



Sermon Title: A Christian Home part 6

Sermon Title: Teens

Date: 5/29/ 2022

Ephesians 6:1-4

Big Idea: Openly communicating will show love through every part of life

Whether you're a teenager talking to a parent or a parent talking to a teenager, communicating with each other openly about what you're feeling and how to mend a situation can show that there is love in the relationship. We will address three groups of people and establish boundaries so that parents and teens can communicate with each other in a way that shows love- no matter what stage of life they're in.

1. Teens: Respect is an Investment

Ephesians 6:1-3

Paul is quoting from Deuteronomy 5:16. The Hebrew word for "honor" in that passage means "weight, heaviness." When you honor your parents, you give proper weight and respect to them. This is the fifth commandment!

Christians divide the Ten Commandments up like this: the first four are directed towards God, and the next six are directed towards their fellow man. The Jews did something interesting: they saw the fifth commandment as a duty towards God. This commandment speaks directly to the health of relationships between different generations. In verse 1, we're talking about respect being an investment. Not only are we respecting our parents by honoring them, but we're also respecting and honoring God because He has given us a command to do this! And if we say that we love God, we'll keep His commandments. **1 John 2:5**

Communication is not just with teens respecting their parents, but parents respecting their teens as well! When there is respect that is understood, it makes conversation easier.

2. Parents: Encouragement is Powerful

Ephesians 6:4

Paul wrote "... by the way you treat them" - this was sort of a revolutionary concept. Then Paul goes into discipline and instruction. What this passage is warning against is undue severity. Paul is warning against driving children to anger by the way they are treated by their parents. He is not saying for parents not to discipline their kids, but he is telling them to do it in a specific way.

Proverbs speaks to this (**Proverbs 13:24**). It says that those who love their children care enough to discipline them! Discipline is all about training children. And there are even times when restrictions are needed. However, it does not stop at just discipline. It's also about encouragement and affirmation. We're told in scripture to build each other up in scripture (**1 Thessalonians 5:11, Ephesians 4:29**).

3. Everyone: Struggles with our sinful nature are ageless

Ecclesiastes 7:20 says, "**Not a single person on earth is always good and never sins.**" (NLT). People understand their own sinfulness and their need for a relationship with God the Father. This applies to teens and parents. You see, there may come times when a teen rebels against their parents, dishonors them, and even may disrespect them. And there may even come times when parents come down too hard on their teens, don't instruct them lovingly, and go against what Paul wrote in Ephesians 6. When that happens, both parties find themselves rebelling against God and what is written in His Word.

That's where unity comes from: both parties realize that they need to trust God to mend the situation. Parents and teens: Come together in the fact that neither of you are perfect! When we realize this, it pushes both parents and teens to God so that they can both grow their relationships/have a relationship with Him and love each other the same way that God has loved them.

Show love to each other through the way that you communicate with each other. Teens can show that they respect and honor their parents, and parents can show that they will encourage and lovingly discipline their teens. And when they both realize that every relationship is a journey. No matter the situation, remember to act towards each other in a kind, tenderhearted way and forgive one another. The same way that God, through Christ, has forgiven each of us. Our forgiveness to others, including our parents and our teenagers, is to be patterned after the forgiveness of Jesus towards us.

Discussion Questions:

- **What about the sermon stuck with you this week? What part challenged your thinking?**
- **Do teens today respect or disrespect their parents more than previous generations?**
- **List the benefits of healthy communication between parents and teens. List the consequences of unhealthy communication between parents and teens?**
- **Why is honoring parents so important that God included it in the 10 commandments?**
- **How can parents show respect toward their teens yet discipline them when necessary?**
- **How does a parent/ child relationship reflect our relationship with God the Father?**