

Part 3.3- The DUI and Traffic School

- **DUI-Driving Under the Influence**
 - **Sex, drugs, alcohol, selfish control**
 - **Confusing messages from parents verses the world?**
- Ephesians 5:18 says, *“Do not get drunk with wine, but be filled with the Spirit.”*
- *When a person is under the influence of something outside their body such as drunkenness, what happens to their senses?*
- *When a person is under the influence of the Spirit, what happens to their senses?*

Four Key Proverbs: How to recognize the stage of rebellion

Proverbs 14:29 says, *A patient man has great understanding, but a quick-tempered man displays folly.*

How does your teen respond to your discipline? Are they patient or are they quick tempered?

Proverbs 12:1 says, *“Whoever loves discipline loves knowledge, but he who hates reproof is stupid.”*

According to Prov. 12:1, if your teen refuses to respond to your discipline what TWO things become prevalent in their life?

Proverbs 16:18 states, *“Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before stumbling.*

If your teen is prideful and arrogant what two things can happen?

Proverbs 12:15 says, *“The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, but a wise man is he who listens to counsel.”*

If your teen thinks your counsel is stupid and they know more than you, what does the Bible call them?

Traffic School- Some Helpful hints to help with rebellion

- **1. Don't live in guilt.**
 - Each person is responsible for their own sin (Rom. 3:23)
 - To live guilt free you must do the following:
 - Accept that Christ forgives you for all your short-comings and does not hold it against you. Romans 8:1 that *“There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus”*.

- Acknowledge the mistake(s) you made that potentially estranged you from your teen in some way. Take full responsibility for YOUR PART
- Confess and ask for forgiveness (Matt 5;23-24)
- Accept the fact that they may not forgive you for a long time if ever
- Understand that God only holds you responsible for your response
- **2. Pray continually, then pray some more.**
 - I Thess. 5:17 says, “Pray continually”
 - James 5:16 it says, “*The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.*”
 - *Do you think the father in the Prodigal son story was a righteous man?*
 - *What do you think he prayed about during this whole process?*
- **3. Don’t be afraid to allow natural consequences to teach your teen hard lessons.**

What were the natural consequences of the Prodigal son’s choices? (Hint: there are at least 5)

- He lost his inheritance and would never get any more
- His physical needs became unmet
- His relationship with his family became estranged
- He caused his brother to become bitter
- He ruined the reputation of his family
- **4. Watch your words and guard your tongue**

“Likewise, the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark. The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole body, sets the whole course of one’s life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell. All kinds of animals, birds, reptiles and sea creatures are being tamed and have been tamed by mankind, but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse human beings, who have been made in God’s likeness. Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this should not be. (James 3:5-10)

- *Name at least 3 things the tongue is capable of doing?*

Proverbs 18:21 says, “*The tongue has the power of life and death, and those who love it will eat its fruit.*”

- *How did the father in the Prodigal son story use his tongue to offer life rather than death? How?*

How to break through a rebellious teen

- *“A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.” Prov. 15:1*
- *“Through patience a ruler can be persuaded, and a gentle tongue can break a bone.” Prov. 25:15*
- *“The words of the reckless pierce like swords, but the tongue of the wise brings healing.” Prov. 12:18*
- Some of the practical principles we can learn from these three verses.
 - a. Speaking under control can defuse a situation while raising your voice in a disrespectful way guarantees an argument.
 - b. Even someone who is hard to reach can have their mind changed by a loving patient way of speaking gently.
 - c. The quickest way to kill whatever relationship you want with your rebellious teen is to use your words recklessly. The quickest way to have them open up to you for the opportunity to heal broken hearts is to use your tongue wisely.
- **5. Very important, once they truly repent, accept them, forgive them, and restore them.**
 - Some things you must be aware of during this process
 - Be sensitive to those who were damaged by the rebellious teen, ie... siblings, friends, spouses etc...
 - Make sure the rebellious teen is serious about change and not manipulating in order to get.
 - Are they humble?
 - Truly broken and repented?
 - Willing to restore broken relationships?
 - Willing to accept the consequences?

Final Thought

- **God is telling us it's okay to not be perfect. I believe He is saying, "Hey, I'm AM perfect and look at all my rebellious children."**
- **Review:**
 - Are they rebelling just because they are immature?
 - If they are rebelling remember to...
 - **Offer grace when appropriate**
 - **Show mercy when needed**
 - **Offer hope all the time**
 - **Don't let guilt eat you up**
 - **Confess and ask for forgiveness if needed**
 - **Pray, pray, pray**
 - **Allow for natural consequences to discipline when appropriate**
 - **Accept them back and restore them when true repentance is evident.**