



Mothers of Teens

October 6, 2019 | Lesson 6

Recommended Listening:

*Parenting According to the
Bible —2017; Love for Our Teenage
Children —2011, 2015*

Loving Your Teens

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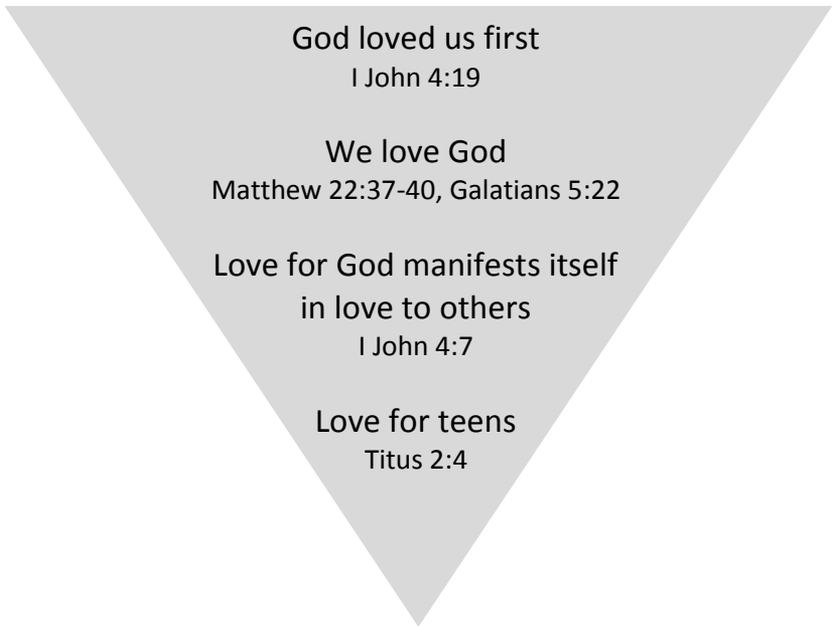
Memory Verse:

I Peter 1:22b

“ . . . Fervently love one another from the heart.”

When is it difficult to love your teen? (Actual responses from Mount Calvary mothers)

- Rebellious
- Sick—consuming my time
- Disrespectful
- Arrogant
- Awkward
- Looks
- Intelligence
- Personality



I cannot unconditionally love my teen unless I first love the God who makes it possible by the Holy Spirit.

I Corinthians 13

“Truly the most spiritual attainment is to genuinely love. . . . This most certainly applies to the church but also our homes [includes our children and teenagers].” Pastor Mark Minnick

A. Realities of a loveless ministry (I Corinthians 13:1-3)

- V1—noisy gong
- V2—I am nothing
- V3—profits me nothing

B. The more excellent way (I Corinthians 13:4)

- Is patient—II Peter 3:9
 - Longsuffering
 - Slow to anger

“Parental impatience usually stems from parents forgetting that teenagers are not adults (though they look like it). They are still learning. They don’t have the knowledge or experience needed for many situations.” Cary Schmidt, *Passionate Parenting*

“God is longsuffering when He has every reason to be angry.” Pastor Minnick

- Is kind (Ephesians 4:32)

C. Love's five self-denials (I Corinthians 13:4b-5a)

- *Is not jealous*—rivalry (Ecclesiastes 4:4)

- *Does not brag*—verbal (1 Corinthians 1:31)
 - Boasting
 - Putting people lower than yourself

- *Is not arrogant*—your heart (Luke 6:45)

- *Does not act unbecomingly*
 - Unappropriately
 - Instead, fitting for the circumstances

- *Does not seek its own* (Philippians 2:3)

D. Love's three refusals (I Corinthians 13:5b-6)

- *Is not provoked*—refuses to get angry

- *Does not take into account a wrong suffered*—does not keep a list (II Corinthians 5:19)

- *Does not rejoice* (take pleasure) *in unrighteousness, but rejoices* (takes pleasure) *in the truth*—does not like to be around people who are fault-finding

E. Love's four positive universals (I Corinthians 13:7)

- Bears (covers) **all** things (Proverbs 10:12)
 - Verbal—refrains from broadcasting other people's faults (Proverbs 17:9)
 - Mental—refrains from dwelling on other people's faults
- Accepts (believes) **all** things
 - Believes what it hears
 - Not naïve
 - Wise as serpents
 - Not generally suspicious
- Hopes **all** things
 - Optimistic
 - Pessimism quenches teens' spirits
- Endures **all** things
 - When under pressure, doesn't give in
 - Never gives up on a child who turns the home upside down

F. Love is eternal (I Corinthians 13:8-13)

- Never fails
- Permanent

John 15:12 . . . *Love one another, just as I have loved you.*

Christ's example to his disciples: He served them, washed their feet, taught them, prayed for them, chose them, fellowshiped three years with them, and forgave them.

How to Love Your Teen

A. Knowing your teen is loving your teen

- Physical
 - Body
 - Growing at an alarming rate
 - Hormonal changes
 - Need 10 hours of sleep because of all the changes
 - Neurological
 - The most radical physical change in your teen is their brain
 - Ages 12-20—frontal lobe starting to develop
 - Reason and judgement are suspended



Brain under construction—thinking skills temporarily out of service

- Emotional
 - A desperation for acceptance
 - Identity crisis
 - On top of the world one minute, then depressed the next
 - Contributors to emotional state
 - Physical changes
 - More pressures at school
 - Less sleep
 - More responsibilities
 - More expected of them

If they do not get emotional stability in the home, they will look for it in relationships in the world.

- Spiritual
 - Outside pressure (1 Peter 5:8)
 - Internal pressure

Catechism #22: What is the cause of the death and depravity of man, made in God's image?

The cause of the death and depravity of man made in God's image, is *the fall and disobedience of our first parents, Adam and Eve, so that our nature became so corrupt that we are all conceived and born in sin.*

B. Showing your teen is loving your teen

- Sacrificial—It's not about you.
- Modeling—Nothing speaks louder than our lives (Proverbs 23:26)
 - Reading your Bible
 - Praying
 - Going to church
 - Exhibiting the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22)
 - Relationships

Kids can see a fake a mile off. They know if you are genuine.

C. Teaching your teen is loving your teen

(Deuteronomy 6:7-9)

- What you model for them you teach them
- Disciplining is teaching consequences
- The goal is to teach them to obey from the heart, not to obey a list of rules
- Things that keep us from loving as we ought
 - Selfish
 - Tired
 - Busy
 - Insecurities

“Bottom line, parenting is long, hard heart work. It is intense, loving labor of soul. It is a rigorous experience in sacrificial, selfless living . . . but the journey is wonderful with Christ at the center.”

Cary Schmidt, *Passionate Parenting*

Book References:

- “Loving Your Brothers and Sisters in Christ,” by Jan Patterson, August 2019
- Pastor Minnick’s seven sermons on I Corinthians 13, July – August 2016
- I Corinthians 13 outline
- *Passionate Parenting: Enjoying the Journey of Parenting Teens* by Cary Schmidt
- *Formula for Family Unity* by Walter and Trudy Fremont

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