

GOD OVER YOUR CHILD'S CHARACTER

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- ▶ How do you define a successful adult?
- ▶ Having a good education, good job, comfortable income?

GOD OVER YOUR CHILD'S CHARACTER

- ▶ "For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world, and forfeit his soul?"
(Mark 8:3)

GOD OVER YOUR CHILD'S CHARACTER

- ▶ REAL success=know Christ and pursue His will for their life
- ▶ REAL success=spiritually mature

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- ▶ Profile of spiritual mature person
- ▶ 1 Timothy 3 & Titus 1 qualifications for elders/deacons

GOD OVER YOUR CHILD'S CHARACTER

- ▶ God wants to use YOU as primary influencer (Prov.22:6)
- ▶ You can influence character but NOT change personality
- ▶ You can call for behavior in advance of right motive (key when small)

GOD OVER YOUR CHILD'S CHARACTER

- ▶ How influence?
- ▶ Pray*****
- ▶ Teach
- ▶ Model

GOD OVER YOUR CHILD'S CHARACTER

- ▶ **Successful adult = above reproach/good reputation** (1Tim.3:2 3:7 3:10 Titus 1:6 1:7)
- ▶ Honest (integrity)
- ▶ Hard-working (dependable)

GOD OVER YOUR CHILD'S CHARACTER

- ▶ PRAY they become people with a good reputation
- ▶ What are they up against?
- ▶ Culture that doesn't value honesty-ends justify the means
- ▶ Natural inclination to not take responsibility for self

GOD OVER YOUR CHILD'S CHARACTER

- ▶ PRAY they become hard workers/dependable
- ▶ What are they up against?
- ▶ Culture values entertainment and leisure NOT hard work

GOD OVER YOUR CHILD'S CHARACTER

- ▶ TEACH them how to have a good reputation
- ▶ Correct lying/deceit
- ▶ Remind them what God values (Ps. 51: 6, 16-17)
- ▶ Celebrate when they are honest!

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- ▶ TEACH them how to have a good reputation
- ▶ Give them age appropriate work to do
- ▶ Point out satisfaction of job well done

GOD OVER YOUR CHILD'S CHARACTER

- ▶ MODEL what it looks like to be worthy of a good reputation
- ▶ When you fail (to come through with a promise) own it-share your gratitude for God's grace
- ▶ Demonstrate an enjoyment of work

GOD OVER YOUR CHILD'S CHARACTER

- ▶ **Successful adult is hospitable** (1 Tim.3:2 Titus1:8)
- ▶ Welcomes the stranger

GOD OVER YOUR CHILD'S CHARACTER

- ▶ PRAY become people who are hospitable
- ▶ What are they up against?
- ▶ What comes naturally is loving people who are like them (Mt.5:46)
- ▶ Culture is increasingly alienated-does not foster/value real personal relating

GOD OVER YOUR CHILD'S CHARACTER

- ▶ TEACH them how to be hospitable
- ▶ Instruct them on engaging/taking interest in others-eye contact, speaking clearly, asking questions
- ▶ Discuss what they can do to make others feel comfortable in your home (Luke 6:31)

GOD OVER YOUR CHILD'S CHARACTER

- ▶ MODEL hospitality
- ▶ Open your house to others/host your kids' friends (1 Pet.4:9)
- ▶ Set a goal to grow in this area
- ▶ Have kids help before AND after, cleaning up without complaint (!)

GOD OVER YOUR CHILD'S CHARACTER

- ▶ **SUCCESSFUL ADULT DOES NOT LOVE MONEY**
- ▶ Money does not rule their life and they are generous (1 Tim. 3:3)

GOD OVER YOUR CHILD'S CHARACTER

- ▶ PRAY they would not love money
- ▶ What are they up against?
- ▶ What comes naturally is to live for self-culture promotes as dogma
- ▶ Culture teaches money is the key to a good life
- ▶ They are lead to believe money=security, status, freedom

GOD OVER YOUR CHILD'S CHARACTER

- ▶ TEACH them about loving money
- ▶ Will not produce security, status, freedom
- ▶ Teach them be grateful
- ▶ Teach them about the world/God's heart poor (Jer.22:16)
- ▶ Have them give/teach them joy of being generous

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- ▶ *Instruct them* to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is life indeed. (1 Timothy 6:18, 19)

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- ▶ MODEL not loving money
- ▶ Include them in family discussions about giving/financial priorities
- ▶ When God lays on your heart to spontaneously give/share with them
- ▶ Express joy when are able give

GOD OVER YOUR CHILD'S CHARACTER

- ▶ **SUCCESSFUL ADULT IS SELF-CONTROLLED-CAN SAY NO TO SELF**
- ▶ Not addicted wine (1Tim.3:3, 1Tim.3:8 Titus 1:7)
- ▶ Not self-willed (Titus 1:7)
- ▶ Not quick-tempered (Titus 1:7)

GOD OVER YOUR CHILD'S CHARACTER

- ▶ PRAY they become self-controlled
- ▶ What are they up against?
- ▶ What comes naturally is living to satisfy what ever urge comes their way
- ▶ Culture promotes satisfying urges and makes it increasingly easy to do so

GOD OVER YOUR CHILD'S CHARACTER

- ▶ TEACH them to be self-controlled
- ▶ Tell them no when they need to hear it
- ▶ Instruct about short term vs. long term outcomes/positives delayed gratification
- ▶ Let them fail/experience consequences

GOD OVER YOUR CHILD'S CHARACTER

- ▶ MODEL self control
- ▶ Control your temper
- ▶ Enjoy things God has given to enjoy, but don't allow them to master you (1 Cor.6:12)
- ▶ Where this is a struggle be real & share with someone close

GOD OVER YOUR CHILD'S CHARACTER

- ▶ **Successful adult has their sexual life in order- "husband of one wife"** (1Tim.3:2)
- ▶ Follow God's design for sexuality

GOD OVER YOUR CHILD'S CHARACTER

- ▶ PRAY they become people with a Godly sex life
- ▶ What are they up against?
- ▶ World that has utterly lost its way
- ▶ Message sex is primarily about serving self

GOD OVER YOUR CHILD'S CHARACTER

- ▶ TEACH them God's design for sex
- ▶ Talk about sex / cast a Godly vision (Gen.2:23-25)

GOD OVER YOUR CHILD'S CHARACTER

- ▶ Seize the moments large and small



"A brief commentary from mom or dad that affirms the good of sex in its proper context, along with a warning of the harm of sex out of context, is always better than trying to ignore the un-ignorable."

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- ▶ TEACH them God's design for sex
- ▶ Get educated!
- ▶ "Raising Sexually Healthy Children" – Bev Delashmutt/
studycenter@xenos.org

GOD OVER YOUR CHILD'S CHARACTER

- ▶ MODEL enjoyment of your spouse/marriage
- ▶ Protect/invest in your marriage
- ▶ Allow God to restore you in this area

GOD OVER YOUR CHILD'S CHARACTER

- ▶ God wants you to influence them, but what about when you fail?
- ▶ Pretend it didn't happen?
- ▶ Give up?
- ▶ See it as opportunity to experience grace in new way

GOD OVER YOUR CHILD'S CHARACTER

- ▶ When you fail...
- ▶ God WILL be gracious
- ▶ He will continue work on your character
- ▶ He will keep loving and providing for them!
