

Biblical Encouragement for Moms

March 17, 2013

*P*rotecting our Daughters

Our daughter's future depends much on the way we sensitively respond to and direct her life. Mothers and Dads have **a prayerful responsibility** to be led of the Lord in the teaching and training of all our children. Our relationship with Christ needs to be right if we are to succeed in the training of our sons and daughters.

We will begin our workshop with prayer over each daughter whose name has been submitted to our prayer circle tonight, as our main focus will be on our daughters tonight. (Pray)

1. Does your daughter have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ? I am not asking if she has been baptized, but has she been saved from her sin? If she has not understood biblical salvation from sin, this is where you need to begin.

Without biblical salvation, your daughter will be extremely selfish. This will hinder you in all of your teaching. When your daughter has Christ indwelling her, she has the capacity to learn and grow in Christ, receiving the wisdom you may impart to her. I cannot emphasize this enough. Don't guess or trust someone else's word that she is truly saved from her sin. Talk to her. Pray with her. Study the Bible with her. **Teach her all about the cross of Christ.**

I have a CD for any interested family about what the cross of Christ is all about.

Your heart needs to be changed by Jesus Christ too. Romans 10:9 says “**With the heart man believeth** unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.” Do you realize how ungodly and horrible the heart is without Christ indwelling there? The Bible tells us in Jeremiah 17:9 says “**The heart is deceitful and desperately wicked, who can know it?**”

You do not want to battle the heart of an unsaved daughter. It is desperately wicked, and will try to deceive you.

Romans 6:17-18 makes another good point.

“But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed **from the heart** that form of doctrine which was delivered you. **Being made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.**” *You need to be freed from your sin to be a servant for Christ.*

Righteousness just means right things, or right living. If you want your daughters to do right things with a good attitude, they need the **heart change** from Jesus. Any other obedience will be short term, for their heart will begin to desire other things.

If you are not sure if your daughter has been saved from her sin, please get in touch with me. I can help you with scripture and even talk with your daughter.

Pray for God to open the heart of your daughter. Explain Bible salvation to your daughter. Ask her if she understands what the cross of Christ is all about. Ask if she knows how to have her sins forgiven. Does your daughter have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ? This is the most important matter.

2. How does your daughter relate to boys? Teach her while she is young to cover her legs and chest as a protection. Teach her to be modest. You will prevent so many problems by doing this.

The way you dress does send a message. More and more books are coming out about this. Check out Nancy Leigh DeMoss. She has several books on this. Also Vision Forum carries

The Public Undressing of America,” a helpful book for all of us.

My daughter, Heidi recommends two books that have been valuable to her.

The first one is written by Shaunti Feldhahn. It is titled:

For Women Only (subtitled: What you need to know about the inner lives of men.)The second book is **Lies Young Women**

Believe. It is written by Nancy Leigh DeMoss and Dannah Gresh
Read chapter seven, especially.

It isn't all about what we wear, it is also about how we handle ourselves. I have talked to my girls about *appropriate vs. inappropriate, and the subject of flirting*. I recommend that you set aside a few nights to explain hormonal changes. It does not have to be a lengthy talk. Teach also that eye contact and body language communicate a message to young men. Don't get too busy to give your girls some character training.

Proverbs, Chapter Two opens a lot of good conversation in this area. I have discussed this chapter several times with my son and daughters. An outline of this chapter:

* **Hide the Bible in your heart** & incline your heart to wisdom. seek after God. (verses 1-8)

* If you are wise, you will understand righteousness, judgment, and **every good path**. (verse 9-10)

* **Discretion shall preserve you** and deliver you from the way of evil men who walk in darkness. (verses 11-15)

* Discretion will keep you from women involved in sexual sin: described as : a woman who **flatters, forsakes her parents, forgets God** - also a woman whose sinful ways will lead to death if she does not change. (verses 16-19)

* Walk on the good and godly path, and you will be rewarded. (Verses 20-21)

* **Those who are rebellious will pay a high price for their sin.** (verse 22) - sometimes scars for life.

Read it and prepare your discussion prayerfully. Plan a night alone with your daughter: "Mother-Daughter Time" with a special treat, in a special place. (I have some lovely treat ideas!) Or.. "Mother-Daughter Time" after a bath, at bedtime w/ a good book.

3. Destruction is nearer than you think if you are not monitoring your daughter's friendships. Ask questions. Just one friend who is angry, one friend who is sneaky, one friend who is boy crazy, one friend who has bad motives, can drive your daughter down the wrong path.

You can gently lead your daughter to better friendships. It may mean that you ease out of some activity. It may mean that you find a new hobby or interest that brings about a new network of friends. Being around negative or sinful people can drag anyone down. Do you know what prudent means?

It means **exercising good judgment or common sense**. The Bible gives us clear teaching on the need to be prudent. Protecting our daughters must include good judgment. Consider the following Bible verses:

"A prudent man foreseeeth the evil, and hideth himself; but the simple (ignorant, foolish or gullible) pass on, and are punished." Proverbs 27:12 *Are you prudent concerning*

friendships?

“The simple inherit folly (foolishness), but the *prudent* are crowned with knowledge.” Proverbs 14:18 *Are you exercising good judgment with your daughter’s day to day schedule? If not, you will inherit a foolish daughter.*

You may wonder, “But how do I know what is right for my daughter?” If you try to make this decision on your own, you will raise a self centered daughter, and she will not turn out the way you intended.

Proverbs 19:21 says:

“There are many devices in a man’s heart; nevertheless the counsel of the Lord, that shall stand.”

The only counsel we have that will stand the test of time, is the Holy Bible. It is 100% accurate, and 100% wisdom in raising our children. Other advice may change, may be wrong, may be hard to apply to our situation. Nevertheless, the counsel of the Lord, that will stand every test. Read it. Mark it up, apply it to your life. Let your children see your application of God’s Word.

Other verses to consider are:

Proverbs 13:20

“He that walketh with wise men shall be wise, but a companion of fools shall be destroyed.”

This verse makes it clear that friendships with foolish people cause destruction, no matter what your age. Beware!

I Corinthians 15:33 gives us important teaching to think upon.

“Be not deceived, evil communications (companions) corrupt good manners.” The companions or friends of your children will affect them. Limit the amount of time your girls are spending with people who are not yet saved. Be alert to what habits rub off on them. Help cultivate friendships with good and godly young girls.

If they love the Lord, the age is not important.

4. Watch for signs of hormonal changes. Your girls may become emotional over many things. Girls have an emotional side to them that is different than boys. Pre-puberty typically begins between 8-9 years old (or 3-4 years before their first period.)

This transitional stage allows the body to activate hormones and prepare for reproductive capabilities. Then, when the period starts, you enter another stage of hormonal changes. You will notice sensitive feelings, crying, attitude problems, and moodiness. This is a time for mothers to be patient, loving and careful with your words.

Don't ruin your relationship with your girls over hormonal changes. Reassure your daughter and build a strong bond between the two of you.

These transitional years are tough for girls, but if you both are truly saved, and have that close relationship with God, you can work through these changes spiritually, memorizing scripture together, playing good music, reaching out to others and not becoming self centered. If your daughter is not saved, you still should react lovingly and prayerfully.

Make room for "Mom & Daughter" times.

Eating right is extremely important at this time in a girl's life. Excessive cramping is often the outcome of poor eating habits. Learn more about the food groups and be creative with your meals and snacks. It will help her feel better physically.

During this turning point in your daughter's life, turn to the Bible. Open it and study passages like these:

Isaiah 40:29-31~ renewed strength

Isaiah 41:10~ don't be afraid

Psalms 119:9-12~ cleansing through the Bible

Psalms 119:33-36 ~ teach me.

Proverbs 28:12-13~ no covering sin.

Philippians 1:9-11~ filled with the fruits of righteousness

Philippians 2:13-16~ do your job without complaining

Be a spiritually minded mom.

Romans 8:6 says it all. “...to be spiritually minded is life and peace.” The God of the universe can fill you with His peace.

5. I would like to close with one last admonition to you.

When your daughter is in a good mood, celebrate with her!!

This is key in getting through some of the down days. When she is excited about something, *look for ways to bless her.*

Examples of this:

1. A bargain she found
2. A new skill
3. A new recipe that she likes
4. A time saver she came up with
5. A new way to make money
6. A new friend (a good one)
7. A special letter in the mail
8. A new hairstyle (a good one)
9. A special book
10. A new job
11. A more healthy eating plan
12. A compliment she received
13. A prayer answered

Enjoy life. Don't make it harder than it needs to be. When you are following Jesus Christ, you do not need to be afraid. (II Timothy 1:7)

Pray more. Worry less. If you have God's leading, you have a wonderful assurance to live by. Read your Bible daily and ask God for ideas and instructions for raising your children. (Hebrews 12:2)

Go to a Bible preaching Church with your children every Sunday. Do not miss a week unless you absolutely must. Show your children how important

God is to you. They notice what is important in your life. (Hebrews 10:24-25)

Laugh more. Don't be so sensitive about every little thing that goes wrong. Show your children by your example, that you can work through a problem cheerfully. (Proverbs 25:28, Proverbs 17:22)

Show your girls how good life can be. Love your husband and snuggle up to him when your girls are watching. Appreciate your home... even on the rough days. May your sweet spirit spill over onto your girls, preparing them to appreciate their homes someday.

There is a deep satisfaction in raising your girls to love Jesus.

“If we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ, His Son cleanses us from all sin.” I John 1:7

***Fellowship with our girls comes through Jesus Christ.
See Proverbs 20:7***

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