

Teenager Is Not A Disease — 07/23/23

TEXT - Proverbs 7:1-5 *My son, keep my words, and lay up my commandments with thee. Keep my commandments, and live; and my law as the apple of thine eye. Bind them upon thy fingers, write them upon the table of thine heart. Say unto wisdom, Thou art my sister; and call understanding thy kinswoman: That they may keep thee from the strange woman, from the stranger which flattereth with her words.*

INTRO – Teens are learning to develop heartfelt beliefs and convictions. Teens need opportunities to gain valuable experience. Adolescence is a unique, vital, and exciting time for growth and development in a young person's life, a time during which they experience many developmental milestones marking their transition from childhood into adulthood. It is a normal, healthy developmental process. There are a number of normal development tasks that each teenager will face, including changes in physical, cognitive, emotional, social, language, career, and spiritual domains.

A teenager goes through three separate stages of adolescence:

- early (12–14 years)
- middle (15–17 years)
- late (18–21 years) adolescence.

These changes may cause adolescents to feel awkward and self-conscious. There is an increased independence from parents. Teens become better at everyday planning and decision making. They are capable of understanding the consequences of their behavior and planning for their future. However, these skills are often used inconsistently by teens, who sometimes act first and think later. They begin to explore careers, marriage, philosophical and political issues, and social causes.

I. It Is A Formative Time

- A. Developing independence
- B. Becoming a man or woman
- C. Determining what they believe
- D. Assurance of salvation

II. It is a Time Of Responsibility

Lamentations 3:27 *It is good for a man that he bear the yoke in his youth*

- A. David and Goliath
- B. Josiah
- C. John the Apostle
- D. John the Baptist

2 Thessalonians 3:10 *For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat.*

2 Timothy 2:1-4 *Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also. Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.*

Learn a skill

Learn how to study

Learn how to handle money

Learn how to deal with people.

Learn proper etiquette

Learn how to make decisions

Learn what to look for in a spouse

Learn proper hygiene

Learn how to care for a household and boys how to use tools.

III. Teenage Rebellion

A. Reasons for rebellion

1. A lack of restraint

1 Samuel 3:13 *For I have told him that I will judge his house for ever for the iniquity which he knoweth; because his sons made themselves vile, and he restrained them not.*

1 Samuel 2:29 *Wherefore kick ye at my sacrifice and at mine offering, which I have commanded in my habitation; and honourest thy sons above me, to make yourselves fat with the chiefest of all the offerings of Israel my people?*

2. A lack of parental involvement

Proverbs 29:15 *The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame.*

3. The wrong friends

James 4:4 *Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.*

Proverbs 13:20 *He that walketh with wise men shall be wise: but a companion of fools shall be destroyed.*

1 Corinthians 15:33 *Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners.*

There are only three choices concerning the world.

- **Remove yourself from all contact.**
- **Becoming friends with everyone in the world**
- **Becoming strong on convictions to influence those around you.**

4. Provoked by the actions of parents

Colossians 3:21 *Fathers, provoke not your children to anger, lest they be discouraged.*

Parents:

- **Don't defend their sin**
- **Don't diminish your dedication**
- **Don't change churches**
- **Don't ostracize them**
- **Don't blame someone else**
- **Don't lower your convictions**
- **Don't ignore the problem**

CONCL – What to do when things are not going well:

- **Search your heart**
- **Confess your sin**
- **Humble yourself before God**
- **Pray (Fast and pray)**
- **Witness to your children**