents in preparing their children to leave home
 - ▶ **Accept**- Acceptance of the grace of Christ
 - ▶ **Reveal Christ**- In our love, teachings, modeling
 - ▶ **Identify**- As Christ identifies with us- Heb 2:11
 - ▶ **Enter**- As Christ entered our world, we should enter the lives of our teens

5 Goals for Pastoring/Shepherding our Teens

- ▶ Goal #5 Prepare Your Teenager to Leave Home
 - ▶ How do you know they're ready?
 - ▶ Col 1:9-14

5 Goals for Pastoring/Shepherding our Teens

► Col 1:9-14

9 And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, 10 so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; 11 being strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy; 12 giving thanks[a] to the Father, who has qualified you[b] to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. 13 He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, 14 in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Practical Advice

- ▶ **Pray**- This is God's work and you are His agents in it. It is for His Glory
 - ▶ 3rd question in the catechism
 - ▶ Phil 1:6
 - ▶ **Eph 3:20-21**

Practical Advice

- ▶ Eph 3:20-21
- ▶ 20 Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, 21 to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

Practical Advice

- ▶ **Communicate**- Ask Good Questions! Then Listen!
 - ▶ **James 1:19**
 - ▶ **Prov 4:20-22**
- ▶ Everything has to be on the table!

Practical Advice

James 1:19

- ▶ 19 Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; 20 for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God.

Prov 4:20-22

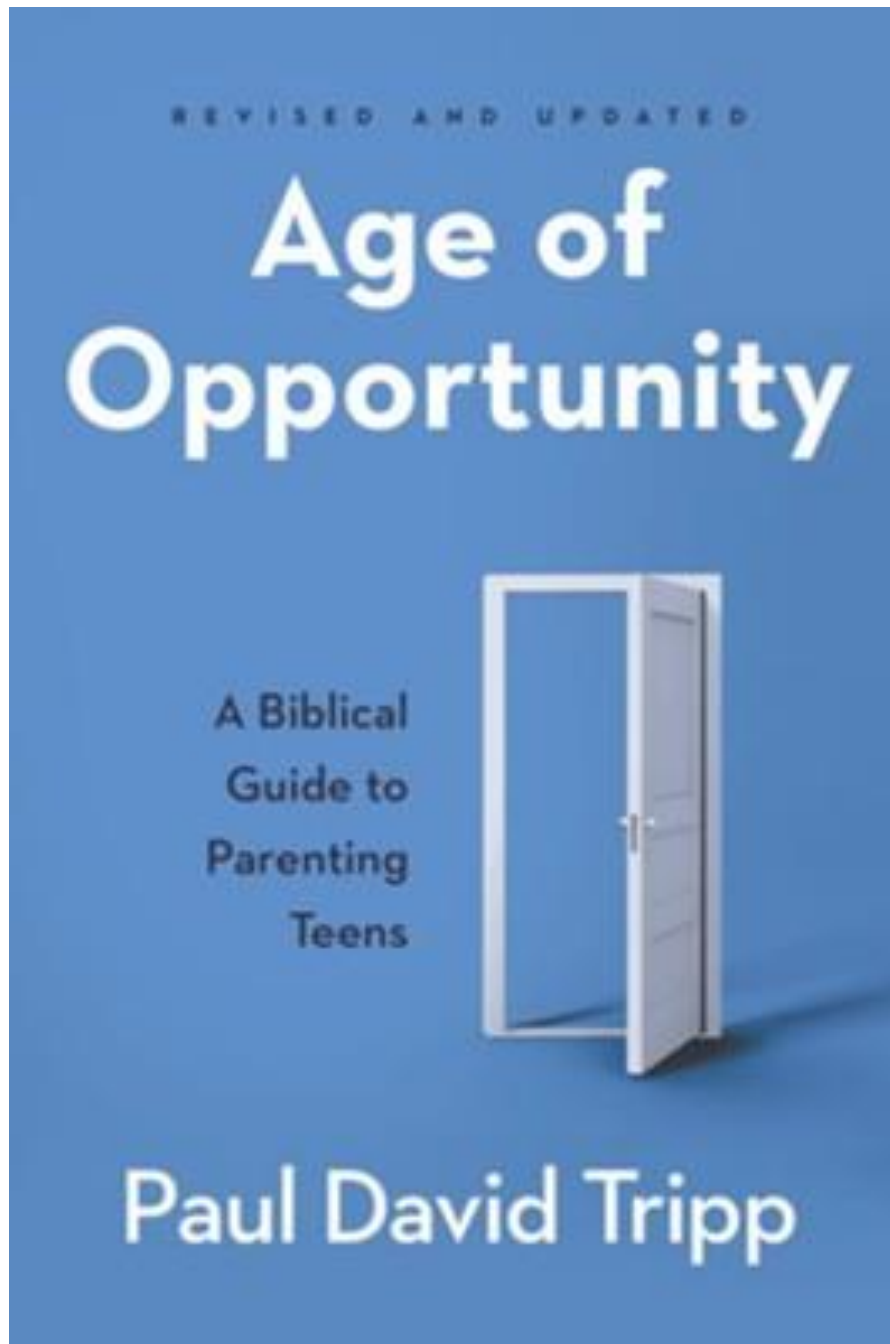
- ▶ 20 My son, be attentive to my words;
- ▶ incline your ear to my sayings.
- ▶ 21 Let them not escape from your sight;
- ▶ keep them within your heart.
- ▶ 22 For they are life to those who find them,
- ▶ and healing to all their flesh.

Practical Advice

- ▶ Choose friends wisely- Prov 13:20
 - ▶ “He who walks with the wise will be wise...”
- ▶ Allow kids to make decisions- with your guidance

Practical Advice

- ▶ Communicate some more!
- ▶ Pray- never stop!



Book form: \$15-20
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Conclusion/Summary

- ▶ Is all of this even possible?

Conclusion/Summary

2 Peter 1:3-5

3 His **divine power** has **granted to us all things** that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence,⁴ by which **he has granted to us** his precious and very great promises, so that through them **you may become partakers of the divine nature**, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire.