PARENTING TEENS WITH LOVE AND LOGIC

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Session Objectives

- 1. To identify and describe three common styles of parenting teens
- 2. To discuss the negative consequences of two of the three styles
- 3. To explain why Consultant Parenting is the best strategy for your teenagers
- 4. To encourage and equip parents to practice Love and Logic parenting

First, a Disclaimer

We have to admit that there is no surefire, absolute, guaranteed-or-your-money back approach to raising responsible children.

Cline and Foster, <u>Parenting with Love and Logic</u>

Bad kids happen to good parents. Good kids happen to bad parents.

Love and Logic Defined

- Empowering teens to make their own decisions, to live with their own mistakes, and to grow through the consequences.
- In other words, teaching teens that actions have consequences (the Law of Sowing and Reaping).

Love and Logic Defined

- Love and Logic parenting is not so much a system as an attitude.
- Love and Logic parenting lies somewhere between "spare the rod and spoil the child" and "fathers, do not exasperate your children."

Our Goal: Raising Responsible Kids

Responsible kids are able to:

- make good choices
- exercise common sense
- understand the "law of sowing and reaping"
- sustain themselves
- contribute to their families and society
- become responsible adults

Our Ultimate Goal:

The goal of parenting is to work ourselves out of a job.

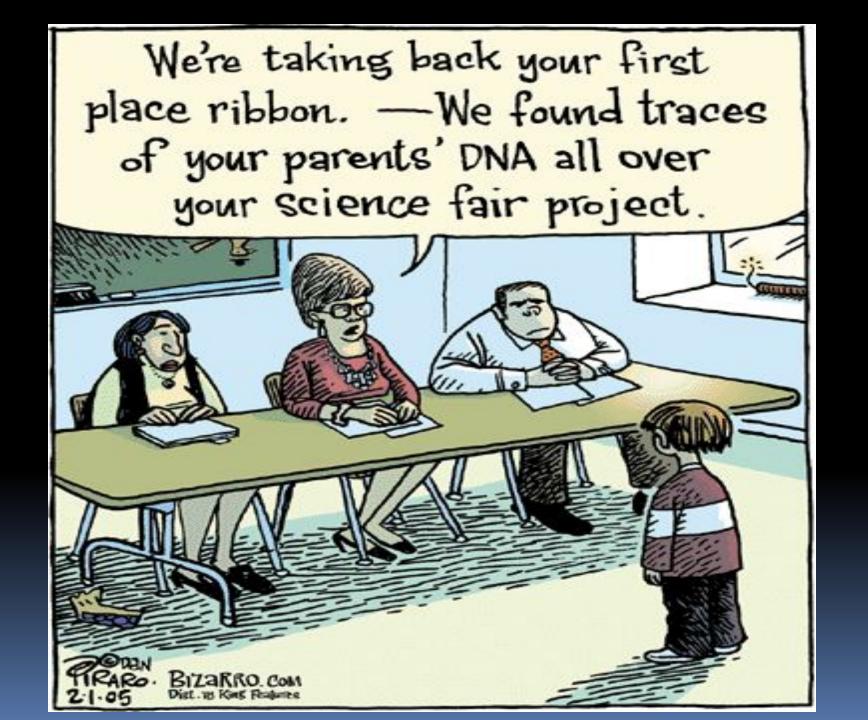
Paul David Tripp

Age of Opportunity

Three Common Parenting Styles:

- 1. The Helicopter
 - Hovers
 - Rescues
 - Protects
 - Won't allow children to fail
 - Steals learning opportunities from their child







Parenting Styles:

I'm afraid that many of us are so busy making decisions in order to keep them safe that we do not teach them to develop their own set of internalized biblical convictions

Paul David Tripp, Age of Opportunity



"I don't care if your mother did insist you wear it to swimming lessons, go and take it off!"

Helicopter Parents on Steroids



Parenting Styles:

- 2. The Drill Sergeant
 - Micromanager
 - Authoritarian
 - Controlling
 - Strict rules
 - Uses punishment instead of consequences



Parenting Styles:

Parents (must) realize that they can only control the parent-child relationship; they cannot control the child

John Rosemond, Teen-Proofing

Rules – Relationship

REBELLION

Helicopter, Lawn Mower, and Drill Sergeant Parenting Eventually Produce





A Parenting Paradox:

Parents who try to ensure their children's success often raise unsuccessful children.

Cline and Fay, Parenting with Love & Logic

Nothing succeeds like failure.

A Better Way to Parent Teens

Mom needs to move from smothering to mothering.

Dad needs to father, not bother.

Tim Elmore

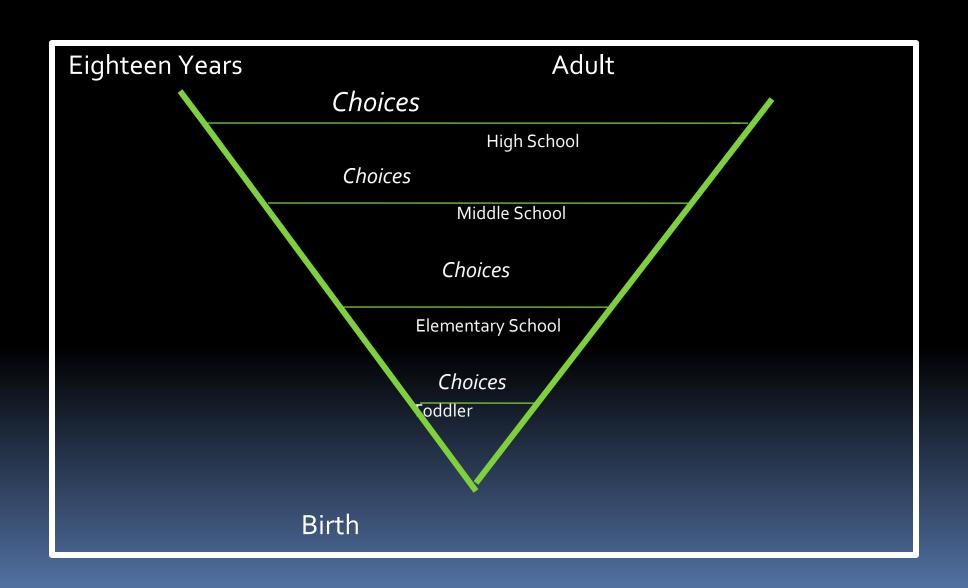
Parenting Styles:

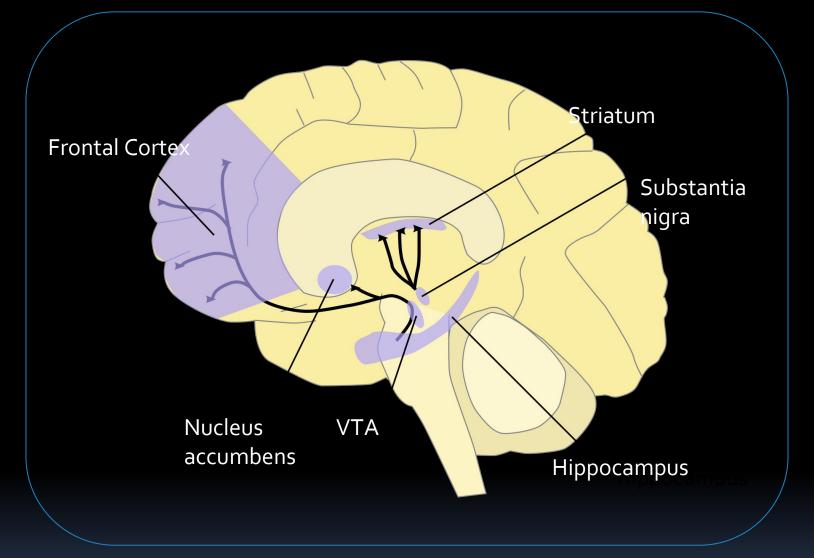
- 3. The Consultant
 - Avoids dictating
 - Provides advice
 - Offers choices
 - Suggests possible solutions
 - Shares control
 - Asks questions rather than barks orders

Parenting Styles:

Consultant parents understand that responsibility is caught, not taught.

"V" of Love





Hot System

- Ventral Striatum
- Impulsive and Emotional

Cool System

- Prefrontal Cortex
- Calm and Reflective

Prefrontal cortex functions

- Regulates behavior
- Determines right from wrong
- Controls urges
- Suppresses emotions
- Mediates conflicts
- Predicts probable outcomes
- Enables concentration
- Allows strategic thinking

Final Thoughts:

- Worry is the price you pay in advance for most of the things in life that never happen.
- Effective parents understand the difference between drama and trauma.
- Parenting is like a river—smooth flows, interrupted by various classes of rapids, rarely ending up in a waterfall.

Final Thoughts:

Your child is not your masterpiece...your child is not even truly yours.

Wendy Mogul, *The Blessing of a Skinned Knee*

Consultant Parents:

Prepare the child for the path, Not the path for the child

Recommended Reading

- Parenting with Love & Logic. Foster Cline and Jim Fay, NavPress, 2006.
- Age of Opportunity. Paul David Tripp, P&R Publishing, 2001.
- Teen-Proofing. John Rosemond, Andrews McMeel Publishing, 2001.
- The Blessing of a Skinned Knee. Wendy Mogul. Scribner, 2001
- The Blessing of a B Minus. Wendy Mogul. Scribner, 2010.
- Artificial Maturity. Tim Elmore. Jossey-Bass, 2012

Children as Pets - The Cat Years

I just realized that while children are dogs - loyal and affectionate - teenagers are cats. It's so easy to be a dog owner. You feed it, train it, boss it around. It puts it's head on your knee and gazes at you as if you were a Rembrandt painting. It bounds indoors with enthusiasm when you call it.

Then around age 13, your adoring little puppy turns into a big old cat. When you tell it to come inside, it looks amazed, as if wondering who died and made you emperor. Instead of dogging your doorsteps, it disappears. You won't see it again until it gets hungry -- then it pauses on its sprint through the kitchen long enough to turn its nose up at whatever you're serving. When you reach out to ruffle its head, in that old affectionate gesture, it twists away from you, then gives you a blank stare, as if trying to remember where it has seen you before.

You, not realizing that the dog is now a cat, think something must be desperately wrong with it. It seems so antisocial, so distant, sort of depressed. It won't go on family outings. Since you're the one who raised it, taught it to fetch and stay and sit on command, you assume that you did something wrong. Flooded with guilt and fear, you redouble your efforts to make your pet behave.

Only now you're dealing with a cat, so everything that worked before now produces the opposite of the desired result. Call it, and it runs away. Tell it to sit, and it jumps on the counter. The more you go toward it, wringing your hands, the more it moves away. Instead of continuing to act like a dog owner, you can learn to behave like a cat owner. Put a dish of food near the door, and let it come to you. But remember that a cat needs your help and your affection too. Sit still, and it will come, seeking that warm, comforting lap it has not entirely forgotten. Be there to open the door for it.

One day your grown-up child will walk into the kitchen, give you a big kiss and say, "You've been on your feet all day. Let me get those dishes for you." Then you'll realize your cat is a dog again.