Raising Kids – The Transition from Child to Adult

Opening question.

The teenage years don't have to be scary.
Solid biblical guided childhood → Holy Spirit guidance → healthy emotions & spiritual maturity

What are some of the challenges during this stage in life?

- Their influences – friend group, social media, family, church
- New responsibilities – learning to drive, staying out later, academic challenges
- Developing their opinion of God as they mature (outside of Sunday school)

1. Released influence, not constant control

Psalm 127:4 *Like arrows in the hands of a warrior are children born in one's youth.*

- **Arrows** are designed to be sharpened, aimed, and released to fly on their own.
- Parents are the ones releasing the arrows. We need to aim with intention.
- Want to hit the mark. NEED to hit the mark.
- Not striving for perfection.
- Unconditional love is expected as Christian parents, even if we at times want to check out due to their behavior. Unconditional love may be easier when they are young and cute. Tougher as kids grow older, mouthier, and testing their independence.

❓ Self-reflection question: What is the hardest part about letting go of control as your child gets older?

2. Rules without relationship breed rebellion

Ephesians 6:4 *Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger [do not exasperate them to the point of resentment with demands that are trivial or unreasonable or humiliating or abusive; nor by showing favoritism or indifference to any of them], but bring them up [tenderly, with lovingkindness] in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.*

- Make the **connection**.
- *Do* listen more, admit your own mistakes, have mutual respect & honor, intentional communication, forgiveness.
- *Don't* belittle your children. Careful with joking, sarcasm. Don't overreact.

❓ Self-reflection question: What is one way that I can better connect with my child today?

3. Identity in Christ

Ephesians 2:10 *For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.*

2 Cor 5:17 *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!*

- If a person knows who they are in Christ, they have confidence in HIM.
- Future direction and decisions
- True conviction
- Releasing anxiety & worry to father God
    - Alyssa's favorite verse - Proverbs 3:5-6 *Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.*

❓ Self-reflection question: What wordly voices are trying to define your child's identity right now?

Lasting legacy. The power of example.

Proverbs 22:6 *Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it.*

- Spending quality time with kids is powerful. Intentional examples.

- Do you have ever feel like you have a mini-me?
- Have you ever seen your child do something that reminds you of yourself? And you think, "oh crap".
- "Older children have an excellent hypocrisy radar."

- Lead by example
    - "The most important thing I learned is that soldiers watch what their leaders do. You can give them classes and lecture them forever, but it is your personal example they will follow." - General Colin Powell

1 John 3:18 *Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.*

Leave a **lasting legacy of faith** through our own life and examples. Do we practice what we preach?

- Do you want them to be just good citizens?
- Or do we want them to have a heart, mind, and soul that is running after God, sold out 100% to Christ.

Credit back to 1st lesson by Nate & Rachel. It is a heart issue.

Deut 6:6-9 *These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.*