

# The Big I(nfluence)!

Parental Guidance Required, Part 3  
October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2009

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."*

Three key questions we must constantly ask ourselves:

1. What am I doing to enhance my child's relationship with me?
2. What am I doing to advance my child's relationship with God?
3. What am I doing to influence my child's relationship with others?

Three realities that will decide your child's future:

1. Their relationships
2. Their experiences
3. Their choices

★ Their relationships will be the deciding factor and the most important relationship will be the one they have with you.

**Two reasons this is important enough to demand an entire message:**

1. When it matters most, the quality of your relationship with your kids will determine the weight of your influence.

If we don't begin very early to shift from control to relationship we will lose our influence.

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

instead: but

bring them up: nurture

Warning sign: I begin to grade my parenting on my ability to control rather than on the relationship.

Eventually, I will have to resort to guilt or bribery to get their attention.

If I don't transition from Power and Position to relationship, it will erode my influence.

2. Your relationship with your children will greatly impact the quality of their future relationships.

When you invest in the relationship with your children you invest in all their relationships.

What does it take from you?

1. acceptance
2. Time

Ideas: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

What to do if you feel it's too late:

1. No guarantees.
2. You must serve your children.

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

\_\_\_ I will incorporate one new idea into my relationship with my children/grandchildren.

\_\_\_ I will memorize Proverbs 3:5,6

\_\_\_ I will attend the following seminar(s)

\_\_\_ Boundaries for Teens

\_\_\_ Marriage Seminar

\_\_\_ I want to be baptized on Sunday, Oct 11<sup>th</sup> at 4pm (last baptism of 2009)