

## 5. Maintain \_\_\_\_\_,

**(Romans 15:13)** "Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."

**(Ephesians 3:14-21)** "For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, {15} from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, {16} that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, {17} that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, {18} may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height; {19} to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. {20} Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, {21} to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen."

**(Proverbs 25:15)** "... a gentle tongue breaks a bone."

**(Matthew 11:28-30)** ""Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. {29} "Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. {30} "For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.""

**(1 Corinthians 15:58)** "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord."



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# Central Mountains Baptist Church

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### *What goals do most parents have for their teenagers?*

Many parents have a simple goal for getting through their child's teenage years: survival. But this goal focuses simply on getting yourself through a difficult time. In order to get through these years, parents tend to settle for external, behaviourist goals. We try to deal with our kids according to the Nike way, "Just do it!" But parents who just want to regulate and control behaviour don't give teens much to take with them when they leave home. Naturally, every parent needs to have regulations to control the behaviour of their children, but that is not enough of a goal. That sort of rule-keeping is behaviourism. It is disconnected from the heart and is repudiated throughout the Bible. "Rule-keeping" was the sin of the Pharisees. Christ roundly condemned it. Yet even Christian parents create new young Pharisees who live with no sense of need for the gospel at all. Teens can be quite good at keeping external rules. Many teens from Christian homes go off to uni and then forsake the faith. But I suspect they never had a living faith in the first place. They had the faith of their parents but never internalised it for themselves. The true heart of the teenager, masked by years of parental control and regulations, comes out in those years.

The final years of a child's life at home are a time of unprecedented opportunity. As a child's world unfolds before him and he experiences greater freedom, his heart is revealed. This means parents have to take every opportunity to be part of the final stage of preparation. Being involved with our teenagers at a deep level is a critical goal for these years.

Unfortunately, Western culture has a cynical view of the teen years. People tend to see teenagers as a collection of raging, rebel hormones encased in skin. Of course, you can't talk to a hormone. But this approach is a subtle denial of God and the gospel. This approach says that God didn't make teenagers. It says that the gospel doesn't work for this particular group of people. That is devastating, bad theology.

People think the world influences and directs teens. They say the problems of teen behaviour results from association with other people (e.g., peer pressure) or circumstances (e.g., hormones).

But the Bible says, in hundreds of ways, that human beings live out of their hearts. The world's blame-shifting comes straight out of the chaos of sin in Garden of Eden. The Bible says our relationships and circumstances are merely the occasions in which our hearts express themselves. The heart directs teens.





# Our Home Playing Catch Up

5 Biblical tips on playing catch up:

## 1. \_\_\_\_\_ your \_\_\_\_\_ as a parent,

**1 John 1:9** "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."  
**(Matthew 5:23-24)** ""Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you,

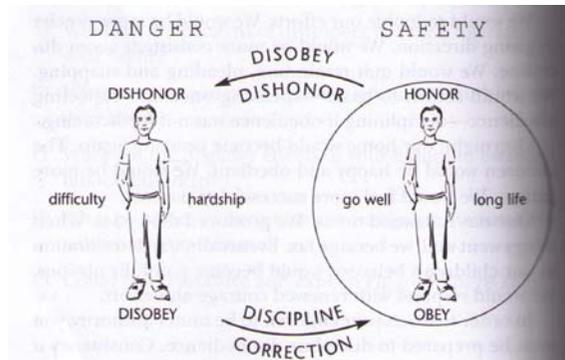


**[24]** "leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift."

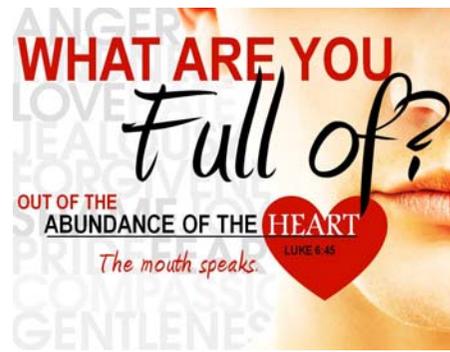
## 2. Explain Biblical \_\_\_\_\_,

### ◆ Circle of \_\_\_\_\_,

**(Ephesians 6:1-3)** "Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. {2} "Honor your father and mother," which is the first commandment with promise: {3} "that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth.""



### ◆ Your own \_\_\_\_\_,



**(Proverbs 4:23)** "Keep your heart with all diligence, For out of it spring the issues of life."  
**(Luke 6:45)** ""A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart brings forth evil. For out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks."

## 3. Communicate a \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_, Psalm 145:1-9, 17-19

**(Psalms 34:18-19)** "The LORD is near to those who have a broken heart, And saves such as have a contrite spirit. {19} Many are the afflictions of the righteous, But the LORD delivers him out of them all."

**(2 Corinthians 4:16-18)** "Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day. {17} For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, {18} while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal."

**(Romans 1:21)** "because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened."

**(Romans 1:25)** "who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen."

**(Ezekiel 14:6-8)** ""Therefore say to the house of Israel, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "Repent, turn away from your idols, and turn your faces away from all your abominations. {7} "For anyone of the house of Israel, or of the strangers who dwell in Israel, who separates himself from Me and sets up his idols in his heart and puts before him what causes him to stumble into iniquity, ... {8} "I will set My face against that man ... Then you shall know that I am the LORD."



## 4. Enforce \_\_\_\_\_,

**(Proverbs 13:24)** "He who spares his rod hates his son, But he who loves him disciplines him promptly."

