



# HOW TO LOVE THEM WELL

A Guide for Every  
Season of Parenting

## WEEK 2 - PARENTING TEEN CHILDREN OVERVIEW

This is not an easy time to be a parent to teens. With countless digital influences shaping their worldviews and opinions, and with a constant churn of anxiety at the state of our world filling their subconscious, many teens these days are facing deep developmental delays and tremendous difficulty navigating the brokenness of our world. Picking up on the key idea from week one, this sermon will explore what it means to set a Christlike example for one's *teenage* children while also being particularly thoughtful about how easily young people can be discouraged by our thoughtless words or actions. What might it look like to model the love and mercy of Christ while also giving our teenage children the room to grow, explore, and develop into their own, unique identities? Perhaps the Christlike grace and patience offered by parents to their teenage children can be an island of stability in an otherwise anxious world.

*Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger by the way you treat them. Rather, bring them up with the discipline and instruction that comes from the Lord.*

**Ephesians 6:4**

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What is the first thing that comes to your mind when you think of the "teenage years"?
2. Read [Acts 16:1-3](#) and [2 Timothy 1:5](#).
  - a. Who did Timothy have in his life to encourage him and help him grow in faith?
  - b. When you were a teen, who were the adults in your life that encouraged you and helped you grow in faith?
3. Read [Colossians 3:20-21](#) and [Ephesians 6:4](#).
  - a. Describe the typical role of the father in a household during Paul and Timothy's time.
  - b. If the Greek word for discipline in Ephesians 6:4, *paideia*, means to train to reach full development, what do you think is the message for parents?
  - c. How do these passages suggest parenting could be different than the cultural norm? (See also [Psalm 103:13](#).)
  - d. What would a parent's authority look like if it reflected the authority of Christ?
4. Maron quoted Josh Shipp to say, "You can have control. Or you can have growth. But you can't have both" in regards to raising teenagers. Do you find this to be true? Why or why not?
5. Define grace.
  - a. Give an example of a time someone showed grace to you.
  - b. Give an example of a time that you gave grace, in parenting or another relationship.
  - c. How might grace be helpful in a parent-teen relationship?
6. What advice would you give a parent about how to reflect the love of Jesus in your home?