

January 14, 2008

TURN A CORNER!

**“As the twig is bent, the tree inclines.”
– Virgil, 70-19 B.C.**

What do we do with these fascinating, intimidating offspring? We put values into them as faithfully as we put in vitamins and food and sleep. We’re fighting off death, and values are life-giving.

Said Romain Roland, “France fell because there was corruption without indignation.”

Teaching values means saying, “This is bad, this is good. Hate the bad, cling to the good.” (See Ro. 12:9.) By word and by example, you set the bad on the left, you set the good on the right, and you say, “See that bad? Don’t touch it with a ten-foot pole. See that good? Go after it!”

At every stage of their development, over and over and over.... No adult or child ever got lost on a straight and narrow road.

Said Joshua to the children of Israel,

*“Now fear the Lord and serve him with all faithfulness.... But if serving the Lord seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve....
“But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord” (Jos. 24:14, 15).*

Discernment isn’t having a seeing-eye dog, it’s having a seeing eye. Make it your goal to bring your young people to the point where they’re no longer dependent on the guidance of others; they can see for themselves the right thing to do.

The choosing is the tough part, the part that takes courage. Tell your kids how teenager Daniel, under great pressure, “resolved not to defile himself” (Da. 1:8).

Tell them what Paul wrote to young Timothy:

“Don’t let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity” (I Ti. 4:12).

And at every stage of your offspring’s life – the baby, the toddler, the pre-teen, the teenager, the young adult – you set the example.

You just turned a corner.