

“God gives children not as a penalty nor as a burden, but as a favor. They are a token for good if we know how to receive and educate them. They are “doubtful blessings” only because we are doubtful people.”

C. H. Spurgeon, *The Treasury of David*, p. 1323

“For another thing, resolve never to forget the eye of God. The eye of God! Think of that. Everywhere, in every house, in every field, in every company, or alone in a room, the eye of God is always upon you... You may deceive your parents or employers, you may tell them falsehoods, and be one thing before their faces, and another behind their backs, but you cannot deceive God. He knows you through and through. He heard what you said as you spoke to people today. He knows what you are thinking at this minute. He has set your most secret sins in the light of His countenance, and they will come out before the world to your shame, unless you take heed. How little this is really felt! How many things are done continually, which men would never do if they thought they were seen!”

J. C. Ryle, *Thoughts for Young Men*, pp. 68-69

“Grace is love that cares and stoops and rescues.”

John Stott, *Christ the Conversationalist*, p. 214

The teen years are hard for us because they tend to bring out the worst in us. It is in these years that parents hear themselves saying things that they never thought they would say. Parents find themselves responding with accusations, guilt manipulation, and ultimatums, responding with a level of anger that they would not have thought possible... We don’t radically change in a moment of trial. No, trials expose what we have always been.

Paul Tripp, *Age of Opportunity*, p 17

“The challenges of raising a child are as much for the sanctification of the parents as they are for the benefit of the child. Perhaps this is the reason that childbearing and rearing come so early in our adult life cycle. Growing families are God’s pressure cooker to mature many of us quickly for the spiritual trials that he knows are ahead.”

Bryan Chapell, *Holiness by Grace*, pp. 62-63

“Most teenagers simply don’t hunger for wisdom. In fact, most think they are much wiser than they actually are, and they mistakenly believe their parents have little practical insight to offer. They tend to think their parents “don’t really understand” or are “pretty much out of it.” Yet most teenagers sorely lack wisdom and desperately need loving, biblical, and faithfully dispensed correction.”

Paul Tripp, *Age of Opportunity*, p. 76

“Knowledge and wisdom are closely tied together in Proverbs: “knowledge” tends to focus on correct understanding of the world and oneself as creatures of the magnificent and loving God, while “wisdom” is the acquired skill of applying that knowledge rightly, or the “skill in the art of godly living”.”

ESV Study Bible, p. 1135

“Parenting has become more complicated than it needs to be. It used to be, as far as I can tell, that Christian parents basically tried to feed their kids, clothe them, teach them about Jesus, and keep them away from explosives.”

Kevin DeYoung, *Crazy Busy*, p. 67

“I believe most organizations, including our homes, are overmanaged and underled.”

Stephen Covey, *The 8th Habit*, p. 250

“Every Christian family ought to be as it were a little church consecrated to Christ, and wholly influenced and governed by his rule. And family education and order are some of the chief means of grace. If these fail, all other means are likely to prove ineffectual. If these are duly maintained, all the means of grace will be likely to prosper and be successful.”

Jonathan Edwards quoted by Mark DeVries, *Family-Based Youth Ministry*, p. 85

“When it comes to encouragement, there is an odd, tragic thing we can do in marriage. When our spouse has a chronic weakness, we can be tempted to withhold encouragement in that area. *I don’t want my husband to think this area is no longer a weakness for him*, a wife might say to herself. *If I encourage him, he might think he’s arrived and give up trying to change.*”

Gary & Betsy Ricucci, *Love that Lasts*, p. 90