Raising Teens

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Parent of Teen and Middle Schooler Parent Meeting
Guest speakers – Ron and Linda Brumley
Title: "The Ten Commandments of Raising Teens" or
"Things the Brumleys have learned"

These are notes that I took on the parent meeting. I did my best to keep up with the lesson. The lesson notes are as follows.
But first we begin with some biblical background.

Exodus chapter 20 – a paraphrase.
And after God did call upon Moses and Aaron to Mount Sinai He spake thus unto Moses. "Go and command the people." Then Moses did receive from the Lord two stone tablets inscribed upon by the finger of God: the Ten Commandments. Moses did descend from the Mount unto the people and lo did he pause before the camp and gave two lesser known tablets unto Elder Ron Brumley: The Ten Commandments of Raising Teens. The knowledge thus follows.

Pt 1 There are no easy answers.
What works with one [teen] does not work with another.

The Ten Commandments of Raising Teens

1 Thou Shalt Love Thy Spouse- whatever we do works best with an atmosphere of love. Dad loving mom and vice versa and evidence of that. 1 cor 13 qualities of love. Chose one aspect and work on it one at a time. Work on patience, then kindness etc.

2 Thou Shalt Pick Thine Battles 1 Thes 2:12 The role of Dad is first of all encouraging, then comforting, then urging. Not the other way around. The purpose is so that they may live lives worthy of God. So boil down

your battles to the things that God cares about, not the things that just bother you or get on your nerves. Address things that help their moral character. A lot of our battles are based on irritation not on what God desires.

3 Thou Shalt Use the Bible as Thy Standard. Ps 119:11,12 the bible is what makes the difference in a child's life. If we are not using the bible then we are missing the mark. The bible must permeate what we are doing and living. How much time is the bible taught or emphasized in your house. We need to have family prayer time and bible time and we need to get creative. All decent law abiding homes have standards of behavior. Share a Quiet Time with your kids. Use the bible as a love story not as a club. Share casually what you learning.

4 Thou Shalt be Humble. Be honest with what you're working on. Apologize when you mess up. They need to see you growing and changing and being spiritual and not being ashamed of it. Your kids will tell you that you're uncool but be spiritual unapologetically. We need to have young people, campus, singles, young marrieds, in our kids lives when they are teens.

5 Thou Shalt be a Good Example 1 tim 4:12 . Set an example in speech. Children help perfect our characters because they magnify ourDo we criticize, correct and corner or do we encourage, comfort and urge. Are our kids inspired by our lives, how grateful we are, how fun-loving we are, how hardworking etc. be an example in love and in faith. Face challenges faithfully. We are an example one way or the other. Set an example in purity.

6 Thou Shalt Not be a Grump. Php 4:12 All the pressures of life can make us grumpy. We nee to find our satisfaction and contentment in Christ that will then shelter our children from our negativity.

7 Thou Shalt Not Over or Under React. No moment in our teens' life is a defining moment of who our teen is. Training and modeling is an ongoing process. We must change our nature as well and be honest about our mistakes. "I'm sorry" are the most important words we can say.

8 Thou Shalt Respect. We live in a culture of disrespect. If we are not respectful- how we talk to our children, how we talk about others, what we allow them to talk about in our home. Let our children know that we believe in humor but that we will be respectful. Respect your children

enough allow them to make their own choices.

9 Thou Shalt Love and Delight in Your Teen(s). 1 Thess 2:8 we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel but our lives as well. What does delight look like- believing in our kids. Ask their advice, be compassionate about their failures and share about your own. When they are hurting it is a time to bond with them through your own hurt. Eliminate "I told you so" and decide to have a heart to understand and accept. Always have a happy face to greet them. Use endearing words etc. Serve them.

10 Thou Shalt Pray. Unless we are begging God for our kids we will mess up the previous nine commands so we must depend on him. Acts 16:13 - Paul expected to find a place of prayer. Your kids need to expect to find you praying. That your trust is in "the lord opened her heart to respond to Paul's message." It is only God that can open hearts. We need to do our best all the time but we are at our best when we are on our knees.

Q & A

Q Pick your battles – what about cleaning your room. Should I really push it considering their schedule of school and sports?

a.Just shut the door and forget about it.
b.This is what I wish we had done. I wish we had said "this is what we wish will happen , we wish that you would learn to consider others– you will live your whole life in a realm of needing to be thoughtful of others – and I hope that you would start that here, but I'm going to let it go.
c.When we gripe about doing tasks around the house our kids will pick that up and gripe as well.

Q I use scare tactics. How do I fix what I've told them.
Just being humble and just saying "I made up something and that was not smart of me."

Q What is the balance of letting them suffer the natural consequences of their actions. And when do you step in and say "you must" or "you will not"
Cloud and Townshend wrote a book about boundaries. They say set hard boundaries and then let them reap the consequences.

Q What were the standards of the Brumley Home?
Go to school, do your homework, respect the family, go to church, go to camp.

Sometimes we want our kids to go to college more than they want to and so we will accommodate them instead of allowing them to suffer the consequences of not doing homework or not supporting them financially and in our homes if they decide not to follow the rules of the home.

Q What if kids approach you with same sex attraction. How would you approach it?

We need to be sensitive to not come off judgemental. I would read the bible on the subject and look at "focus on the family" and talk to them about the dangers. It is the same as with alcohol. Help them see that what God says is wrong, is wrong because it is harmful. A lot of sin God says stand your ground against it but with sexual sin he says flee from it. Also guarding our kids hearts against the sensationalization of homosexuality in media.

Q How do you initiate spiritual conversation in the home.

Sometimes its worse to have a poor family devo than it is to not have one at all. But you have to change your approach to teaching as they grow as well. Have dinner time discussions and find creative ways to engage your children.