

Merging in Traffic-Lesson 2.4

Romans 12:9-16

“Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves. Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with the Lord’s people who are in need. Practice hospitality. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited”

According to the Parrott’s in our video, what is the #1 thing every teenager wants to carve out in their life?

- A sense of who they are. Who am I and how do I fit in this world?
- Remember, so much of how they few this is determined by what we’ve learned so far about their personality, what birth order they were in, whether they are a believer or not, how they few God’s purpose for their lives and if you as their parent are giving them enough space to grow, you’re shooting straight with them and you’re coming along side of them as a mentor.

What did the Parrott’s say we as parents need to be if we are going to help our teens understand who they are and build their character?

- We need to be “genuine”.
- ***“Love must be sincere.”***
- ***In your sincerity make sure you teach what is evil (bad) but focus on the good. Why?***
- ***Because teens are trying to find their identity and if you focus too much on the bad and not the good then they’ll develop a negative complex.***
- ***The idea of “clinging” in the Greek is to “hold on tight”, be very close and secure.***

What is another quality a parent should show a teen if they are going to help them with their identity?

Personal Warmth

- What was the definition the Parrott’s used to describe warmth?
- It’s another way of saying “acceptance”. You have value; thus, they feel good about coming home.
- ***Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. Romans 15:7.***

What’s THE LAST QUALITY THE Parrott’s shared that is necessary to help our teen’s merge their identity into society?

Empathy

- What’s the definition of empathy?
Why is it hard for a parent to empathize with their teen?
- ***“Finally, all of you, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind.” 1 Peter 3:8***

Skills need to be genuine, warm, and empathetic

- #1- Active listening (“Live harmoniously”)
 - You are active listen when you clarify content. (Is this what you mean by saying that?)
 - You are active listen when you reflect feelings. (Understanding the emotional tone of what is being said) *“The purpose in a man's heart is like deep water, but a man of understanding will draw it out.” Prov. 20:5*

Since 50%+ of marriages end in divorce we know there are great challenges for the blended home

- In your opinion, between genuineness, warmth, and empathy-which is needed more to the teen in a blended family and why?

A Dozen Qualities to develop character

#1-Devotion motivated by love. (*“Be devoted to one another in brotherly love.”*)

- The definition of devotion says that it something where a “profound dedication and earnest attachment to a cause is involved.”
- *Notice the term “brotherly love”. Why do you think Paul used that term to describe how to be devoted?*

#2-Treat people in a way that puts them above you.

- How do you treat your teen in a way so that you place them above yourself?
- What would be some ways you honor your teen?

#3-Serve God with enthusiasm.

- *Why is it important that your teen see you have a zeal for the Lord?*

#4- Figure out a way to get joy in your life

- *According to this verse where is the foundation of joy found?*
- *If joy is found in hope, then how do you help a teen find joy during difficult circumstances? Ie...breakup with a boyfriend or girlfriend.*

#5-Learn to be patient when life throws a curveball.

- “be patient in affliction”.
- Microwavable society verses God’s Crock Pot.
- How do you as a parent teach their teen patience through affliction?

#6-Get after prayer daily.

- *“pray faithfully”*
- *Besides praying faithfully for your child, how would you teach them to pray faithfully and why should they want to pray faithfully?*
- *James 5:16-“the prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective”*

#7- Give until it hurts

- “share with God’s people who are in need.”

- *Give an example of how you can teach your teen how to share with God's people in need?*
- *What character quality are we really trying to teach and what character quality are we trying to avoid?*

#8- Share what you got- (Practice hospitality)

- *Are you a hospitable person?*
- *A hospitable person is one who opens their life in a generous way so that others will be blessed. You don't have to have a lot to be hospitable.*

#9- Bless instead of making a mess of a relationship

- ***"Bless those who persecute you, bless and do not curse."***
- ***Proverbs 16:24 which says, "Gracious words are a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and healing to the bones."***
- ***When a teen responds improperly to us we must make sure we find a way to not respond in kind.***

#10- Empathize not criticize

- ***"Rejoice with those who rejoice and mourn with those who mourn"***
- **Learn to sit and listen not lecture**

#11- Harmony is beautiful

- *"live in harmony".*
- *definition for this word is to live in agreement or one accord.*
- *The Greek word for harmony has the idea of wholeness, to join, to tie together as a whole.*
- *How do you communicate harmoniously?*
- *Start by being an active listener*

#12- Don't look down on them

- *"Don't be conceited"*
- *Parents sometimes come across like they know it all.*
- *Become a servant*