

*Parenting Tools:*

## **Raising a Godly Woman**



**HOME**  
*22.6*

## **Parenting Tools:**

*Raising your daughter to be a godly  
woman in an ungodly world*

### **Let her see Christ in you**

You've heard this phrase before: kids are like sponges. They soak up everything around them. Your daughter, whether she's a toddler or a teenager, notices everything you say and do. Even when you think she's not paying any attention, she's already noted your behavior and filed it away for future reference. Your children not only share your physical attributes, but they are a product of your beliefs, words, and actions. Therefore, it's important for you to do two things (Titus 2:7):

Emphasize that her value is based on her status as a child of God. If you are constantly dieting and commenting on how your clothes fit or how you can lose a few pounds, then your daughter is probably mimicking your judgments in her bedroom mirror—whether she's 5 or 15. Instead, emphasize that her value does not lie in how much she weighs, how many boys like her, or how high her grades are. Emphasize that her value lies solely in her status as a child of God and the fact that the Father created her for a unique purpose. Remind her of Psalm 139:14.

### **Model with integrity**

Another way to let your daughter see Christ in you is to model with integrity. Live out what you say each and every day. Be a model by which your daughter can learn just by seeing the essence of a godly life lived out. Acknowledge times when your faith has been inconsistent, ask your daughter's forgiveness for not modeling with the integrity you want her to see, and ask God to help you do better. (Deuteronomy 4:9)

### **Live like Jesus every day**

Yes, sometimes you'll fail and make mistakes, but don't try to hide or avoid your daughter. Be honest and real with her; she often understands far more than you give her credit for.

### **Teach, don't just preach**

The phrase "Because I told you so" is used to explain house rules and expectations for children all the time. Don't miss out on the opportunity to teach your daughter why you have a certain rule or expectation. Take time to explain why she can't stay out past 10 p.m., why she shouldn't date certain boys, or why you'd rather her not be on social media just yet. Show your daughters relevant Bible passages, pray with them, and speak to them like equals. (Proverbs 22:6)

You might have a conversation like this...

This is what the Bible says, and this is what I'd like you to do. I understand that you disagree with point X, but I ask that in respect and obedience to me as your father, you don't do this. But, in the end, you are old and intelligent enough to make a decision for yourself, so may God bless you in making the right one.

A conversation like this allows your daughter to know why you've made a decision the way you have and allows her to make a choice based on God's Word and your teaching. Reflect on Ephesians 6:4, which encourages us, "And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord."

Structure and discipline are absolutely necessary in parenting, but treating your child like an adult and teaching her how to make right and wrong decisions with you is infinitely more educational than simply forbidding your daughter to do X with no explanation.

### **Raise your child on your knees**

Prayer is stronger than any act of disobedience, sickness, addiction, or undue influence. (1 John 5:14–15)

A parent's prayer can free children from the bonds of sin and protect children from the world. But, it doesn't take one prayer, or two—it takes a lifetime of daily conversations with the Lord.

Take time to pray for your daughter daily. Pray for her current, specific needs, for forgiveness and guidance, for her future spouse, and things that she may encounter in life. Don't just pray a hurried prayer, but pray words full of love, with the intimate knowledge of your daughter's temperament and personal struggles. As you raise your daughter in humbled submission and prayer, you can expect blessing that comes from the joy of the Lord. (Psalm 127:3–5).

### **Ten ideas for raising a godly daughter**

1. Help her choose courage over conformity. Teach your daughter how to be in the world without being of the world. Demonstrate in your own life how to consistently follow God's Word (Romans 12:2).
2. Worship and study God's Word together at church and at home.
3. Point her thoughts toward others. Encourage her to put the needs of others ahead of her own (Philippians 2:3–4).
4. Teach her to be patient and to trust in God's timing (Psalm 37:7).
5. Help her discover and develop her gifts. Encourage her to use her gifts for God's glory (1 Peter 4:10).
6. Monitor her outside influences. Know who your daughter's friends are and what values they embrace. Help her eliminate

negative influences and build a peer group of strong, godly friends (1 Corinthians 15:33).

7. Teach her how to define her true self-worth. Explain to your daughter that the world's formulas for defining self-worth don't add up! Let her know that her worth doesn't come from what she looks like, what she does, or what other people think of her, but rather from the facts that God is more concerned with her inner heart than her outward appearance, He cares more about who she is than her accomplishments, and that it is God's opinion of her alone that matters. Tell your daughter that God's formula is the only one that works: her worth equals who she is in Jesus Christ.

8. Encourage her to dress modestly. Explain to your daughter why dressing modestly is an important way to honor God with the body He has given her. Help her understand that immodest clothes send wrong messages to guys and stimulate them to think lustfully toward her. Let her know why choosing to be modest is a vital part of respecting her dignity as a person. Ask God to give her the confidence she needs to refrain from seeking attention in the wrong way (1 Timothy 2:9–10).

9. Help her discern the difference between facts and fairy tales. Help prevent your daughter from falling into the cultural lie that finding her Prince Charming will equal a life that's happily ever after. Teach her that if she expects a guy to complete her, she's setting herself up for disappointment and heartache. Tell her that only Christ's love can completely fill her heart. Encourage her to pursue her ultimate needs through a relationship with Christ rather than trying to meet her needs through a romantic relationship.

10. Help her get to know and trust the Bible. Explain to your daughter why the Bible isn't just another book filled with nice stories and principles. Show her how it is God's inspired, living

Word. Help her understand that the Bible is God's revelation of Himself to people, which unveils His eternal plan for all humankind. Let her know about Scripture's consistency over the years and fulfilled prophecy. Show her how the Bible is relevant to her life.