

THE ART OF PARENTING
PARENTING TRANSITIONS FROM CHILDHOOD TO ADULTHOOD
DR. ROGER BARRIER
SEPTEMBER 14, 2003
S-1618

You know you're in transition when...

- SLIDE #2: Like when mom goes from flat to fluffy.
- SLIDE #: When eating becomes a spanking event.
- SLIDE #: When trendy takes on new meaning at home.
- SLIDE #: When 16-year-old says, "I want the car tonight."
- SLIDE #: When son says one day, "Dad, you can't drive any more."

•SLIDE #7: Passing on our values and lives to our children is a lot like running a relay race. Any coach will tell you that relay races are won or lost in the transfer of the baton. The baton is rarely dropped when the runner has it firmly in his grasp. If failure occurs, it will likely happen during the exchange of the baton!

Describe rules for baton. Twenty-yard box to make the hand off. Can't cross the line. Start running at right moment and don't look back. Other runner puts it in your hand. The transition is successfully made.

- SLIDE #8: IN THE BIBLE GOD GIVES THE PARENTAL INSIGHT WE NEED TO SUCCESSFULLY TRANSITION THE BATON AT THE MAJORS HAND-OFFS OF LIFE.
- SLIDE #: Children need a *directive* parenting style of teaching and imprinting proper values.
- SLIDE #: As they become teenagers, God intends for mom and dad to transition into a *Coaching, Mentoring* style.
- SLIDE #: Eventually, God loves to see us transition into an *Adult Friends* relationship with our children which is filled with mutual respect, love, honor and trust.
- SLIDE #: Finally, when our parents are old and needy, *the child becomes the parent*.

Now, I am not just making this up. These transitions come right out of the life of Jesus.

- SLIDE #13: Mary And Joseph Parented Jesus In His Early Years With A Highly Directive, Instructive Parenting Style, As It Should Be.

He didn't come out of the womb and shout, "I am the Messiah." Grew up as a human being. Had to learn to read, write, spell and add.

"Stay out of the street. Don't get hit by chariots! Eat your lox and bagels." Mary and Joseph were teachers and instructors.

- SLIDE #: *Luke 2:40: And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was upon him.*

Mom and Dad taught him about God.

Shema from the art of parenting last week.

Jesus at Mary's knee: Psalm 22; Isaiah 61: "These are about you."

- SLIDE #15: At The Onset Of Adolescence At The Age Of Twelve, Mary And Joseph Transitioned Into A Coaching And Mentoring Parenting Style.

- SLIDE #: *Luke 2:40: 41-52: Every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the Feast of the Passover. When he was twelve years old, they went up to the Feast, according to the custom. After the Feast was over, while his parents were returning home, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but they were unaware of it.*
- SLIDE #: *Thinking he was in their company, they traveled on for a day. Then they began looking for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they went back to Jerusalem to look for him. After three days they found him in the temple courts, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. Everyone who heard him was amazed at his understanding and his answers.*
- SLIDE #: *When his parents saw him, they were astonished. His mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been anxiously searching for you." "Why were you searching for me?" he asked. "Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?" But they did not understand what he was saying to them. Then he went down to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them. But his mother treasured all these things in her heart.*

Can you see feel the tension there? "Come on Jesus." Jesus digs in and says, "O.K. I'm coming, but get a grip on this, I need to be about My Father's business. I am going to be more and more about my mission now on."

Do you see what is happening there? There is a little separation. A little individuation. Charting his own life. There is a teen-age transition going on.

Mary and Joseph becoming Mentors and Coaches

•SLIDE #: *And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.*

•SLIDE #20: *When Jesus Began His Adult Years Of Ministry The Relationship Transitioned Into Adult Friends.*

•SLIDE #: *John 2:3-5: "When the wine was gone, Jesus' mother said to him, "They have no more wine." "Dear woman, why do you involve me?" Jesus replied. "My time has not yet come." His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you."*

She knew His heart. She knew Him well enough to know what He intended to do.

•SLIDE #22: *Finally, Hanging On The Cross, Dying For Our Sins, The Son Became The Parent.*

•SLIDE #: *John 19:25-27: Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother, his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, "Dear woman, here is your son," and to the disciple, "Here is your mother." From that time on, this disciple took her into his home.*

What just happened here? It is Jesus job to care for mom in her old age and He is not going to be around, so He is making arrangements for her now. The Child is taking care of the parent.

•SLIDE #24: *WHAT DOES THIS MEAN TO ME?*

•Slide #25: *A. Godly Parenting During The Childhood Years Means Understanding And Following The Guidelines Of Ephesians 6:4.*

•SLIDE #: *Ephesians 6:4: Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up (εκτρέφετε: nurture) in the training (παιδεία: discipline) and instruction (νουθεσία) of the Lord.*

•SLIDE #27: *Nurturing Love looks like intimacy, comfort, meeting needs, and security.*

Could you imagine the great advice dogs could give to parents—if dogs could talk?

- SLIDE #28: When your children come home, always run to greet them.
- SLIDE #: Never pass up the opportunity to go for a joyride with your children.
- SLIDE #: Run, romp and play with them daily.
- SLIDE #: Avoid biting when a simple growl will do.
- SLIDE #: When you are happy, dance around and wag your entire body.
- SLIDE #: When your children are having a bad day, be silent, sit close by and nuzzle them gently.

•SLIDE #34: Jack: play therapy. Immediately tell who plays with their children and who does not. Some parents ask questions: “What is? What color, shape, is this?” some parents get down on the floor and engage in imaginary play with the very same toys.”

•SLIDE #35: *Training* involves communicating Godly principles for life from the Bible (especially Proverbs).

Talked about this last week. In the art of parenting.

•SLIDE #: Email: “I thought you would be interested in my husband’s comment after last Sunday’s message. As we stood and gathered up our things to leave, he said, ‘... and after all these years of parenting (23!) we thought our children did not come with a manual ... the Book was right there in front of us all along.’”

•SLIDE #38: Let’s talk about godly *discipline*.

•SLIDE #: *Proverb 29:17: Discipline your son, and he will give you peace; he will bring delight to your soul.*

•SLIDE #: *Proverb 29:15: The rod of correction imparts wisdom, but a child left to himself disgraces his mother.*

Dr. Spock raised way too many children: Basic Misconception: From French Revolution idea that human nature is basically good. Evil that crops up is due to lack of proper education and environment. Improve environment and educate and evil will go away. Innate goodness of man will blossom.

I am tired of where human opinions about what ought to work in parenting instead of following the Creator’s Biblical parental truths has left our society—aren’t you?

•SLIDE #40: Fistfight death at Pueblo HS—teen deaths downtown—drug killing yesterday

•SLIDE #41: Ann Landers: “Parents are being guided by children. Those of us past 40 have witnessed a dazzling historical triple-bypass. In our growing up years Father was the undisputed head of the home. With the advent of WW2, Mother displaced Father. And now. In far too many families, the children are calling the signals. They are clearly in control.

The Bible does not look upon a child as basically good.

•SLIDE #: Proverbs 22:15 – “Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child, but the rod of discipline drives it far from him.”

•SLIDE #43: There are four keys to Godly discipline.

1. A deep relationship exists between the parent who disciplines and the child undergoing discipline.

•**BUILD SLIDE #44A:** Average dad spends 14 minutes per day with their children.

•**BUILD SLIDE #44B:** Christian dads spend 17 minutes per day. We are three minutes better than the world. Tragedy is 10 of those minutes are spent in discipline.

We are raising a nation of children whose concept of a father is someone who doesn't know me and I don't know him who enters into my life to discipline me.

"Provoke not children to wrath." Quickest way to wrath is to discipline child you don't know.

Hebrews 12: "God disciplines those He loves." First comes the love, then the discipline.

•**SLIDE #45:** 2. Godly discipline awakens the conscience to the truth there is a righteous Judge over us whose laws and principles transcend every dimension of life—for our own good.

•**SLIDE #46:** 3. Godly discipline intertwines the Biblical twins of fear and love.
Time no longer afraid of dad, Perfect love casts out fear.

4. The parent takes on the role of a priest who mediates forgiveness and reconciliation.

Let me show you what this looks like.

ILLUSTRATE how I disciplined the children.

Brie – I love you – "I want a hug."

Special moments before and after.

View of God: After discipline, mom wouldn't talk to me for three days.

What about Corporal punishment?

•**SLIDE #47:** Proverbs 23:13-14: Do not withhold discipline from a child; if you punish him with the rod, he will not die. Punish him with the rod and save his soul from death.

Not child abuse – never a mark on Roger, Ron, Brie, or Bronwyn.

I am aware that there are now a number of countries around the world where spanking is actually prohibited by law? It's illegal! And they're trying to make it illegal in the United States. –Tom)

Contemporary cultural opinion is that if your two-year-old is into something he shouldn't, you ought to switch his attention to something else. Have you ever tried to switch a two-year-old's attention? It is not their attention that needs to be switched.

A pop on the hand or a swat on the butt is relatively painless. A visit to juvie court when they are 15 leaves a scar that may never go away.

Early years – multiple creative types of discipline: By 5 or six transitioning quickly away from corporal punishment to other creative ways.

These years from 0 to 12 are the golden years. Kids catch on the rules and cooperate. It is good. Most of us are woefully unprepared for the moment when everything changes.

•**BUILD SLIDE #48A:** Dad says, "What is happening to my child?"

•**BUILD SLIDE #48B:** He's grown eight inches in the last six months."

•**BUILD SLIDE #49A:** "Look at my little girl.

•**BUILD SLIDE #49B:** She has become a young woman."

This hormonal onslaught brings terrific highs and emotional lows that happen every thirty minutes. There is the exploding sexual curiosity that is like pouring gas on an open fire. No one is more concerned about these changes than the teenager. They are wondering, “How am I going to turnout?” Gym classes, and locker rooms, and beaches become foreboding places.

This is the era when adolescents trade their parents in for their peers. They never inform tell their parents that they are in their option year. They simply replace the eighty or so years of combined parental wisdom with the wisdom of fifteen-year-old Billy down the street. “How did Billy get so smart”?

Spiritually, the hand-me-down faith of mom and dad is scrutinized. They wonder if their spiritual heritage is just another Santa Claus or the Easter bunny? They want a spiritual life they can own, and build on, and cling to as they march into an uncertain future—if they want one at all.

My opinion is that most parents, if they miss it, will miss it here—the transition from child to adolescent. They try to parent a 14-year-old the same way they dealt with them at 8.

•Slide #50: B. As Adolescence Begins, Parents Transition Into The Role Of Mentor And Coach.

•SLIDE #51: 1. The basic teaching is finished. Now parents just add a few footnotes.

Survey: Age of 6 personality is 85% set. By 12 set in concrete. Changes made after 18 come only with much desire and effort.

Teens prefrontal lobe development needs constant guidance.

•SLIDE #: 2. *This is the era when adolescents trade their parents in for their peers.* Don't fight this. God has genetically hardwired this transition into the teenage years. *Encourage your teen's relationships with Godly peers.* Like, get them involved with church!

•SLIDE #: 3. Listen Intently. Don't Always Try To “Fix It”.

G6 last week; Wife won't open up to him. Sex abuse? Conflicted. Wants to go to him. Is it because every time you go to him you get another lecture on how to fix it? Tears: yes. I would not want to be his wife—or his teenager? Would you?

Many surveys of kids number one complaint from teens: “My parents don't listen to me. We always get into a fight. It is not even worth trying any more.”

Don't fix it. Listen to it. Love it. Comfort it. Encourage it. Affirm it. Give it attention. But don't fix it.

•SLIDE #: 4. Choose your battlegrounds carefully.

Don't shoot all your bullets shooting over whether or not the room is clean. You don't have that much ammunition.

Don't fight over everything. Choose battle grounds carefully. Most things really don't matter.

•SLIDE #: 5. Set your teenagers free to test their wings.

The leading inducer of anger and rebellion in adolescents is a high control parenting style. I mean treating your fifteen year old the same way you did when they were five.

Loosen up so your teen can spread their wings and test their convictions.

Unfortunately this is the time some parents get scared and so they tighten down the screws and leave many adolescents no choice but to plan a coup to rebel and break out. Give them room to operate practice wisdom and decision-making. If they make a mistake you coach them and help them do better next time.

•SLIDE #: 6. Affirm every manifestation of maturity.

Affirm, applaud, celebrate the right choices.

Affirmation has enormous power in the life of an adolescent.

They fixed a broken relationship. “Good, there are 50-year-old Xns who haven’t done what you did tonight. I am so proud of you.”

•SLIDE #57: 7. Pray for a miracle.

How many of you adults remember doing something clinically stupid between the ages of 13 and 21. Raise your hands. The rest of you are just lying.

This is the era of experimentation—of pushing the limits. It is a dangerous time.

Story of girl driving along in the car and getting urge to spit out car window like she had seen someone do in the movies. So she did. She didn’t do it quite right—didn’t get the trajectory right or whatever and all of a sudden she panicked and thought, “I think it wound up on the side of the car. She leaned out to look to see if it was stuck on car and when she did she turned the wheel and she drifted over onto the shoulder. She slammed on the brakes and the car slowed down but she couldn’t get it off the shoulder and just as she was coming to a complete stop, the car rolled over on it’s top. Didn’t hurt anything; but she is dangling upside down wondering how she is going to explain this to her dad.

What like, “Spit happens?” What is she going to say?

Some of us wound up hanging upside down in a car—and not even getting hurt. And some adolescents fooled around in a car a little bit and killed themselves.

This is a very dangerous time. This is the time to pray fervently for our kids.

•SLIDE #58: I pray daily for my children:

1. God to protect my kids—from harm, evil in general and from evil people.
2. Their spiritual growth and vitality. Courageous choices for God at the intersections of their lives.
3. Relationships and friends. Sexual purity, honesty and ethics.
4. •SLIDE #59 4. School work
5. Joy and happiness
6. I pray for their life calling. Know and pursue the calling of God and that they would love what they do some day.
7. Marriage partner if that is what is in the cards for them. Deep community with their spouse.

These last two transitions really speak for themselves.

•Slide #60: C. During The Adolescent Years Plan To Transition With Your Children In To An Adult-Friend Relationship.

Friends with Brie and Bronwyn and their spouses.

•SLIDE #61: D. Be ready for the days when the child becomes the parent.
Ron and I and mom.

LET ME SHARE A FEW CLOSING WORDS.

•Slide #62: Some of you did not do your own adolescence well. You rebelled, puffed out your chest, went off on a tangent. Some of you are still bearing the scars.

Statistically, you want to know the time when most people leave God? Adolescence.

They had tender hearts toward God when they were little ones and when hit adolescence part of separating from their parents was saying, "And I don't need God either!"

For some of you, it was during your adolescent days you walked away from God. And let me say, not unkindly, walking away from God fits in the category of those clinically stupid things to do.

Because you need God's love and forgiving grace and his guidance, power and strength. You need to spend eternity in heaven some day, not the alternative.

Free pass today. Many of you who have wandered away from God, you can get back on the main road today. You can be forgiven and between here and the grave, you can do it right.

•Slide #63: •Need to talk to some of you parents who messed up when your kids were going through adolescence. You bolted down too tightly and they rebelled or you gave up and you have kids who are alienated or wayward now.

Sooner or later you need to get on your knees before a forgiving God and say, "I screwed up. I did not do it right. I want to be forgiven and set free.

Some of you need to stop bearing the load of guilt about that and get it covered at the cross.

•Slide #64: •Some of you did really well during the time your kid's adolescence—and the truth is, the kids messed up. And you have been living with an unbelievable burden that it is all your fault and maybe you need the HS to say to you, "Let it go. It was their choice. Let it go."

•Slide #65: •And some of you did it well, and they did, too. And you all survived—and you are adult friends with your children—thank God.

Whatever word it is you need to respond to from God, you do it right now.

Give them time to think and reflect.

Prayer: Pray for all our parents and parenting.