

Intro: Last week on Mother's Day, talked about helping your kids move from irresponsible and dependant to responsible and independent. Ready or not, this is one of those milestones. Not totally yet, Teresa, "As long as I pay, I have a say." Plus "House Rules" when you are back at home.

Five areas of challenge and how important self-control will prove to be in the coming years of college and other work.

1. Missing Church Or Meeting With Encouragers.

Talents, Tithe, and Time.

Hebrews 10:24-25 (HCSB)

²⁴ And let us be concerned about one another in order to promote love and good works,

²⁵ not staying away from our meetings, as some habitually do, but encouraging each other, and all the more as you see the day drawing near.

2 Thessalonians 1:3 (HCSB)

³ We must always thank God for you, brothers, which is fitting, since your faith is flourishing, and the love of every one of you for one another is increasing.

Ephesians 5:25 (HCSB)

²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, just as also Christ loved the church and gave Himself for her,

1 Thessalonians 5:11 (HCSB)

¹¹ Therefore encourage one another and build each other up as you are already doing.

Core Friends or Community Friends - In The World But Not Of The World

1 Corinthians 15:33 (HCSB)

³³ Do not be deceived: "Bad company corrupts good morals."

1a. Witnessing To Your Lost Friends: Why do you believe what you believe?

1 Peter 3:15-16 (HCSB)

¹⁵ but set apart the Messiah as Lord in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you.

¹⁶ However, do this with gentleness and respect, keeping your conscience clear, so that when you are accused, those who denounce your Christian life will be put to shame.

2. Misusing Drugs and Alcohol Or Being Motivated By The Spirit.

Proverbs 20:1 (HCSB)

¹ Wine is a mocker, beer is a brawler, and whoever staggers because of them is not wise.

Ephesians 5:18 (HCSB)

¹⁸ And don't get drunk with wine, which [leads to] reckless actions, but be filled with the Spirit:

Galatians 5:22-23 (HCSB)

²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faith,

²³ gentleness, **self-control**. Against such things there is no law.

Galatians 5:16 (HCSB)

¹⁶ I say then, walk by the Spirit and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh.

3. Mixed Up In Immorality Or Maintaining Purity.

Eyes >Mind>Body

Key battleground of the mind must be won by studying scripture.

Matthew 5:27-28 (HCSB)

²⁷ “You have heard that it was said, Do not commit adultery.

²⁸ But I tell you, everyone who looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

1 John 2:16 (HCSB)

¹⁶ For everything that belongs to the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride in one’s lifestyle—is not from the Father, but is from the world.

Psalms 1:1-3 (HCSB)

¹ How happy is the man who does not follow the advice of the wicked, or take the path of sinners, or join a group of mockers!

² Instead, his delight is in the Lord’s instruction, and he meditates on it day and night.

³ He is like a tree planted beside streams of water that bears its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers.

4. Messing Around Or Making The Most Of Your Opportunities.

Proverbs 6:6-11 (HCSB)

⁶ Go to the ant, you slacker! Observe its ways and become wise.

⁷ Without leader, administrator, or ruler,

⁸ it prepares its provisions in summer; it gathers its food during harvest.

⁹ How long will you stay in bed, you slacker? When will you get up from your sleep?

¹⁰ A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the arms to rest,

¹¹ and your poverty will come like a robber, your need, like a bandit.

Colossians 3:22-24 (HCSB)

²² Slaves, obey your human masters in everything; don't work only while being watched, in order to please men, but [work] wholeheartedly, fearing the Lord.

²³ Whatever you do, do it enthusiastically, as something done for the Lord and not for men,

²⁴ knowing that you will receive the reward of an inheritance from the Lord —you serve the Lord Christ.

Invitation: Challenges lie ahead. They are not your parent's challenges; they are your challenges!

If it is going to be, it is up to me!

But, I cannot succeed to the level God would have me to succeed apart from God's help. On my own, I will make poor decisions and not follow through on my good decisions.

But, With God; when I am walking in the Spirit under the authority of His word and with the encouragement of godly friends – I can do amazing things.

What is it going to be?