

## “QUESTIONS EVERY PARENT SHOULD ASK”

Parental Guidance Required, Part 1

September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2009

Things I've never heard in counseling, that this is where the problem(s) all began...

1. It all started when I didn't make the 8<sup>th</sup> grade soccer team.
2. My problems stem from not getting into the college of my choice.
3. Life turned south for me when I had to go to public school.
4. I can't relate to my spouse because my dad made me drive a used car.
5. My clothes were so not happening, my self-esteem never recovered.
6. I wasn't allowed to be part of the traveling team, and I've been bitter ever since.

So often as parents what we use our resources on with our children has very little to do with what happens in their lives in adulthood

The prevailing trend in our culture is to make our kids' experience rich and Relationship poor

As adults, it's your ability to develop rich and mature relationships that makes life worth living

As adults, we know if you can't maintain healthy, mature relationships, you just don't make it in this world, in marriage, in business, or basically anywhere else

Once we realize we erred in keeping our kids busy but not giving them much of ourselves we try to compensate by:

- a. protect them from the consequences of their behavior
- b. way over/under discipline

A common thought – “I was a kid once, so I can parent.” - WRONG!

### 3 Key Relationships That Yield High Influence In Your Children

Sometimes what we want to give our children is the wrong thing

For the most part, you are a product of your relationships, experiences, & decisions

Your experiences in life are impacted & to some extent dictated by your relationships

Your biggest decisions, the defining moment choices, are greatly impacted by your Relationships

Your key relationships have impacted who you are & who you've become more than anything else

We can greatly impact our children by becoming intentional in developing 3 key relationships

### **First key relationship – Parent/Child Relationship**

Ephesians 6:4 (NIV) "Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord."

Don't alienate your children relationally; don't loose your influence with them

As kids get older, parents must learn to transition from control to influence

If you try to use controlling techniques when your children are older, you'll loose influence

### **Second key relationship – Child's Relationship with God**

Proverbs 3:5,6 (NIV) "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight."

If we can teach our children to surrender every area of their life to God and trust Him, God will make their paths straight

We have a partner in the parenting process

### **Third key relationship – Child's Relationship with People Outside the Home**

Proverbs 13:20 (NIV) "He who walks with the wise grows wise, but a companion of fools suffers harm."

Your friends will determine the direction & quality of your life

This is not just keeping your kids away from the "bad" kids, but who are the people I need to intentionally bring into my child's life to influence him/her?

You are influencing your children in these three areas, but are you being wise

### **The 3 Questions**

1. What are you doing to enhance your child's relationship with you?
2. What are you doing to advance your child's relationship with God?
3. What are you doing to influence your child's relationship with people outside the home?

Don't make the mistake of thinking "if my children are experience rich, they will be successful in adulthood"

### **My Next Step Today Is:**

- I will begin thinking about my children & "The 3 Questions" this week
- I will attend the following seminar(s):
  - Spiritual Champions (parents of younger kids) – Sat, Oct 3<sup>rd</sup> - 9:30 am to 12 noon
  - Boundaries for Teens (parents of teens) – Sun, Oct 11<sup>th</sup> – 12 noon to 2:30 pm
  - Marriage Seminar on Communication – Sun, Oct 18<sup>th</sup> – 12 noon to 2:30 pm
- I want to be baptized Sunday, Oct 11<sup>th</sup> @ 4 PM (this will be the last baptism of the year)