

Lesson 2 – Understanding Your Parenting Role

Perfect vs. Imperfect

A child's perception of their parent shifts during the adolescent years from perfect to imperfect. Your teen begins to understand that he is not perfect, and that those around him are not perfect, including you.

You want your child to understand that it is OK to struggle in life.

Let them know you aren't perfect.

Affirm that it is okay to struggle.

Struggle well together.

Many times, when a child begins to struggle, they are outcast from their social group.

Relational style: The image they project within their social circles; usually to cover up some struggle in their lives.

Is there something I don't know about my child that is affecting their behaviour?

Your teen's behaviour is not a measure of you; rather it's a display of the nature of man.

Your teen's behaviour is often the result of facing some difficulties.

Home is to be the place of refuge and unconditional love.

Make your home an arena of shared imperfection, mutual respect and healthy boundaries.

Move your conversation from commenting to asking questions.

Move your conversation from lecture to discussion.

When you hush, your child will move toward you.

Instead of always giving answers, state a question that will make them think about it.

Move out of always solving their problems and instead, allow them room to solve their own problems.

Give it back to them! We are too quick to take responsibility for our teenager.

Give them responsibility for their life and choices.

Hold your opinion until they ask for it.

Welcome them by letting them know it is okay to struggle well.

Knowing that you are not a perfect parent gives your child hold for his own condition, and helps him understand the need for a Saviour.

Discussion questions

1. Dealing with perceptions
 - a. As your child moves into adolescence, how has his/her perception of you changed?
 - b. How are you adjusting your thinking to make room for “the new adult” in your household?
 - c. Give one practical example of how your parenting style needs to shift in order to meet your teen’s changing perceptions.

2. Engaging them
 - a. Think of some of the questions you currently ask your child, and some new questions to better engage their thinking as replacements.
 - b. Is it difficult for you to allow your child to make a decision and fail, in order to help them learn a better way for next time?
 - c. What will shift in order to allow your child to take more responsibility for their decisions?

Scriptures: Isa 42:13; Isa 66:13a; Prov 17:28; Prov 18:2; Luke 6:44; Mat 11:28; James 1:19b; Phil 2:3; Prov 22:6