

standard will have to be "B+" or better. I did not see that till much more recently and I really am sorry that I did not think through standards earlier in my parenting.

The standards that you adopt as parents will determine if your children develop a taste for the things that are pure.

I was careful in my early years not to preach too much on TV and music because I saw that the rules of some Christians were legalistic. But having strict standards have kept their children from much harm. I encourage you strongly to think through what you would want your teen to do and therefore choose standards above that.

Some say strict standards are associated with teen rebellion. That is not the case however when standards are shown to have a Biblical basis and are administered with a firm love and grace. Good relationships prevent much teen rebellion.

.. we came across this verse in our family devotions: **(Deuteronomy 4:9)** *"Only take heed to yourself, and diligently keep yourself, lest you forget the things your eyes have seen, and lest they depart from your heart all the days of your life. And teach them to your children and your grandchildren,"*

I see three responsibilities for any parent in that verse:

- To make all effort to walk with the Lord
- To teach the children how to walk with the Lord
- To teach the grandchildren how to walk with the Lord

It was the last point that jumped out at me. I had assumed that passing on the faith to grandchildren would be what any godly grandparent would want to do but I had never realised it was commanded by Scripture.

There is a difference between children and grandchildren. Children are taught what is right and parents have God's authority to enforce behaviour. Grandchildren are taught but there is not the same authority in grandparents to enforce behaviour. It's parents and not grandparents that are in ultimate control. Nevertheless grandparents have a great role to play.

So in thinking of those grandchildren whom I am praying for to trust the Lord already, I wish to pass on to you these things that I am still learning as a parent; so that you can maximise your years with your children.

So for the sake of the grandies my counsel to you would be at this time:

- Develop your thirst for God and hunger for righteousness
- Talk with each other what standards you would want for your teens; then discipline and instruct to that goal
- Live above the standards you want your children to have
- Pray for your children daily and start praying for their salvation now if you have not already done so



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# Central Mountains Baptist Church

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### Teen Rebellion

6 years ago I wrote to my own boys and their families (slightly edited for privacy):

I am writing to you all because I came across a stunning verse during the holidays that I had never seen before.. I guess it hit me because it related to issues I had been thinking about.

I have been thinking about parenting- mainly because I am preparing messages on family and that makes me very aware of my own foibles and failures as a dad.

I can honestly say that I wish I knew as a young dad what I am teaching our church; but in those days I was a pretty new Christian and had everything to learn.

I have a longing to pass on to you all some tips so that your parenting will be a happy experience; each of you have the resources to be much better parents than I was.

I guess I would say that my whole Christian pilgrimage has been learning the tension between grace and truth- and that was certainly so in my parenting. I haven't made it yet, but I would hope I would do better with parenting the second time around- but I won't be given that opportunity.

One thing we did get right was introducing all the boys to the Saviour and insisting they attend all services; ...



Jesus said, *(Matthew 5:6)* "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, For they shall be filled."

It seems to me, then, that what we are trying to develop in our children is a hunger for the things of God; and it seems to me that there are a couple of important factors in this development, viz,

- modelling hunger for the things of God by the parents
- and developing a taste for the things of God, in the children

Think of vegemite. Taste for vegemite is developed as a child. Few come to vegemite who are not exposed to it as children.

It seems so natural for our family to attend both services because a taste for that was developed during

childhood. ... all of you as young parents have an opportunity for that with your kids.

It is crucial for you to develop a hunger for God now, if you want children who hunger for God and the things of God. The common experience is that children are less spiritual than their parents. There are tremendous pressures on young people of every age, but especially our age. Unless their anchor is VERY firm in the truth they will drift If the parents standard is "B" the children's standard tends to be "B-" or worse. So if you want your children to have a standard of "B" your



# Our Home

## Reaching the Rebel

### Understanding the Rebel II

The Scriptures are robust to peel back 4 layers in understanding the rebel:

#### 1. Outer \_\_\_\_\_, Romans 1:20-32

**(Deuteronomy 21:18-21)** *"If a man has a stubborn and rebellious son who will not obey the voice of his father or the voice of his mother, and who, when they have chastened him, will not heed them, {19} then his father and his mother shall take hold of him and bring him out to the elders of his city, to the gate of his city. {20} And they shall say to the elders of his city, 'This son of ours is stubborn and rebellious; he will not obey our voice; he is a glutton and a drunkard.' {21} Then all the men of his city shall stone him to death with stones; so you shall put away the evil from among you, and all Israel shall hear and fear."*

**(2 Timothy 3:1-5)** *"But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come:*

*{2} For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, {3} unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, {4} traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, {5} having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!"*



**(Proverbs 30:17)** *"The eye that mocks his father, And scorns obedience to his mother, The ravens of the valley will pick it out, And the young eagles will eat it."*

**(Judges 17:6)** *".. everyone did what was right in his own eyes."*

**(Proverbs 12:15)** *"The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, ..."*

**(Isaiah 53:6)** *"All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; ..."*

#### 2. Inner \_\_\_\_\_,

**(Philippians 2:21)** *"For all seek their own, not the things which are of Christ Jesus."*

**(1 Kings 21:1-4)** *"And it came to pass after these things that Naboth the Jezreelite had a vineyard which was in Jezreel, next to the palace of Ahab king of Samaria. {2} So Ahab spoke to Naboth, saying, 'Give me your vineyard, that I may have it for a vegetable garden, because it is near, next to my house; and for it I will give you a vineyard better than it. Or, if it seems good to you, I will*



*give you its worth in money." {3} But Naboth said to Ahab, 'The LORD forbid that I should give the inheritance of my fathers to you!' {4} So Ahab went into his house sullen and displeased because of the word which Naboth the Jezreelite had spoken to him; .."*

**(John 14:27)** *"Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."*

**(Proverbs 3:5)** *"Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding;"*

**(Mark 7:20-22)** *"And He said, 'What comes out of a man, that defiles a man. {21} For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, {22} thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lewdness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness."*

#### 3. Underlying \_\_\_\_\_, Romans 1:29-31



**(1 Corinthians 2:11)** *"For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? ..."*

**(Proverbs 20:5)** *"Counsel in the heart of man is like deep water, But a man of understanding will draw it out."*

#### 4. Innermost \_\_\_\_\_,

**(Proverbs 3:7)** *"Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the LORD and depart from evil."*

**(Isaiah 5:21)** *"Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes, And prudent in their own sight!"*

**(Jude 1:16)** *".. grumblers, complainers, walking according to their own lusts; ..."*

**(James 4:1-2)** *"Where do wars and fights come from among you? Do they not come from your desires for pleasure that war in your members? {2} You lust and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war. Yet you do not have because you do not ask."*

**(Proverbs 28:26)** *"He who trusts in his own heart is a fool, ..."*

