



## Outer Growth - Teenagers

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

*Proverbs 22:6*

**Tolerance** - Romans 14:1

**Eyes** - Matthew 6:22-23

**Ears** - Mark 4:23-24

**Nature** - Ephesians 2:3

**Affection** - Colossians 3:2

**Gender** - Isaiah 3:12

**Easily** - Hebrews 12:1

**Restrain** - Job 15:8

**Speech** - Psalm 19:3

Teenagers finish the living and learning childhood phase and reach the stage of development in life before venturing into adulthood. Although most parents commit themselves to training their children in discipline, each parent trains their kids with a purpose. They will do it in the way they want their offspring to become. Christian training has its purpose. The dedication of children to God and His will is accomplished by separating them from the world's evil influences and instructing them in godly conduct.

The general principle is that a properly trained child will not depart from ways taught by parents. Even though God-fearing couples train their children in a godly way, it is not a guarantee that all children from this background will remain loyal to God and His Word. When living in an evil society where many of God's people are themselves unfaithful, the influence of the world upon the

children of godly parents can cause them to sin and give in to temptation, where God speaks of apostasy so great that even righteous men like Noah, Daniel, and Job could not save their sons and daughters. Ecclesiastes twelve one says, "Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them." Children have the favor of God when they are born, although born in sin, and will be living in this sinful world as they grow. Kids learn from their parents while being nurtured from birth to toddlers, toddlers to juniors, then juniors to teenagers.

Teenagers today are prone to ungodly ways that could change their course of life, whether parents accept it or not. Remember, their youth has always been under parental guidance from birth, so they will be curious as they encounter other teens similar to them and see how they live.

Teenagers will have to tolerate whatever environment they are in. Even though parents decide the next step in education and control where they want their kids to attend, they have no parental control over the environment they will encounter at school. However, their teens will learn and gain understanding and figure out how to function among other teenagers.

Through their parenting during childhood, they will clash with other teens with different upbringings. That is why parents need to pray daily for their kids to God and with them so their communication line with their teens can be more open when parents ask, "How was school today?"

Most teenagers respond with the usual one-word answer of "Fine" when their parents ask about their day at their academy. Through the different lifestyles at school, teenagers will discover "doubtful disputations" that will lead to confrontations, intense arguments, and sometimes physical and verbal fights.

However, through the Almighty God, parents can ease these dangerous encounters with daily prayer to the Lord, believing He will work on their behalf for the teens' sake. Family time implementation is significant during the teenage stage and will help the child in school deal with adolescent matters. However, this will not be easy for parents because

sometimes teens privately attempt to resolve teenage problems independently.

In First John two, verse sixteen, "For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father but is of the world." The challenge for most teenagers when they begin their teenage years, which is roughly thirteen, and some even earlier, is to navigate through the world or ungodly environment during their junior and senior years of high school. The learning academy is where students get exposed visibly to all kinds of things generated by other teens, teachers, and faculty who provide service at the school. However, teenagers have the ability, with the help of their parents and other fellow students, to control to a certain degree how much ungodly activity they want to encounter by rejecting and saying "No!" Not to say this will be easy because the enemy uses others to force unwanted or unwarranted behavior that stems from their social environment, family environment, and other related people to influence teens who are still learning to find their way in becoming young adults.

The other sense apart from the eyes is the ears, as in what teenagers listen to in terms of music and carnal talk that may encourage ungodly activity. In First Corinthians fifteen, verse thirty-three, teenagers, "Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners. The success of a teen doing well may evolve around what they listen to, and the company they keep can be the difference between being overwhelmed or overcoming the social side of junior or senior high school. The corrupt music people listen to in their ears long enough can completely take over their lives and lifestyles. Each song carries a message and a spiritual influence that only God knows and understands, which teenagers may carelessly not understand.

Teenagers who are born in this natural world will be prone to the carnal things of the world. It is extremely valuable that parents pray for their kids to God continually because that prayer can change the course of their children's lives. The teenagers and people in the Bible who are not serving God or obeying God's Word on how to live are also known as children of disobedience, as in Ephesians two,

verse two. "Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience." They still live in transgressions and sins if they do not ask God for repentance. Teenagers, like unbelievers in general, are without Christ and are controlled by "the prince and the power of the air," which is Satan. The devil blinds their minds to the truth of God. Teenagers, like unbelievers, are enslaved to the cravings of sinful nature. Because of the spiritual condition of unregenerate people, they cannot understand or accept the truth apart from the grace of God. Those who are without Christ are still responsible for their sins.

How can parents help their teenagers in this situation? First, godly parents must pray to God concerning their kid's situation as teens and ask the Lord to guide them, particularly in their social environment. Secondly, parents must be a good example to them positively. It is impossible to tell a teenager to do this or that, and then the parent is not walking the walk but talking the talk. What teenagers see and hear will not obey something different from what their senses witness.

Teenagers, like young adults and older folks, will set affections on things that are valuable to them. The believers, as in Colossians three, verse two, is the scripture to remind them to focus their affections on things above.

However, teenagers have their minds on certain things while learning different stuff as they live. A close-knit family, especially the parents, will monitor this area privately and carefully for their teens and address God to whatever they discover that is ungodly and displeasing according to the Word of God. Confrontation usually creates distance and rebellion.

On the other hand, unless the teen and parent are close, like friends, confronting the child at the teenage stage could make things worse instead of better. Parents know their kids if they have been around them their entire lives until now. Our goals and pursuits should center around Jesus, including resisting sin and clothed with Christ's life and character. If teenagers have had a good example within the household and exposure to godly morals, they

will come around based on the godly foundation given in the early years. However, parents must keep praying to the Lord for continuous help.

In reality, parents have flaws in many different areas. However, some mothers and fathers carelessly cause their kids, especially when they reach the teenage stage, to be a product of the environment. A similar lifestyle that's recognizable is called a generational spirit that only the power of God can break. As parents get older and their kids mature into teens and become young adults, either parent will recognize some ways they were familiar with when they were at that stage. However, they think, "How is that possible, for they did not see or know that when I was doing it?"

Teenagers can freely get involved in almost anything. Not knowing the consequences because they are still learning about themselves and life in general. That's why for parents, it is crucial to have good communication with their teens, which is why many young people today fall into traps such as prostitution, drugs, crime, gangs, and other ungodly organizations and associations because the communication line is not open or level to where they can share their feelings and concerns to what they have within their heart and mind.

To open the teen and parent communication line for the opportunity to talk to each other respectfully during the teenage stage is not impossible, nor will it be easy, especially if it has been that way for a long time. However, only love for each can change and break whatever obstacles stand in the way of that happening. God is love, and the devil is the opposite. The parent should reach out in love and get the relationship back on track. We brought them into this world by the grace of God, so we must ask the Lord for help.

Teenagers sometimes get into trouble due to unwise decision-making. In Proverbs four, verse seven, "Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding." Not easy being a teen. Remembering the parental guidance of dos and don'ts can be a challenge. Therefore, teens should ask God for help before committing to something they are unsure about.

The greatest challenge of being a teen today in society is controlling the tongue. In James three, verse six, "And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell." And Psalms fifty-two, verse two, "Thy tongue deviseth mischiefs; like a sharp razor, working deceitfully." A teenager who control their tongue can save themselves from a lot of danger and sorrow. In James three, verse eight, "But the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison." The enemy seeks to devour people, especially teenagers, at their young stage. Why? The answer is it will be harder to get out later in life. In James one, verse nineteen, "Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath. Teenagers need to listen carefully to anyone, especially older folks, so they do not get deceived into something they do not want to do.

The devil wants people and teenagers to say the wrong thing to allow him to enter into their path of life in an attempt to hinder and destroy whatever plans they have with themselves and with God. Therefore, teens and parents should enjoy this stage for their children as they did when they were younger because it only comes once. When it passes, it becomes a memory, whether good or not. One more thing teens should remember with their mouths. Say positive things about yourself and disregard speaking negative because words are spirit and life. Same for a parent over their children. Teenagers are a blessing because they live and learn, which sets the stage for young adulthood. Parents should encourage and help their children not to make the same mistakes as they did when they were young. Love can go a long way, and parents must love their teens in every way, helping towards the future while enjoying being a teenager.