

How Youth can Survive Well in an Adult World

Introduction

- A. **Mark**: In and out of special schools for kids with behavioral problems; literally thousands of dollars spent on his rehabilitation; this kid was 17 when he came to Living Foundation Ministries for counseling. He was very smart but failing most of his classes.

Parents: Mother very controlling, critical, displayed little or no respect, always putting her son down, she had been a teacher and married a legal professional who was gone a lot. Mother and son fought verbally and sometimes physically. Dad finally rented the kid an apartment and lived with him. The son reported he hated his mother.

- B. **Lori**: (Mark's sister) at 15 started to have sex on a regular basis with a 17 year old boy in the church youth group. She, too, was **harshly** parented. She did not emotionally connect with either her mother or father but so earnestly desired it that she looked for male attention and used her reproductive organs to fill a hole in her heart.

- C. **Kevin**: He, too, was a very **brilliant**. Good in sports and school. In and out of juvenile hall, kicked out of school, now he is in a young adult prison for a crime spree.

Parents: He reported he could never do anything right to please his mom. If he did just as she said, it was never right. She always found something to criticize him for. He was adopted at 3 weeks old. That affected him. Dad was passive and didn't take initiative to spend time with his "son" until he got in trouble.

- D. In almost all these situations at the heart of the conflicts were bad/dysfunctional parenting. It does not mean that if you are good parents the kids will turn out good. The Scriptures say, "Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child..." or is there at birth (Prov. 22:15).

1. Most research according to Dr. Gary Smalley, PhD, concludes that children (teens) who feel they were **rejected by their parents** tend to have a hard time adjusting to life. They are angry, aggressive, emotionally dependent, defiant, low sense of worth or value, emotionally unstable and holds a very negative view of the world.

2. Research shows that children and teens who have difficult temperaments (attitudes) and develop serious behavioral problems have parents who have difficulty displaying warmth and acceptance.

3. Unfortunately there are very few examples for parents to follow in Scripture.

E. What have been two extreme responses by teens that have been angry with their parents?

1. A seventeen year old teenage girl had her parents and two brothers killed because they did not approve of her boyfriend. Her boyfriend and his friend shot and stabbed the parents and brothers to death. She was given a life sentence with no hope of parole.

2. A twelve year old boy shot his mother eight times with a 22 pistol after an argument over his chores. He reports she had been verbally and physically abusive. His mother had been living with many boyfriends

F. It is true; parents have a responsibility not to stimulate anger in their kids by excessive demands or commands.

1. Col. 3:21, “Fathers, do not exasperate (provoke) your children, so that they will not lose heart.” (C.F. Eph. 6:4)

a. “Exasperate, provoke,” – to habitually nag at, to irritate, to excite, to stir up, to embitter, to frustrate: How?

b. By demanding (bossy) commands instead of making appropriate, respectful requests.

c. By perpetual fault finding instead of giving balanced praise and correction.

d. By interference just for interference sake (meddling) instead of allowing the child to have an age appropriate freedom from unnecessary opposition or hindrance, usually done for control purposes.

G. Now, having said all of this, how can you possibly resolve, heal, mend or improve relationships with those who we have no control over, i.e. your parents or other adults.

H. The apostle Paul gives you a clue how to possibly resolve some conflicts or reduce tension with your parents that is under your control so you can have a better life even if they do not change.

1. Romans 12:18, “If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men.”

a. “As much as it depends on you” or whatever is in your circle of responsibility. What does that mean?

b. We call that “Circles of Responsibility.”

1)  My responsibility  Their responsibility

2) Illustrate with the use of hula hoops.

2. What is in your circle of responsibility to repair or maintain a good relationship?

3. There are four keys in possibly restoring or maintaining relationships.

a. Honestly identify what is happening in the family relationship.

b. Assign what is in your circle of responsibility.

c. Assume what is in your circle of responsibility.

d. Fulfill what is in your circle of responsibility and succeed.

1) This is the most important step. What can youth actually do that might reduce tension and possibly build some kind of a relationship with their parents?

2) What can be shared with those kids if they want to be successful whether to build relationships with parents or reduce tension with them?

INTRODUCTION B

A. Survey results from students all over the world: We asked, “What do you fear about entering adulthood?”

1. Approval or being accepted as an adult
2. Fear of rejection
3. Fear of not being understood
4. Fear of not being trusted
5. Fear of not having the needed abilities
6. Fear of not accepting what I say
7. Fear of not being able to be myself
8. Fear of failure
9. Fear of not being able to have a different point of view
10. Fear of indifference
11. Fear of not having my goals accepted
12. Fear of disagreement, conflict
13. Fear of rejection of my decisions academically or choice of a mate
14. Fear of not being listened to
15. Fear of not knowing how to raise a family, be a wife, husband
16. Fear of not being able to fulfill my dreams
17. Fear of leaving my family, being alone
18. Fear of being single
19. Fear of not being able to support myself

- 20. Fear of no job
 - 21. Fear of job that is not fun
 - 22. Fear of being abandoned
 - 23. Fear of getting pregnant
 - 24. Fear of failing in my responsibilities
 - 25. Fear of taking risks
 - 26. Fear of regrets
- B. These are all normal fears or concerns.**
- C. One sociologist observed that 90% of success in life is the result of being able to get along with people – not job skills.**
- D. That was the basis for a wise man’s advice to a younger man who struggled relating in an adult world.**
- 1. He explained to him the power of personal responsibility.
- E. Three characteristics of adulthood: choice, responsibility, consequences.**

GREAT CHALLENGE

- I. Take the same advice the apostle Paul gave to a young man who was getting a lot of negative reaction from older people who were difficult to get along with and disrespected him.**
- Read I Tim. 4:12 “Let no one look down on your youthfulness, but *rather* in speech, conduct, love, faith *and* purity, show yourself an example of those who believe.” Note what he did not tell him to do.
 - 1. He was not to tell them they were unfair. “You are unfair.”
 - a. Youth have a great sensitivity to unfairness because of their idealism.
 - b. You know life is not fair because Satan is the ruler and the controlling factor of the universe, “...The whole world is under the sway (influence) of the wicked one” (I Jn. 5:19).
 - 2. He was not to demand his rights that were legally his. “Don’t I have a right to....”
 - a. Timothy was apostolic appointed.
 - b. He had power, authority.
 - c. He had a right to be treated with dignity and respect because of his position.
 - 3. He was not to tell them to stop treating him like a little boy and stop pushing him around.

4. He was not to take the ultimate responsibility to control or change their attitude toward him.
 - a. He only had the power of influence but not change.
 - b. But he was not to be intimidated by their attitude toward him.
5. True, he was not to let them disrespect, despise, look down on him but Paul gave him a strategy to get them to look up to him, to be admired and respected. Timothy was not another apostle Paul that they were used to. Timothy was different. He had to be himself.

B. What was Timothy to do? What was in his circle of responsibility to do as a response to their negative attitudes toward him? (Review Romans 12:18)

1. Romans 12:18, "If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men."
2. Yours Theirs

II. (Reverse roles) The first step is the hardest. He had to change his thinking from "THEY" should be my example to / will be their example. You, yourself will keep on becoming their example (present, imperative). The word "example" (tupos) is from tupo, a type; a pattern to duplicate, an illustration.

A. Normal thinking is that adults should set an example for youth as leaders and youth are to be followers, not the other way around.

1. Jesus left an example to follow.
 - a. John 13:15, "For I gave you an example that you also should do as I did to you."
2. Paul left an example for his followers
 - a. Phil. 3:17, "Brethren, join in following my example, and observe those who walk according to the pattern you have in us."
3. Believers become examples for other believers.
 - a. I Thess. 1:7, "so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia."
4. Adults are to train their kids by word and example.
 - a. Proverbs 22:6, "Train up a child in the way he should go. Even when he is old he will not depart from it."
 - b. Parents are to raise children, not children raise parents.

B. (But) Paul reverses the normal thinking here in order for Timothy to be successful.

1. Paul urged students to develop the qualities that are normally lacking in youth but are supposed to be in adults. They are not normal for students.
 - a. Job 12:12, “Wisdom is with aged men, and with length of days, understanding!”
2. Joseph was 17 years old when he was kidnapped and sold into slavery (Gen. 37:2).
 - a. His story was recorded for our example (I Cor. 10:11).
 - b. He had every reason to be bitter and reflected a deep “anguish of his soul” when he pleaded with his brothers not to throw him in the deep pit (Gen. 42:21). He ended up ruling Egypt.
3. The fear (respect) for the Lord (accountability) is the starting place to gain wisdom (Prov. 1:7a). Wisdom does not necessarily come with age; it starts with respect for God at any age. Youth have a potential for wisdom. Proverbs was written by Solomon for his son to be skillful and successful in life (Prov. 1:8).

C. Paul has a reason in his unreasonable plan. What is it? What would happen if Timothy followed Paul’s “unreasonable” plan?

1. Timothy would stand out very strikingly from everyone else. Why?
 - a. No one would expect such maturity from him, just as your parents may not expect it from you.
 - 1) They think since they were immature so you should be immature.
 - b. You do not have the life experiences to possess such maturity.
2. Authority, power and respect do not depend on one’s position alone, they depend on his character..., not his age.
 - a. Ill.: It catches the attention of grandparents when grandchildren thank them without being reminded.
3. Anyone displaying character at any age is likely to be highly respected, admired, trusted and showered with benefits (i.e. trust).
 - a. Def.: “Trust is the confidence your parents have in you that you will do the next right thing.” (CML)

QUALITIES OF DISTINCTION

III. Focus on five distinct qualities that can reduce tension and build better relationships. The first two (speech and manner of life or behavior) apply to Timothy's public life. The other three focus on his inner qualities (love, faith, purity) which will have public consequences.

WORD

A. "In word" speech – the way you talk to each other, converse, argue.

1. How do most adults view kids when they hear them talk? – Big mouth, small ears, this is their perspective



- a. Phrases you hear from adults about kids:
 - "Boy, he sure has a mouth!"
 - "What a mouth!" "He is mouthy."
 - "He's all mouth."
 - "He's always mouthing off."
 - "He never stops talking."
 - "She never listens,"
 - "You can't tell her anything."
 - "He sure has a foul mouth."
 - b. This is how adults view normal teenage talk.
2. What kind of talk would surprise (even shock) an adult in a good way?
 - a. Respectful talk: "Yes sir, No Mam," Don't whine, gripe, complain, talk back. (Shock!)
 - 1) Avoid being defensive. Defenders are losers.
 - 2) Avoid being argumentative (Proverbs 17:28).
 - 3) Avoid blame shifting.
 - 4) Avoid the use of slang.
 - 5) Avoid the use of profanity.

- 6) Avoid a mocking tone of voice. God warns youth that his life will be full of turmoil and self destruction.
 - a) Proverbs 30:17, “The eye that mocks a father and scorns a mother, the ravens of the valley will pick it out, and the young eagles will eat it.”
 - b. Grateful talk, “Thank you.” “I appreciate that.” Acknowledge their hard work; “I’m glad you’re my mom/dad.”
 - c. Praise: “Good job, Dad.” “Great dinner, Mom.” ‘House looks great, Mom. You are a hard worker.”
 - d. Gracious words: Share the truth in love graciously.
 - 1) Ask for permission first.
 - e. Kind words
 - 1) They turn away anger (Proverbs 15:11).
 - f. Thoughtful words
 - g. Encouraging words
 - 1) Ill.: Steve Matson on our youth crusade trip

CONDUCT

B. “In Conduct” (Behavior, actions)

1. Most adults expect a teen to engage in a lot of wrong types of behavior like their friends do but it breaks their hearts when they do (Proverbs 10:1). They have a big fear that those on the outside will not think they have a perfect family.
 - Rebel against authority
 - Fight a lot: siblings, peers, parents
 - Argue: react, not think
 - Steal (downloading music illegally)
 - Messy
 - Lazy
 - Entitlement attitude: “Give me, give me”
 - Lie / avoid telling the truth, deceit
 - Stingy - self
 - Drugs, alcohol
 - Sex
 - Manipulate – learned as kids to control parents
 - Idols to fill emptiness in the heart, substitute for love and attention at home, though self destructive.

2. Adults expect you to act like the rest of the student culture.
3. What adults don't expect and would even be shocked to see:
 - a. (Rebel) Respect parental authority as God's instruments to prepare you for life even through the parents' mistakes. III: Chuck's dad
 - 1) This does not mean you must accept sexual or physical abuse by anyone.
 - a) In the USA, one out of four girls is sexually abused. Boys: one out of six.
 - 2) Respect is an attitude of the heart, not obedience to abusive demands.
 - 3) You may have to respect their position (as parents or your boss) even though they many have a bad personality or have addictions.
 - a) Position

 - Personality

 - 4) Respect includes obedience to appropriate instruction.
 - a) Colossians 3:20, "Children, be obedient to your parents in all things, for this is well-pleasing to the Lord."
 - 5) Accept appropriate correction both from God and parents.
 - a) Proverbs 3:11-12, "My son, do not reject the discipline of the Lord or loathe His reproof, ¹²for whom the Lord loves He reproves, even as a father *corrects* the son in whom he delights."
 - 6) A rebel that curses his father or mother will find himself living a dark, self destructive life full of personal pain.
 - a) Proverbs 20:20, "He who curses his father or his mother, his lamp will go out in time of darkness."
- b. (Fight) Seek peace with siblings and friends when possible. Avoid fighting when possible.
 - 1) You may have to protect yourself.
 - 2) Fighting just to prove your manhood usually means you feel inferior instead of seeing yourself as very special in God's sight.

- 3) Weak (fearful) people have to prove their power. Those who know they are strong do not have to prove it.
 - a) John 10:18, "No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This command I have received from My Father."
- c. (Argue) Don't argue with legitimate requests even if they seems unfair.
 - 1) Response: "I'll be happy to." "I'll get right to it." "Sure."
 - 2) Appeal with a respectful heart when requests seem unfair, unreasonable or inappropriate.
 - 3) Don't try to manipulate.
 - 4) Obedience is in your circle of responsibility.
- d. (Steal) Give appropriately to others you see in need (opposite of stealing).
 - 1) Ill.: Christmas serving at City Union Mission. ILL.: Michelle
 - 2) Don't be stingy. Practice sharing.
- e. (Messy) Clean up your mess around the house, yard or your room.
 - 1) Pick up plates, glasses, shoes, clothes.
 - 2) It does not need to be perfect.
- f. (Lazy) Use your time in a productive way (mindless video games).
 - 1) Have fun, that's normal.
 - 2) Look for ways to help your mom, dad, peers, siblings, teachers.
 - 3) Ask how you can help.
 - 4) Avoid "vegging out" on TV, video games, IPOD, computer, "angry bird" game.
 - 5) Look for ways to serve others like Jesus did.
 - a) Matthew 20:28, "just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."
 - 6) Avoid the habit of a lazy sluggard.
 - a) Proverbs 6:6-11, "Go to the ant, you sluggard! Consider her ways and be wise,⁷

which, having no captain, overseer or ruler, ⁸ Provides her supplies in the summer, *And* gathers her food in the harvest. ⁹ How long will you slumber, O sluggard? When will you rise from your sleep? ¹⁰ A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep-- ¹¹ so shall your poverty come on you like a prowler, and your need like an armed man."

- g. Focus on a humble servant's heart rather than dream up all the things you think you are entitled to.
 - 1) Yes, you have rights but you may need to let a few of those go for now.
 - 2) Seek to serve rather than be served.
 - 3) Avoid being selfish and obsessing on yourself.
- h. (Lie) Tell the truth and build trust. (Let your words match reality)
 - 1) Lies get their energy from the evil one.
 - a) John 8:44, "You are of *your* father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own *nature*, for he is a liar and the father of lies.
 - 2) One of the seven things God hates and others do not respect is one who lies.
 - a) Proverbs 6:17
 - 3) Culture may allow you to lie but very few people respect a liar.
 - 4) Being known for telling the truth gains respect and trust.
 - 5) Trust is earned, not demanded.
- i. (Stingy) Be noted for being a generous person with your money, time and possessions.
 - 1) It is more personally satisfying to give than to always be taking.
 - a) Acts 20:35, "...remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He Himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"
 - 2) It is appropriate to manage your money wisely and not spend all you get all the time.
 - a) Learn to give to the Lord and begin a savings account.
 - b) How you spend your money reflects your level of maturity. Many adults have not learned the concept of "delayed gratification" – save,

then spend rather than spend on credit and develop large amounts of debt.

- 3) Most youth focus on what they can get rather than what they can give.
 - a) Proverbs 30:15, "The leech has two daughters, "Give," "Give." There are three things that will not be satisfied, Four that will not say, "Enough":
4. Most adults do not even do what has been suggested to you. They never grow up. They act like children. Your task is to stand out and be exceptional and adults in time will honor you.
5. Your wise behavior will make your parents' hearts very joyful (Proverbs 23:15, 16; 22-25).

PURITY

C. "In Purity"

1. This is one area most adults have given up on with you and may have failed to be examples themselves.
 - a. USA 50% divorced.
 - b. 26% of teenage girls have venereal diseases.
 - c. Most movies are made by adults and are very immoral.
 - d. Affairs and mistresses abound (in Mexico).
 - e. Pornography is everywhere. // magazines, TV, movies, internet, photo prostitution.
 - f. Prostitution is very common.
 - 1) A 23 year old woman sold her virginity on  to pay for her master's degree in marriage and family counseling. Her older sister worked as a prostitute for three months to pay for her graduate degree.
 - g. Clothing styles are designed to be sexually stimulating.
 - h. Teens are bombarded by sex at every turn.
 - i. Boys attempt to prove their manhood by sexually using girls.
 - j. Girls give sex to gain attention, be popular or find cheap "love" (relational prostitute).

- 1) You stand a 50% higher chance of divorce by having sex before marriage.
2. Adults provide condoms to their kids because they don't want to have to raise their kids' babies or have an abortion.
 - a. Ill.: In Germany they let boys bring their girlfriends home to spend the night. Germany has a very high suicide rate.
3. Religious leaders have mistresses, babies and force abortions.
 - a. "Christian" magazines in Germany have porn printed in them.
4. Hormones are going crazy in adolescence.
 - a. God trusts you with the ability to make babies before you are grown adults.
 - b. But He also gives you the ability and responsibility to wait.
 - 1) The ninth fruit of the Holy Spirit is self control (Gal. 5:23).
 - 2) True love can wait to fulfill those raging sexual desires.
5. Many children and youth were sexually violated and now don't care what they do with their bodies. They already feel used, damaged, dirty and think no one would want them anyway.
 - a. #10 tells you how you can reverse this.
6. If you want to gain respect, admiration, praise and esteem, choose to fight to keep (guard) yourself pure when everything in you cries against it.
7. Guys, do all you can to protect your eyes that automatically are drawn to images that send a sensation of pleasure to the brain. That pleasure charge is very hard to resist.
 - a. Job had made a covenant (promise) with God about the use of his eyes to stay pure so he said to himself, "Why then should I look (intently gaze) upon a young woman? That lustful gaze would break that promise to remain pure in my thoughts." Job knew God knew when he lusted (strong desiring) for women.
 - 1) Job 31:1, "I have made a covenant with my eyes; How then could I gaze at a virgin?"
 - 2) And God gave Job the responsibility to not turn a glance into a gaze.
 - b. Delayed gratification often brings greater fulfillment later.
 - 1) Chuck and Linda can testify to that after 50 years.

- c. True, kids do not usually think that far ahead but exceptional kids do.
 - 1) Exceptional kids connect the dots of life early as to cause and effect.
 - a) ILL.: Michelle and Greg
 - 2) Galatians 6:7, “Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap.”

8. Girls, cover and protect what God and you think is valuable.

- a. You only protect what is valuable to you.
 - 1) Do you view yourself as a rock or a beautiful diamond?
- b. Your body is very valuable.
 - 1) If you do not think it is valuable or you don't care, it will be used by others.
- c. God has chosen to live inside your body.
 - 1) 1 Corinthians 6:19, “Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own?”

9. Sex is a very beautiful experience. God designed it to be enjoyed in the safe relationship of marriage.

10. What if you have already allowed your body to be used immorally? God is able to wash you today spotlessly clean through the blood of the Lord Jesus.

- a. 1 John 1:9, “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”
- b. An expensive diamond that is dropped in the sewer does not lose its value. What is lost is one's ability to appreciate its beauty. God washing your life will restore others' ability to appreciate and respect it.

LOVE

D. In “Love”

- 1. Sex is not love. You can have sex with anyone and not love them.
 - a. God designed married people to celebrate their love in the enjoyable experience of sex.
 - b. But the character quality of love has nothing to do with sex.
- 2. Adults have basically failed to role model for you what love is. That is why God had to define it.



- a. 1 Corinthians 13:4-8, “Love is patient, love is kind *and* is not jealous; love does not brag *and* is not arrogant, ⁵ does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong *suffered*, ⁶ does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; ⁷ bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. ⁸ Love never fails;”
3. What are the characteristics of love that you can demonstrate that will raise your esteem and admiration of your parents and reduce conflict in the home?
- a. (Long suffering) A young person acting out of love is able to experience (take) a lot of physical and emotional pain when people are hurtful to them in those areas.
- 1) They develop a high emotional pain threshold.
 - 2) Yes, they hurt but they can restrain themselves from reacting in a negative way out of that hurt.
- b. (Kind) He is kind, useful, gracious, very gentle in behavior.
- c. (Does not envy) He does not wish he had what others own. He does not wish he was someone else or experienced what others have. He is not jealous and does not fear that he will be replaced.
- d. (Does not parade himself) He does not brag about himself in order to impress others.
- e. (Not puffed up) He is not proud or arrogant. He does not puff himself up like a big balloon but he is humble.
- f. (Not rude) He is not rude or disrespectful. He honors others presence and acknowledges their value.
- g. (Seek his own) He does not seek after things that are just important to him but also what is important to others.
- 1) Users are losers: It’s all about how they make you feel.
- h. (Not provoked) He is not easily irritated by others and does not become abrasive or sharp with them.
- i. (Thinks no evil) He does not keep a record of all the hurts others have caused him but forgives those who wrong him. He does not forget but chooses not to hold the offenses against them.
- 1) Ezekiel 18:22, “All his transgressions which he has committed will not be remembered against him...”

- j. He does not get happy when it seems like evil wins over good but instead he gets excited and rejoices when truth is presented and wins over evil.
 - k. (Bears) Love holds up under things that would normally crush him
 - 1) 1 Peter 4:8, "Above all, keep fervent in your love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins."
 - l. (Believes) He makes an effort to believe the best in people without becoming gullible. He is open to trust more than doubt. He allows those who violated his trust to rebuild it.
 - m. (Hopes) He makes an effort to hope for the best in people and events. He sees the bright side of a very dark situation.
 - 1) 1 Thess. 5:16, "Rejoice always."
 - n. (Endures) He is able to keep going under the most difficult of circumstances of life.
 - o. (Fail) He is able to survive anything that is thrown at him in life and in relationships (i.e. Joseph).
 - 1) Genesis 50:20, "As for you, you meant evil against me, *but* God meant it for good in order to bring about this present result, to preserve many people alive."
4. Love is the first fruit of the Holy Spirit to be demonstrated. God lives in and through us.
- a. John 14:15, "If you love Me, you will keep My commandments."
 - b. John 13:35, "By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

FAITH

E. In "Faith" (Trust)

1. Another word for faith is trust.
 - a. Proverbs 3:5,6, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart And do not lean on your own understanding. ⁶ In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He will make your paths straight."
2. Have you put your faith in Jesus Christ to take away your sin and by the new birth, bring you into His family?
 - a. John 3:3, 16, 36, "Jesus answered and said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God. ¹⁶ For God

so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. ³⁶He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him."

- b. I John 5:12, 13, "He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life. ¹³ These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life."
3. Are you able to trust Him for all the important issues of your life?
 - a. A mate that you can love and respect?
 - 1) Ephesians 5:33, "Nevertheless, each individual among you also is to love his own wife even as himself, and the wife must see *to it* that she respects her husband."
 - b. Job when you don't have one?
 - c. Financial provision when in need?
 - 1) Philippians 4:19, "And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus."
 - d. Strength when weak?
 - 1) Philippians 2:12, 13, "So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling; ¹³ for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for *His* good pleasure."
 - 2) Philippians 4:12, "I know how to get along with humble means, and I also know how to live in prosperity; in any and every circumstance I have learned the secret of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need."
 - e. Benefit out of loss?
 - 1) James 1:2-4, "Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, ³ knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. ⁴ And let endurance have *its* perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing."
 - f. Hope when hopeless?
 - 1) Psalm 39:7, "And now, Lord, for what do I wait? My hope is in You."
 - g. Good from bad things?

- 1) Genesis 50:20, “As for you, you meant evil against me, *but* God meant it for good in order to bring about this present result, to preserve many people alive.”
- h. Safe for eternity?
- 1) II Timothy 1:12, “For this reason I also suffer these things, but I am not ashamed; for I know whom I have believed and I am convinced that He is able to guard what I have entrusted to Him until that day.
 - 2) Romans 8:31-39
- i. Miracles in ministry
- 1) ILL: Nogales