

Age of Opportunity

Lesson 3

BIG IDEA: There are **LUSTS** specific to the parents of teens as well!

RHETORICAL QUESTION: *What would you consider to be the greatest parenting accomplishment that a parent of a teenager could attain?*

- Luke 6:39-42 gives a critical **WARNING** to the parent of a teenager: our teens (disciple) will be just like us (teacher)!
 1. The hyperbole is intended to be stark ... an exaggeration that is partially believable (speck in the eye).
 2. "A person cannot **TEACH** what he does not **KNOW** . He cannot lead his students to a level higher than he **HIMSELF** has attained. The more he teaches them, the more they become like him. But his **OWN** stage of growth forms the upper limit to which he can bring them."
(Believer's Bible Commentary on Luke 6:39-42)
 3. GIBSONISM: The Principle of **INESCAPABLE CONSEQUENCE** .
- This principle is complementary to Tripp's "Principle of **INESCAPABLE INFLUENCE** ".
 1. "What controls my **HEART** will control my **LIFE** ."
(Tripp, pg. 30)
Ezekiel 14:1-5
Proverbs 4:23

What is an idol? (Question #1)

Why is it a waste of time for parents to think about strategies for parenting without first examining themselves? (Question #2)
 2. Idolatry occurs when our **DESIRES** become more important than the **GLORY** of God.

3. "Our idols have caused us to see opportunity as **TRIAL** and caused us to strike back at our teenagers with bitter words of **JUDGMENT** , **ACCUSATION** , and **CONDEMNATION** ." (Tripp, pg. 31)

Typical Parental Idols

- The Idol of **COMFORT**

What's wrong with expecting peace, ease, and harmony from our teens?
- The Idol of **RESPECT**

"Is (respect) something that parents should seek to instill in their children? Yes! But it must not be the thing that controls my heart ..."
(Tripp, pg. 32) Agree or disagree? Why?
- The Idol of **APPRECIATION**
 1. If parents are not careful, they will **BARTER** their God-given responsibilities for a brief moment of **PRAISE** !
 2. Lack of **APPRECIATION** is an opportunity to magnify the grace and mercy of **GOD** !

What are some ways a parent acts if they feel underappreciated?
- The Idol of **SUCCESS**
 1. There are no **GUARANTEED** results in parenting, only **RESPONSIBILITIES** and the **GRACE** of God.
 2. Our identity as parents is not rooted in the **SUCCESS** of our children but in our **RELATIONSHIP** with Christ.

Since it's so easy to lose sight of the fact that our teens are God's children, what should parents remind themselves of regularly? (Question #9)
- The Idol of **CONTROL**

What are three biblical truths that are vital to remember if want to avoid the idol of control? (Question #10)