

# *Helping Our Young People Keep Their Decisions*

Sunday, July 30, 2023

Pastor Kurt Skelly

Intro: How often have we heard the cynical remark, “I wonder how long that decision will last”? I would submit that decisions most often die not because they are insincerely made, but rather because they are ineffectively followed up.

## 1. Identify what decisions have been made.

Identifying and communicating decisions is the first step toward the accountability necessary for teens to keep decisions.

How can you help if you don't know what the areas of struggle have been? (Your areas of struggle might not be theirs.)

## 2. Affirm those decisions.

Decisions are tough to make and very fragile indeed. Strengthen them by affirming their validity. See Phil. 4:14; Mark 14:3-9; Acts 15:36-37.

Let him know that you are on his side and that you are prepared to help in any way possible.

Two major reasons exist as to why we don't affirm decisions:

(a) We don't see their initial value.

(b) We are convicted ourselves by their decision; therefore our affirmation of their decision is a tacit condemnation of our own lifestyle.

Why is it that we want our children to excel beyond us in every area other than spirituality?

3. Be sure the decision is both specific and actionable.

Ask questions; don't dictate. Questions stir the conscience; accusations harden the will.

Make sure that the specific applications are as much his decision as the general decision was in the first place. See John 21:15-17.

Remember that God often moves from the general to the specific (Matthew 4:19).

General decisions reflect an attitude of the heart. Specific decisions require added thought and resolve.

4. Discuss in real terms the challenges his decision will invite (See Luke 9:51-62.)
5. Ask him what you can do to make it easier for him to keep his decisions.
6. Be willing to look inward and model the very decision your teenager has made.

Be honest. Be humble. Ask forgiveness if necessary.

7. Understand why your teen has made such a great decision.

Environment alone neither assures godly decisions nor holiness. It does however fertilize them.

Consider the environment that camps, conferences, and missions trips provide: increased accountability; removal of ensnaring devices; structure; assigned devotions; mandatory services; counseling and coaching; group encouragement; etc.

8. Allow space for failure; determine now to establish checkpoints.