



THE BROOKSVILLE BULLETIN

Brooksville church of Christ
604 W. Fort Dade Avenue, Brooksville, FL

August 21, 2022

Ten Truths For Raising Teens (Wilson Adams)

First, it's not as easy as it looks. It only looks easy when you're on the outside looking in—like when you don't have any! Something amazing happens when a child turns thirteen as seven years of brain-freeze sets in. It can be a creative time of fun and laughter or over-the-top challenging (probably some of both). And you thought toddlers were tough.

1. Trust but verify. You have the right as a parent to know where they are, who they are with, where they are going, and when they'll be home. You don't stop parenting when your kids hit the teen years; you intensify. In other words, don't be naïve. It's not your kids that you don't trust; it's Satan! Remember: he is a lion on the prowl and has your kids in his sights (1 Peter

5:8). You don't protect them by passively looking the other way.

2. Set the example. Kids learn their values from us, so make sure your actions reflect those values. Teens can handle anything except hypocrisy. Note two facts: (1) They can spot hypocrisy a mile away, and (2)

they will exploit it to their advantage.

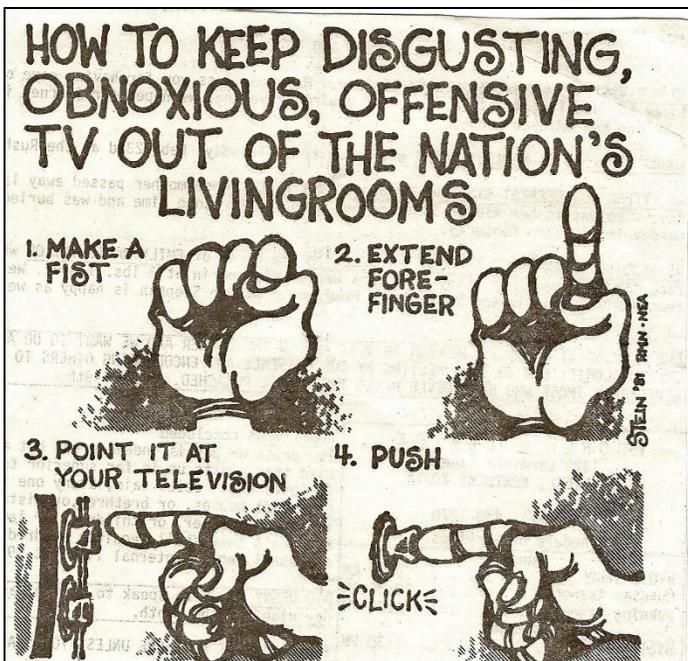
Make sure your decisions are God-honoring. Leadership

starts at the top, and

that's you. "You [parent] shall love the Lord with all your [parent] heart and with all your [parent] soul and with all your [parent] might (Deuteronomy 6:5).

3. Communicate with them. Teens tend to "plugin" in order to tune out. Don't let them do that all the time. Learning how to converse and communicate with adults begins with their knowing how to converse and communicate with you. How? Start by asking questions at the supper table. Fun questions: If you could live anywhere in the





U.S., where? Outside the U.S., where? What are your three all-time favorite movies? Besides asking you these questions, name three things that annoy you. Etc. If the silent treatment continues, offer them a simple solution: either unplug and talk to me, or I'm coming to eat lunch with you at school!

4. Look for outside resources. Family and friends with a track record for raising responsible kids are great resources. Ask for book recommendations or church websites where you can download lessons that speak to this issue.
5. Make the boundaries clear. Like the boundaries of your physical property, teens need to know the rules (boundaries). Specify what is in and out of bounds. Nothing discourages and frustrates a child more than boundaries not clearly defined.
6. Discipline with consistency. Being consistent is our hardest job as a parent—because

sometimes we're just too tired to respond. Looking the other way, however, doesn't help our kids. Contrary to the thought of the day: your job is NOT to be your child's best friend. Your job is to be their parent. Discipline when necessary and make it stick. If you do, they may not always "like" you now, but the day will come when they will "love" you for loving them enough to confront and correct.

7. Talk to your teens about the tough stuff. I asked a class of men: How many of you had dads who talked to you about sex? Two out of forty raised their hands. That's tragic! Don't get upset about sex education at school if you're not educating at home! Dads, talk to your sons about how to treat girls. Moms, talk to your daughters about how they should expect to be treated. And talk about other life stuff: how to handle money and



stress, control anger, and make good decisions. Each of these can be a life-equipping conversation. Pick your moments and give them truths upon which to build their life.

8. Keep a sense of humor. —An absolute must! Seeing the

delightful side of life will counter-balance the difficult. Laugh with them (Proverbs 15:13; 17:22).

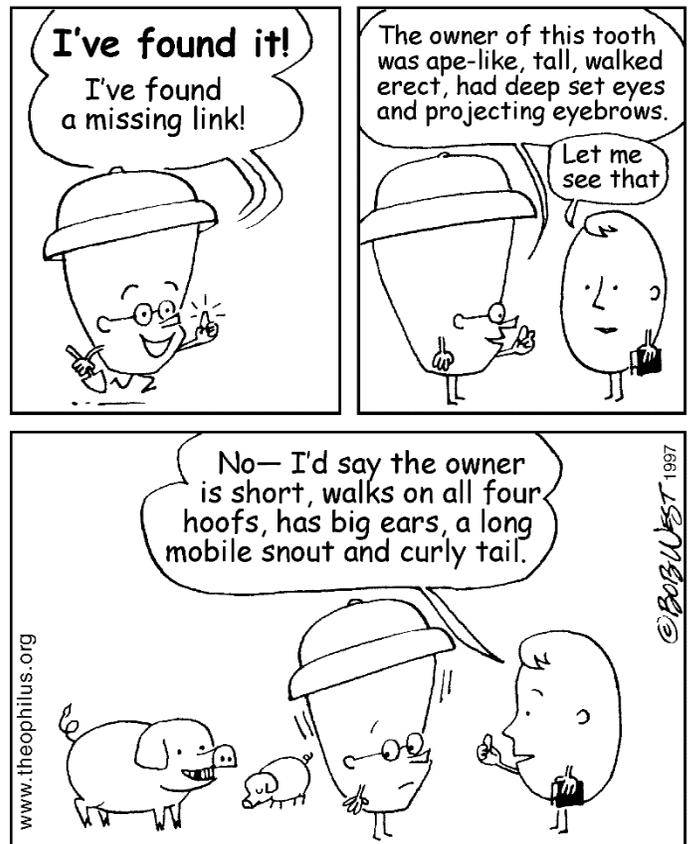
9. Don't let technology rule. Teens and technology go together, and while there are positive sides, there are some negatives. Have "tech-free zones" in your house. The family meal is one. Turn off everything that plugs in and turn on to each other. Talk. Do things that require interaction. Limit computer and phone use. Know your kids' passwords and check their friends (and the photos of their friends). As long as your young people eat and sleep in your house—it's your house (all of it).

10. Teach them how to treat you. People treat us as we allow them. As a parent, you deserve respect. This father-mother responsibility of training must begin very early in life.

Raising kids is like flying a kite—let out too much string too soon, and it will crash to the ground. Hold it too tight, and the kite never flies on its own. Our job is to give them roots and wings—roots that secure their faith and wings that enable them to soar.

The task ahead of us is never as great as the power behind us.

God grades on the cross, not the curve.



The Measure Of A Man (Selected)

Not, how did he die?
But, how did he live?

Not, what did he gain?
But what did he give?

Not, what was his station?
But, had he a heart?

And, how did he play
His God-given part?

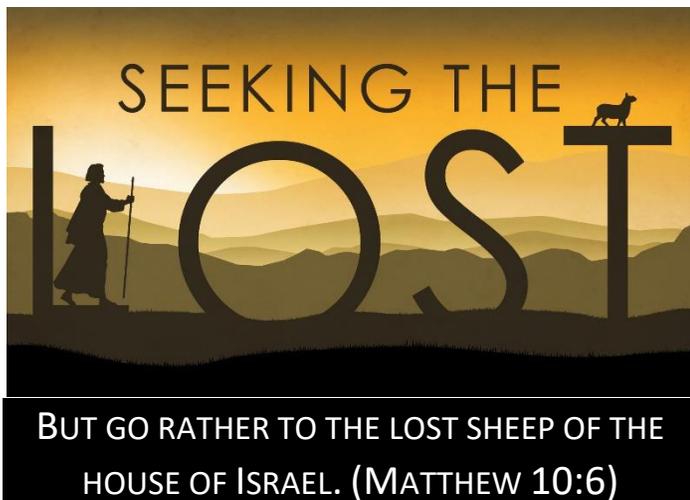
Smith climbs to the top of Mt. Sinai to get close enough to talk to God. Looking up, he asks the Lord, "God, what does a million years mean to you?" The Lord replies, "A minute." Smith asks, "And what does a million dollars mean to you?" The Lord replies, "A penny."

Smith asks, "Can I have a penny?" The Lord replies, "In a minute."

The Trivial (Vance Havner)

It is possible to be submerged and overcome by trivial matters not that important. It is no disgrace to be the victim of a lion but there is no excuse for allowing ourselves to be bitten to death by mosquitoes. Letting trivial troubles get us down is poor preparation for real adversity. Some of us frazzle ourselves battling mosquitoes and are exhausted when we face the lion. Each victory will help us another to win, and we do well to practice on the minors to get ready for the majors.

My favorite outfit to wear. Got it as a gift.



Jesus Christ

Founder Of The Church

- ✓ Builder Matthew 16:18
- ✓ Head Ephesians 5:23
- ✓ Lawgiver Acts 2:36
- ✓ Purchaser Acts 20:28
- ✓ Savior Ephesians 5:23

Brooksville Church of Christ

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Times of Services

Sunday Bible Class for all ages (10:00am)
Sunday Worship all Welcome (11:00am & 6:00pm)
Wednesday Bible Class for all ages (7:00pm)

Supporting the GOSPEL in other places:

- ↪ Jamey Hinds, Hollywood, Florida; Roy Fenner, Panama City, Florida
- ↪ Zeke Flores, Columbus, Texas; Philip North, Branson, Missouri
- ↪ The saints in Nicaragua

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