

ISSUES THAT DAMAGE AN EXCELLENT SPIRIT

Colossians 2:6,7— “*So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.*”

Lies Satan Wants Teenagers to Believe

- My parents don't really know what is best for me.
- If God (Christianity) were real, my parents would love each other.
- They're all just a bunch of hypocrites!
- If I were really a Christian, I would not struggle with this sin.
- I will never be good enough for God (or parents).
- I can't tell my parents; they would not understand.
- If I told my parents, all they would do is get angry with me.
- If God really loved me, he would not have let this happen.
- When I am 18, I won't have to put up with this anymore.
- God was not there when I needed Him.

I. AN EXCELLENT SPIRIT

- Displays responsibility, you are individually responsible for your own attitude, words and actions (Proverbs 17:27, 1 Corinthians 2:11).
- Excellence through solving problems through discernment and wisdom of what is best and not merely what is good (Daniel 5:12, Psalm 8:9, 148:13).
- Displays a pure attitude and good conscience, good discernment, communion and fellowship with God and others (Daniel 6:3, 1 Corinthians 2:13, Ephesians 1:17,18, John 4:23).

An excellent spirit is one who is flowing in the anointing of the Holy Spirit, presenting their minds and bodies as servants to the strength of the Lord. The diligent preparation of the mind now is filled with the spontaneous discernment of the Lord from the spirit.

II. TWENTY WAYS PARENTS PROVOKE CHILDREN TO ANGER

- By modeling anger (Proverbs 22:24,25).
- By not having marital harmony (Genesis 2:24—Repeated four times in the Bible; Hebrews 12:15).
- By disciplining in anger (Psalm 6:1; 38:1).
- By being inconsistent with discipline (Ecclesiastes 8:11).
- By having double standards (Matthew 23:1-4; Philippians 4:9).
- By not admitting when wrong (Matthew 5:23-26; Job 32:2; James 5:16).
- By constantly finding fault (Job 32:2,3).
- By reversing God-given roles (Ephesians 5:22-24; Genesis 3:16).
- By not listening to the child's opinion or the child's side of the story (Proverbs 18:13,17).
- By comparing them to others (II Corinthians 10:12).
- By not having time to talk with them (Ephesians 5:18).

- By not praising the child (II Corinthians 2:6-8; Revelation 2,3).
- By failing to keep promises (Matthew 5:37; Colossians 3:9; Psalm 15:4).
- By scolding him/her in front of others (Matthew 18:15; John 21:15-17).
- By giving too much freedom (Proverbs 29:15; Galatians 4:1,2).
- By being too strict (James 3:17).
- By making fun of the child (Job 17:1,2).
- By abusing him physically (I Timothy 3:3; Titus 1:7; Numbers 22).
- By calling him names (Ephesians 4:29).
- By having unrealistic expectations (I Corinthians 13:11).

III. SIX AREAS THAT CAN WEAKEN A TEENAGERS FAITH

- **Hypocrisy**

1 Timothy 4:1,2—“Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons, through the insincerity of liars whose consciences are seared.”

1. Teenagers are very aware of sincerity in others. They tend to admire people who are “real.”
2. Hypocrisy is pretending to be something on the outside that is not real on the inside (Matthew 23:28). People project to others what they want them to see; however, what is inside are internal problems and pain.
3. A hypocrite has a judgmental attitude (Matthew 7:1-5).
4. It is an issue and it was addressed in scripture. Parents and Christian leaders that do not live out what they teach break a trust in the relationship (1 Peter 2:1, 2).

- **Unresolved Guilt**

1 Timothy 1:18,19—“This charge I entrust to you, Timothy, my child, in accordance with the prophecies previously made about you, that by them you may wage the good warfare, holding faith and a good conscience. By rejecting this, some have made shipwreck of their faith.”

1. Young people who have hidden sin in their lives will not have a clear conscience and this will shipwreck their faith. Acts 24:16.
2. A relationship with the parent and God where the child can share their failures is very important. This happens when the parent does not react in anger to their child’s failure and there is an atmosphere of unconditional love. (See I John 4:16-18). Most Christian teenagers know right from wrong; they need an atmosphere that the conviction of the Holy Spirit can do its work. Example: A young man who struggles with Internet pornography.
3. Revelation 12— Satan is the accuser of the Brethren.
4. Condemnation Vs. Conviction
5. True repentance accepts the consequences of our sin and is acknowledged to all concerned parties.

- **Marriage and Family Discord**

Mark 3:27—“But no one can enter a strong man’s house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man. Then indeed he may plunder his house.”

1. Marriage is a picture of Christ’s covenantal love relationship with his church. Is it any wonder when mom and dad are not walking in oneness and

demonstrating true love toward one another that our children would question does Christianity really work?

2. Unanswered prayer—many young people pray for their parents when they see mom and dad fighting with each other.
3. A father's lack of spiritual leadership may cause young men to think that spiritual life is not important.
4. Unfortunately many homes are filled with anger, tension, rebellion, and hatred. There is a great need for love, joy, and peace in our lives. Satan wants us to feel our battle is against flesh and blood.
5. Christ can meet your needs of love, acceptance, and security. The great temptation is to turn to the pleasures of sin for a season to medicate the negative feelings. Understand God's love for you.

- **Rejection (real or perceived)**

1. Mom and Dad (Performance based acceptance), God, Self
2. Results of rejection
 - Rejection Lies
 - I am not good for anything (Isaiah 40:3-4).
 - If I died, no one would care (Matthew 10:29-31).
 - What I do doesn't really matter (Galatians 6:9).
 - I am stupid and I can't do anything right (1 Peter 4:12).
 - If you knew what was on the inside, you wouldn't love me (Isaiah 14:7).
 - God will never forgive me (1 Chronicles 16:34).
 - I can't do it right, so I won't do it at all (Philippians 4:13).
 - Emotional immaturity
 - A love vacuum they will try to fill with others
 - Weak identity in Christ
 - Unstable relationship with God
3. Steps out of Rejection
 - Forgive those that have rejected you. Release them of the debt. Accept the pain and allow God to heal your heart.
 - Find your identity and your needs of love, acceptance, security, and significance in Christ, seeing yourself as Christ sees you.

- **Unhealthy Soul Ties**

Proverbs 12:26—"One who is righteous is a guide to his neighbor, but the way of the wicked leads them astray."

What Are Unhealthy "Soul Ties"?

Unhealthy soul ties are, "unholy alliances," "destructive relationships," they are best defined as an unhealthy strong intimate bonding relationship between two or more people. I like the term soul-joined.

Soul—Gr. "psyche"—mind, will, and emotions (James. 1:21, 1 Peter 1:22)

Joined—Gr. "kollao"—to glue, to stick (1 Corinthians 6:16.).

The Differences Between Healthy and Unhealthy Soul Ties

- ❑ Healthy—centered on that which is founded on love (agape), what is Godly, eternal and good; what brings your children/youth in relationship with one another.
 - Friendship—”The soul of Jonathan was knit to the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul” (1 Sam. 1 8:1). Pure and holy soul ties among friends are always based on godly love.
- ❑ Unhealthy—centered on that which is lustful, sinful, temporal, and evil.

UNHEALTHY SOUL TIES ARE FORMED WHEN SOMEONE LOOKS TO SOMEONE ELSE OTHER THAN GOD TO MEET NEEDS OF LOVE, ACCEPTANCE, SECURITY AND SIGNIFICANCE.

- ❑ What brings your children together?
Wrong Friends— “Do not be deceived and misled! Evil companionships (communion, associations) corrupt and deprave good manners and moral character” (1 Corinthians. 1 5:33 AMP). Friends easily influence a person; so it is important to choose righteous and holy friends.

Sexual Immorality—”Do you not know that he who is joined to a harlot is one body with her? For ‘The two’, He says, ‘shall become one flesh’” (1 Corinthians. 6: 16). Through sexual relationships outside of marriage, demonic soul ties are made. Those who engage in sex outside of marriage become one flesh which God has purposed solely for a husband and wife.

Breaking the Power of Control

- ❑ Our responsibility is to follow the right path and guard our hearts (Proverbs 4:23; 1 Thessalonians 4:3-4; Proverbs 4:14-16; 4:23-27; 7:5,7,10,11,21; 22:4, 5; Titus 1:5-11)
- ❑ Prayer for Breaking Unhealthy Soul Ties

The consequences of lack of faith in God in a teenager lead to rebellion, sinful lifestyle, lack of conviction and lack of maturity.

- **Pride and Rebellion**

1 Samuel 15:23— “For rebellion is as the sin of divination, and presumption is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, He has also rejected you from being king.”

PERSONAL EVALUATION QUESTIONS

1. What concerns do you have for your own children?
2. What steps do you need to take to help them grow in their faith?