

Personal Growth Concepts™

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Q&A Forum - Review

What To Do About 17 Year Old Son, 2006-04

Fellow Q&Aers,

Happy Memorial Day! Special thanks to Barbara and Lisa who contributed to our bonuses today. Please keep your questions coming and spread the word about our free Q&A. We currently have 154 signed on to receive it and each time I send it out, I add about 10 new folks to see if I can "tease" them into signing up.

Kathy, George, Justin, Debi, Tom, Arthur, Mike, Peter, Leon, Christine and Danielle, why not sign up today so you will be in the loop whenever I send out another Q&A? New folks can sign up from our website and previous Q&As are archived on our website.

As always, I welcome your comments on the Q&As and anything regarding the services offered here at Personal Growth Concepts, Inc. Peace, John

Q: Dear John, I have a 17 year old son who has lived with his father in another state for the last 4 years. He will be graduating high school by the skin of his teeth in May. He and his father have had some rough times communicating over the past two years. His father is not guiding him on the "next steps" for his future. I have requested that my son come back home after school so that he can attend a college here and I can look after him. The problem is the "girl friend" - she still has a year to go before graduating and he does not want to leave her. Can you give me any advice on how to explain to him that he needs to think about the rest of his life. Talking to him is like walking on a thin sheet of ice. We talk at least 2 times a day at this point.

Answer: I apologize for the delay in getting back to you. I believe, from what you told me, that you have done what you can - you have "requested." It will be your sons choice which college he goes to, not yours or his father's. I do not believe the problem is the "girlfriend," nor is it his desire not to leave her. Rather it may be in the difficulty you may be having in the letting go. True, most parents want what is best for their children. As their children grow older, they are often at variance with what they and their children think are best. Rather than fight to retain control, they often get better results in the long run by letting go - by being a safe person where their son or daughter can come and bounce off ideas before making a big decision. While they may value your advice, point of view or suggestions, they may not always take it. Continue to be available as they take their final flights before leaving the nest. Perhaps your son has a more practical side to him and chooses to allow life to unfold. Perhaps he knows that no decision is forever - that one decision often begets another one. He does not yet have the wisdom of age and experience that you do. Remember how you made decisions when you were his age? Regarding the thin sheet of ice --- stay on the bank and have a long sturdy stick

handy, just in case he needs it, ok? Don't jump in or you could find yourself in cold water with him. Finally, keep praying for him and for your self, ok? Peace, John

Quote: "Not everything that can be counted counts, and not everything that counts can be counted." - Albert Einstein (1879-1955)

Bonus 1

1. Faith is the ability to not panic.
2. If you worry, you didn't pray. If you pray, don't worry.
3. As a child of God, prayer is kind of like calling home every day.
4. Blessed are the flexible, for they shall not be bent out of shape.
5. When we get tangled up in our problems, be still. God wants us to be still so God can untangle the knot.
6. Do the math. Count your blessings.
7. God wants spiritual fruit, not religious nuts.
8. Dear God: I have a problem. It's me.
9. Silence is often misinterpreted, but never misquoted.
10. Laugh every day; it's like inner jogging.
11. The most important things in your home are the people.
12. Growing old is inevitable, growing up is optional.
13. There is no key to happiness. The door is always open.
14. A grudge is a heavy thing to carry.
15. He who dies with the most toys is still dead.
16. We do not remember days, but moments. Life moves too fast, so enjoy your precious moments. (Like the saying: "Life is not measured by the number of breaths you take, but the number of times your breath is taken away.")
17. Nothing is real to you until you experience it, otherwise it's just hearsay.
18. It's all right to sit on your potty every now and again. Just be sure to flush when you are done.
19. Surviving and living your life successfully requires courage. The great goals and dreams you're seeking require courage and risk-taking. Learn from the turtle -- it only makes progress when it sticks out its neck.
20. Be more concerned with your character than your reputation, because your character is what you really are, while your reputation is merely what others think you are.
21. Feed your faith and your doubts will starve to death.

Bonus 2

THE LORD'S BASEBALL GAME

Freddy and the Lord stood by to observe a baseball game. The Lord's team was playing Satan's team.

The Lord's team was at bat, the score was tied zero to zero, and it was the bottom of the 9th

inning with two outs. They continued to watch as a batter stepped up to the plate named `Love.`

Love swung at the first pitch and hit a single, because "Love never fails."

The next batter was named Faith, who also got a single because Faith works with Love.

The next batter up was named Godly Wisdom. Satan wound up and threw the first pitch.

Godly Wisdom looked it over and let it pass: Ball one. Three more pitches and Godly Wisdom walked because he never swings at what Satan throws.

The bases were now loaded. The Lord then turned to Freddy and told him He was now going to bring in His star player. Up to the plate stepped Grace. Freddy said, "He sure doesn't look like much!"

Satan's whole team relaxed when they saw Grace. Thinking he had won the game, Satan wound up and fired his first pitch. To the shock of everyone, Grace hit the ball harder than anyone had ever seen! But Satan was not worried; his center fielder let very few get by.

He went up for the ball, but it went right through his glove, hit him on the head and sent him crashing on the ground; the roaring crowds went wild as the ball continued over the fence . . . for a home run!

Baseball-Trophy

The Lord's team won!

The Lord then asked Freddy if he knew why Love, Faith and Godly Wisdom could get on base but couldn't win the game. Freddy answered that he didn't know why.

The Lord explained, "If your love, faith and wisdom had won the game, you would think you had done it by yourself. Love, Faith and Wisdom will get you on base but only My Grace can get you Home: `For by Grace are you saved, it is a gift of God; not of works, lest any man should boast."

Bonus 3

I ran into a stranger as he passed by. "Oh excuse me please" was my reply. He said, "Please excuse me too; I wasn't watching for you." We were very polite, this stranger and I. We went on our way and we said good-bye.

But at home a different story is told, how we treat our loved ones, young and old.

Later that day, cooking the evening meal, my son stood beside me very still. When I turned, I nearly knocked him down. "Move out of the way," I said with a frown. He walked away, his little heart broken. I didn't realize how harshly I'd spoken.

While I lay awake in bed, God's still small voice came to me and said, "While dealing with a stranger, common courtesy you use, but the children you love, you seem to abuse. Go look on the kitchen floor, you'll find some flowers there by the door." "Those are the flowers he brought for you. He picked them himself; pink yellow and blue. He stood very quietly not to spoil the surprise, and you never saw the tears that filled his little eyes."

By this time, I felt very small, and now my tears began to fall. I quietly went and knelt by his bed; "Wake up, little one, wake up," I said. "Are these the flowers you picked for me?" He smiled, "I found 'em out by the tree." "I picked 'em because they're pretty like you. I knew you'd like 'em, especially the blue." I said, "Son, I'm very sorry for the way I acted today; I shouldn't have yelled at you that way." He said, "Oh, Mom, that's okay. I love you anyway. I said, "Son, I love you too, and I do like the flowers, especially the blue."

Are you aware that if we died tomorrow, the company that we are working for could easily replace us in a matter of days. But the family we left behind will feel the loss for the rest of their lives. And come to think of it, we pour ourselves more into work than to our own family, an unwise investment indeed, don't you think?

So what is behind the story? Do you know what the word FAMILY means?

FAMILY = (F)ATHER (A)ND (M)OTHER, (I), (L)OVE, (Y)OU
End of Bonuses

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