The Home: A Context for Christlike Relationships or Rebellion

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Introduction

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- 1. Some basic reminders for spiritual growth;
- 2. Helpful do's and don'ts;
- 3. Specific ideas for encouraging the growth of the child;

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Understanding the <u>Context</u> of Your Home

A Challenging Context (which leads to possible rebellion)

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A Challenging Context (which leads to possible rebellion)

Consider the parents: age, position, lifestyle, friends

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Understanding the Context of Your Home

A Challenging Context (which leads to possible rebellion)

Consider the parents: age, position, lifestyle, friends Possible Idols –

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Consider the children and teenagers: age, position, lifestyle, friends Possible Idols –

- 1) Material possessions
- 2) Relationships / acceptance / approval
- 3) Appearance
- 4) Pleasure
- 5) Comfort / laziness

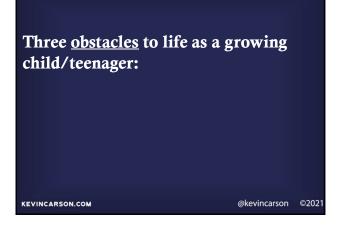
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Consider the children and teenagers : age, position, lifestyle, friends Possible Idols –

- 6) Contr<u>ol</u>
- 7) Sexual Satisfaction
- 8) Selfish (vs. serving)
- 9) Self (vs. trusting God)

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Three <u>obstacles</u> to life as a growing child/teenager: 1) "God isn't <u>playing</u> my game."

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Three <u>obstacles</u> to life as a growing child/teenager:

- 1) "God isn't playing my game."
- 2) "My family is so not perfect."
- 3) "The world around me is hard and <u>dangerous</u>."

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Issues for the Parents to Consider

The issue for both parents and children is the <u>heart;</u> nothing has a <u>determinative</u> influence on the teen (i.e., circumstances, people, biology).

Issues for the Parents to Consider Although parents exercise some control over children when they are young, as children grow it highlights the reality that the parents <u>never</u> controlled the

heart. Parenting provides unprecedented opportunity for the parents to help the children be introduced to adult life.

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Issues for the Parents to Consider

The themes of sovereignty, redemption and grace are paramount.

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Foundation Issues for Wise Living in the Home

God's opinion matters <u>supremely</u> – the fear of the Lord (Proverbs 1:7).

Foundation Issues for Wise Living in the Home

Children need to listen to their parents and remember the wise things they say (Proverbs 1:8; 6:20).

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Foundation Issues for Wise Living in the Home

The family must be careful in choosing friends – <u>dissociate</u> from the wicked (Proverbs 1:10-15).

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Be sure to help your child understand the difference between a <u>wise</u> and <u>foolish</u> son. The way both the parents and the teen handle conflict identifies often who is wise and who is foolish. Be aware of both characteristics (Prov 26:4-5; 12:15; 18:2; 19:1; 20:3; 26:12; 28:26; 29:11; James 3:13-18)

First, start with your heart (Matthew 7:1-5; Proverbs; James; Galatians 6:1-5).

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Practical Advice for Living as a Family in Christlikeness Pay close attention to

your spouse. Your first responsibility is to your spouse. Work together to stay united.

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Remember, God is using your family to grow you. Don't fail to see the opportunities in this moment to embrace God's good work in you. KEVINCARSON.COM

Trust and rest in a <u>sovereign</u> God. God is in control and is at work in your family's life to bring about His glory.

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Pay special attention to which direction your child's <u>feet</u> are pointing spiritually.

Your child's heart is <u>outside</u> your control.

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Consider your <u>discipline</u> and house rules to determine if they are wise.

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> Are you <u>approachable</u>? Do you serve your children well? Are you kind and patient? Do you treat others better than you do your own child/teen?

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Pick your <u>battle</u> carefully.

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as a Family in Christlikeness

Discipline is necessary though in order to help your teen be drawn back to God (Prov 23:13-14; 29:17).

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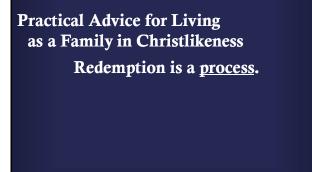
> There is an important <u>balance</u> between freedom and trust, between responsibility and consequences, between wisdom and folly.

As much as possible, try to be <u>proactive</u> not reactive.

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Practical Advice for Living as a Family in Christlikeness

Redemption is a process.

Come as a fellow-sinner in similar struggles. Humility plays a vital role.

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Redemption is a process.

Understand that your child needs as much mercy and forgiveness as you do.

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Practical Advice for Living as a Family in Christlikeness Redemption is a process. Recognize that children do not have the wisdom of years to appreciate correction and structure.

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Redemption is a process.

Help your child see that wisdom is the beginning of knowledge and is to be desired (Prov 3:13-18).

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Redemption is a process.

Developing children care more about their identity in their own culture than their identity in Christ.

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Practical Advice for Living as a Family in Christlikeness Redemption is a process. Help your child see that life is about worship: loving God and serving the neighbor.

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Redemption is a process.

Be sure to help keep an eschatological perspective before both you and your child.

Redemption is a process.

Give your child a vision for the glory of God (Ps 145:3-21).

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Try to find areas you can <u>commend</u> your child. Look for places where your child pleases God or at least shows any form of godly wisdom, and then communicate it.

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Other communication tips:

Be as consistent as possible in what your tell your child.

Other communication tips:

Make sure in frustration that you do not disengage from daily conversation with your child.

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Practical Advice for Living as a Family in Christlikeness Other communication tips:

You want to evaluate the word choices you make when talking with your son or daughter (Eph 4:29-32; James 3:1-12).

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Other communication tips:

As much as possible, communicate with wisdom (James 3:13-18).

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Other communication tips:

Your child will know how to push your buttons. When this happens, use pleasant words (Prov 16:21-24).

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Practical Advice for Living as a Family in Christlikeness Other communication tips: Try not to be 'good' at monologue; instead, seek to engage in conversation.

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Other communication tips:

Try to identify with your child and seek to understand him like Christ (Heb 2:18).

Practical Advice for Living as a Family in Christlikeness Other communication tips:

Remember that God calls every parent to be patient!

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Practical Advice for Living as a Family in Christlikeness Other communication tips: Never be afraid to communicate love of God or love of child to your child.

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Other communication tips:

Pray, Pray, Pray! (with your child as much as possible too!)

> Consider how you as the parent <u>model</u> the Gospel before your child.

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Provide good reading material for your child to help aid the growth process (2 Tim 4:7-16).

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