

MILLENNIALS & GENERATIONS X, Y (& Z):

(Youth & Teenagers)

Today's youth face many challenges and stresses that were unimaginable to other generations. At the same time, every generation's youth—especially teenagers—have traditionally struggled through this stage of maturing. If there is any help that can be gained from what little I know both from parenting and having been a teen well in the past, I trust this section will be of benefit or comfort toward getting you through to the even more positive side of adulthood.

PLEASE NOTE:

As part of this Presidential campaign, we will consult any Americans on the *best way to live well* on **little**, or **buying practices**. Please read our '*Buyer's Tips*' at the Campaign Update section of AmericanAnswers.org.

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FORTY FOUNDATIONS TO FORTUNE

Note: Because teenagers constitute the future American voting constituency, so that they know now that future politicians understand their lives and what they go through, *this* subject is appropriately addressed on a political web site.

Thinking back on my past fifteen years of (not always successful) parenting, I know my three children have on *many* occasions heard the following tenets (hopefully seen as ‘wisdom’), which I now share with you...

A. ORGANIZATION

1. **Focus.** No distractions. Both Bill Gates and Warren Buffett attributed this trait to their success.
2. **Perspective.** Big picture/bird’s eye view before details (but don’t ignore important vs. trivial details).
3. **Plan/Organize.** Observe and anticipate from patterns/trends.
4. **Thinking Trumps Emotion.** Fact over feeling. Contrary to popular belief, image is NOT everything. You can feel correct and be fully wrong, and you can be right with an arrogant, wrong attitude.
5. **Remember/Memory.** Remember only things worth crowding your hard drive.
6. **Timing.** Timing is not everything, but many times it’s important.

B. QUALITY

7. **Prioritize.** You usually can’t do everything, so you have to make judgments/trade-offs.
8. **Accuracy.** If you want something done right, do it yourself. First impressions can be indelible.
9. **Efficiency.** Do things with pace (once you decide they’re the right thing). All things being equal, someone doing the same quality faster will get the job.
10. **Thoroughness/Completeness.** Ex.: Guinea pig floor hay sweep up game.

C. ACTION-ORIENTED

11. **Be a Doer** (Ex.: Nike). Do something. Don’t procrastinate or just think or plan.
12. **Be Intense.** With all your heart. Live urgently, and have initiative. Be a self-starter, and be assertive. Don’t wait to be asked to do something.
13. **Don’t Live Vicariously.** Don’t feel successful by just watching or even associating with others who actually are successful. Their success doesn’t pay your bills.

D. FACING PROBLEMS

14. **Solve Problems.** Design against failure. Sometimes a back-up plan.
15. **Be Creative.** Improvise. Think outside the proverbial box. Dare to be different. Be flexible (vs. set in your ways) in negotiable things.
16. **Be Tough (vs. Weak).** Resilience. Get Back on the Horse. Be Texas tough.

E. SOCIALIZING

17. **Responsibility.** Blame Processes–Not People. No excuses (reasons are another thing). Responsibility is a six syllable word–not a four letter word.
18. **Independence.** Be Yourself. Compete with/against yourself. If someone told you to jump off a cliff, would you? Sheep off a cliff icon.

F. BUSINESS & CAREER

19. **Work Smart, Then Hard.** Analyze habits. Ask, ‘is that smart to do?’ Ex.: Don’t travel if you don’t have to (wastes time and money; sometimes face to face is required). Think on your feet. Learn how to think and analyze–ask questions.
20. **Business Before Pleasure.** Reward yourself after the work is done.
21. **Be a Leader, Not a Follower.** Lead, follow or get out of the way.

22. **Seek out Specialists.** Experts > jack of all trades. Generalists are good for philosophy of life and perspective, but we trust our car repairs (for example) with those trained in a specific skill set.
23. **(You Have to) Manage People.** People only follow-up on things of concern to themselves.
24. **Shop Around.** Get second opinions (unless that cost is more than the time spent multiplied by your hourly wage).
25. **Delegate (But Don't Dump).** Get others to do things for you that also interest or help them.
26. **Imitate Success.** You can venture out, but you also know what has already made others successful.

G. MONEY & POSSESSIONS

27. **Over-Spending Makes Others Rich (and You Poor).** Be a value hunter. Ask, 'can this be done for free or cheaper?'
28. **Know the Value of a Dollar.** Money doesn't grow on trees. Working a job helps develop this skill.
29. **Maintain.** Preserve things of quality (i.e., assets; Ex.: car oil change every 3,000 miles).

H. VALUE JUDGMENTS

30. **Make Judgments.** Identify value and discern quality. Not everything is the same, or a commodity.
31. **Consider the Source.** Does the person have a faithful track record? Follow the money trail, and check people's intentions and motives.
32. **Accountability.** Don't reward bad behavior. As the Bible says, 'do not participate in the unfruitful deeds of darkness, but instead even expose them.' (**Ephesians 5:11**)

I. MORALS

33. **God Sees All.** Have your public morals match your private morals. As J.C. Watts has said, "character is doing the right thing when nobody's looking."
34. **First-Time Obedience (i.e., to Parents).** Don't make them repeat or especially nag on instructions and chores.
35. **Respect is Earned.** You don't deserve respect just because you were born.
36. **Check Your Motives** (as my college roommate used to always say). Though the pathway to Hell may be paved with good intentions, good intentions alone do nothing. Always do the right things for the right intentions.

J. SELFLESSNESS

37. **Think About Others.** Don't just consider what you want, think or care about. Consider others' feelings (but don't be ruled by them).
38. **'Do Unto Others.'** You can't demand people treat you as you treat them, but you should role model to them how you would expect (and want) to be treated.
39. **Win-Win.** Seek this in transactions with people, as few people want to relate to you longer-term if you're just a user or taker.
40. **Go the Extra Mile.** Go above and beyond. As Stephen Covey has said, "exceed expectations."

LIFE LESSONS LEARNED

Intelligence Trumps Emotion. Feeling is easy & natural.
Thinking is more valuable, & takes more effort.

Plan Against Problems. There's almost always a way to design around obstacles & objections.

Do Things Accurately & Quickly (accurate is more important). It is not enough to be accurate if it takes you all day, but rushing to the point mistakes are made is unhelpful. (Ecc. 12:10)

Do Things with Thoroughness & Quality. Ex.: I graded my young children on how well they swept up the guinea pig hay spread over our floor, & likened it to studying for grades in school.

Complaints Identify Opportunities. Don't just complain, but solve problems when it's in your power.
Constructively criticize & identify places for improvement,
& have the intention & take the effort so to do.

Involvement. Never live vicariously through others' successes. Make your own life successful!
Feeling emotional exhilaration about others' successes changes your life zero %.

Communicate! People CANNOT read your mind, & often make up what they think you're feeling when you're shy or withdrawn. Much confusion (& pain) comes when we hold things in.

Tone & Gestures. In influencing people, body language & vocal tone & inflection (& variance) often play a big part (vs. a monotone voice or flat affect).

UNDENIABLE FACTS OF LIFE

Earlier in Rush Limbaugh's talk radio career, he wrote 2 lists of Undeniable Truths of Life. Enough people believed in those and other principles for him to eventually build a media empire. Much more modestly, this author simply present the following truths he believes stand the test of time.

Want a better life? Apply some of life's permanent lessons.

TRUTHS ABOUT LIFE

What did you do on this earth that was of real value or importance?

Short reckonings make long friends.

The secret of life is enjoying the passing of time. Any fool can do it.
There ain't nothin' to it. Einstein said we can never understand it all. **-James Taylor**

Friendship is a plant we must often water. **-German proverb**

You've got a friend. **-Carol King**

We live in a culture where everything gets debated. Skeptics abound challenging facts with a simple, 'prove it,' and denying them with the memorized, 'that's your opinion.' Intuitively, with good working conscience, some things are undeniable, though free will can still deny them.

America

- ◆ America is the greatest nation in history, and has achieved the most good for mankind in the least amount of time. That having been said, she is not without her *foibles*—some major.
- ◆ America should lead in nearly every category of life, *especially morally*.

Relationships

- ◆ You don't have to agree with everything a person believes to peacefully co-exist.
- ◆ Forgiveness and learning lessons when people wrong you are essential ways to get past offenses.
- ◆ In every decision, the best solution seeks a win-win for both sides.
- ◆ Trust is broken by betrayal and lying, and is hard to rebuild thereafter. Burn someone once, and you cause a *chilling effect* on future openness to communication. Yet, be *wise*—don't spill all your beans until you know someone well enough to trust them, and keep confidential things that need to be secret.

Family

- ◆ *Marriage* is a sacred, life-long union between a man and a woman, by definition.
- ◆ *Life* begins at conception. The soul does not later drop into a body.

Morals

- ◆ *Common sense* is not as common today as it should be (or once was).
- ◆ There are some moral principles which stand the test of time.

Religion

- ◆ Religion *can* be used for bad, but is generally a good thing for society.

Government

a) Need For.

- ◆ Mankind can choose to do good and bad. We cannot trust them to *always* do good, and government intervention is sometimes needed.
- ◆ Both *anarchy* and *tyranny* are unacceptable options for governing the United States.
- ◆ There will always be bad apples willing to break laws to make money. We cannot fully rely on the “honor system” to curb abuses.

b) Functions.

- ◆ The private sector can usually do things *better* than the government, but if it proves otherwise, or does so outside specified moral boundaries, government should intervene.
- ◆ Government should do for men (and society) what they (and it) cannot do for themselves (itself)—at least not profitably.
- ◆ The government should objectively prioritize all expenses, identify its minimum essentials, luxuries, and good activities that are not essential, and all purchases should be based on a solid economic value.
- ◆ The budget should be balanced, debt progressively paid down and government agencies streamlined.
- ◆ Government workers should be trained to be *motivated* and have good customer service skills, and tenure or seniority should never interrupt the right to fire bureaucratic, drone, slow, moderated paced stereotypical “*government work*” employees.

c) Political Corruption.

- ◆ The people should have more powerful mechanisms to curb corrupt, lying and self-serving politicians, and to have more influence over how their money is spent.

d) Law & Order.

- ◆ Crime should be punished, and the punishment should fit the crime.
- ◆ No person is above the law.
- ◆ Judges should interpret and apply the law—not create it.

e) Taxes.

- ◆ Taxes are necessary, but should be kept to a *minimum*.
- ◆ The value and importance of what government does is more important than its size.

f) Enemy Engagement.

- ◆ Ronald Reagan said it best, “Trust but *verify*.”

g) Foreign Aid.

- ◆ Countries whose governments never get their act together to help their people (i.e., corruption) *do not deserve much aid* (if any) from other countries.

Social Issues

- ◆ War is always “Hell,” sometimes necessary and always a last resort.
- ◆ The earth can withstand more than we give it credit for, though we must be good stewards of it.
- ◆ Equally qualified women should be paid equal to their male counterparts.

Charity

- ◆ There is *no free lunch* in life, yet everyone should do some activities for free.
- ◆ Teaching a man how to fish is better than continually giving him fish to eat.

Poor

- ◆ No one in America should suffer extreme *poverty* and *hunger* for any reason.

- ◆ The poor should not receive government handouts without some form of sweat equity (i.e., community service), and such help should be temporary and/or only for *essentials* they cannot supply themselves.

Rich

- ◆ Getting rich, and not caring what happens to anyone else is selfishness, by definition, and should *not be aspired to* by any within our Democracy.
- ◆ Excessive salaries are wrong, and the solution is not to make riches illegal but to tax them at the lowest necessary yet highest bracket. Laws, alone, will likely not change them into generous souls.
- ◆ The group best able to endure higher taxes are the very rich. Their lifestyle will not suffer as a result, nor will they be significantly negatively impacted, financially, if tax increases are ever necessary.

Diet

- ◆ Diet and exercise are the best way to lose weight and be healthy.

Etc. More to come, and for you to add to.

ADVICE FOR MY CHILDREN

You, who are on the road, must have a code that you can live by. And so, become yourself, because the past is just a goodbye. Teach, your children well...

–Crosby, Stills, Nash (& Young)

Now after having lived slightly over half a century, I can look back and see that life has taught some good lessons. I was once asked to give a young college graduate some life advice, which follows:

Learning from your mistakes is hard. Learning common sense applied to life is easier.

And the cat's in the cradle and the silver spoon, little boy blue and the man on the moon.
When 'ya comin' home dad, I don't know when. We'll get together then, son.
We're 'gonna have a good time then. **–Harry Chapin** (Cats in the Cradle)

First off, consider the source of the advice you get. Everyone has an opinion, but not all opinions are true, ethical, or good for you. The ones in this section come from years of serving God as a New Testament Christian and minister, so they will usually be based on something outside myself or my experiences and emotions—the Bible. I also am an educated man, having earned 4 degrees (plus post-graduate work). Then, some truths could only be learned by experience and the school of hard knocks. The advice is not in priority order, except for the first paragraph.

Life Motto: Work smart, then hard; play and minister hard, and also relax.

Principles: Life is serious ♦ Decisions have consequences ♦ Do something important with your life.

God.

- ♦ Do whatever the Lord (God) tells you to do, no matter what. Pleasing our Maker, after first knowing Him personally through His Son, Jesus Christ, is the utmost value for life, and will govern all the other items which follow.
- ♦ Have a purpose for your life, vs. working to live, so you can live to work (i.e., "the rat race"). God can and will give you that unique purpose, if you ask Him to.
- ♦ Pray regularly, based on promises offered in the Bible, and know that God answers prayers of His children who ask according to those promises.
- ♦ Find your hope (for this life and the next) in God alone. Even in bad times, and bad circumstances.
- ♦ Keep it simple. God honors a life of discretion and maturity. Seek first God's kingdom, and all other things (such as money) will be added to you—Mt. 6.
- ♦ Care more what God thinks of you than anyone else.
- ♦ Have a daily quiet time with God, for 10 minutes or more, every day, wherein you spend half the time in prayer, and half of it reading the Bible (preferably the New American Standard version, starting anywhere in the New Testament). This is an invaluable start to every day getting off on the right foot.
- ♦ Keep an eternal perspective to your life. We are all mortal, and will all give account to God when we die.
- ♦ Only by having all our sins forgiven by asking Jesus Christ into our lives, through faith, can we live a pleasing life unto Him—the only type of life worth living.

Education.

- ♦ Study hard in school, while knowing that straight A's, without an emotional IQ, or common

sense/people skills, will not ultimately benefit you as much as a combination of these skills.

- ◆ Incoming college freshmen: Make strategic friendships for your career, FOCUS on what's required to make A's, find your major's niche, and have FUN at college!
- ◆ Struggling with a course? Get a study group, meet with the teacher, find on-campus tutors, and hang around with those in that major (or the smarter people in the class on that topic; do something for them in exchange).

Career.

- ◆ Career-wise... do what makes you happy, enjoy your work, and make sure that standard can make you some money! Avoid being miserable in the rat race of working like a slave, but don't enjoy something so much you make a career out of it when there is no market for the skill, to pay your bills with.
- ◆ Feel no obligation to pursue the same employment as your parents (unless they can hand the business to you). We are all unique individuals with unique talents and abilities, and you can succeed in doing whatever you decide is best for your given skill set.
- ◆ Do not be a virtual slave to any person. Submit and serve your employer, but do so as obedience to God, not as a man-pleasing employee, trying to curry favor for self-promotion. That is, be yourself, and get promoted on your skills, ethics, personality and hard work—not by politics or buttering people up (i.e., flattery and insincerity)
- ◆ Work smart, before working hard. Use time wisely, and prioritize vs. being pushed to and fro by urgent and pressing, but less priority issues.
- ◆ Don't be lazy. Endure. Pick yourself up if you figuratively fall down...the only failure is to cease to try.
- ◆ Be good at what you do, and do quality work. Help others, and this will ultimately help you succeed, not because of 'what comes around goes around' but because God will reward you and because humans like doing business with "nice," polite, courteous people.
- ◆ Likely all professions have bad eggs in them. Don't let that discourage you from any moral career undertaking, but don't imitate them.

Money.

- ◆ Save money. It is not exciting, but you will find its payoff to be exciting 20 years from now.
- ◆ Live UNDER your means. Don't follow fads or try to keep up with the Jones', but live with self-discipline in your spending, as it is truly accurate that 'a penny saved is a penny earned.' After all, it's not how much you make, but how much you keep.
- ◆ It's not how much money you have, but how much money has you.
- ◆ Remember the poor (and do something about it).
- ◆ Use your finances in God's service, as all we have is His gift to us.

Priorities.

- ◆ Life's top priorities are: God first, family second, career third. Don't be a workaholic.
- ◆ It's often the things we won't express to others which are most important.
- ◆ Find something important to achieve and relentlessly pursue it despite all obstacles, doubts, criticism and opposition. (Ex.: an author's life is full of strife).

Ministry.

- ◆ Have a ministry, wherein you can faithfully serve God.

Talents.

- ◆ Use your talents to the best of your ability.

Dating.

- ◆ Enjoy dating and college life, within ethical parameters, as you will always look back on your college years with the fondest of memories.
- ◆ Pray for God to send you the right mate, and for the wisdom to know the right one when you find him or her.
- ◆ Don't poo poo romance. Women love it, and it's to your best interest to have a wife who loves the way you treat her.

Marriage.

- ◆ Save yourself for your one and only wife for a lifetime! Not a popular decision to make, but the best and most rewarding one. No one wants to be on a honeymoon, or married, and have to ponder what other fields their spouse may have wandered in their trek toward this one soul-mate for life. And don't stray once you are married. Have open communication, no secrets, and enjoy to the fullest the blessed children God may bring to your union. I sure do! (3 kids, all a blessing).
- ◆ It is O.K. to be single, and never marry, biblically (I Cor. 7).
- ◆ Always date your mate/wife. Never cease from this practice. TALK to her, even if for only 5 minutes a day. Women love to be spoken to, given attention, and shown they are cared about and prioritized.

Family.

- ◆ Make time for family, and never use the job as an excuse not to. No excuse keeping you from your family has content merit.
- ◆ Enjoy your family.

Parenting.

- ◆ Don't play favorites with your kids.
- ◆ Remember the adage (from the O.T.), spare the rod, spoil the child. Lovingly and under control, discipline your children, to teach them right from wrong, and to try to keep them from repeating what merited the disciplining. Live/role model the behavior you want out of your kids.

Country.

- ◆ Love your country. Be patriotic. Believe U.S.A. is number one, yet not boastfully.

Selflessness.

- ◆ Always consider other people as more important than yourself. Don't manipulate people.

People.

- ◆ Respect your elders. They are not perfect, but they have been where you are, and though they lived your generation in a different era, many lessons they learned can help you! Don't learn from failure, experience and mistakes, IF you could have learned from the lessons of others instead.
- ◆ Know that many people will befriend and be nice to you because they are seeking money from you. See through their words, smiles and acts, and discern their true motivation, to discover whether they have your best interest in mind, or are only self-centered people manipulators.
- ◆ Smile, and try to remember people's first names.
- ◆ Love people sincerely. They are not all lovely, and are often unloving to you. Do it anyway. There is not promised to us in this life perfect justice (but there is a life to come).

Individuality.

- ◆ Do not go with the crowd, if the crowd is morally wrong, and stand up for principles you believe in (based in moral authority), and don't be passive about it, letting bad things happen which you could have helped to curb.
- ◆ Be your own person. Independence and creative self-uniqueness is about the only thing you can truly offer the world that someone else cannot closely imitate.

Happiness.

- ◆ Seek for joy more than happiness, and realize that things can seem pleasurable for the moment, but have lasting consequences you will later wish you had not gotten involved in. That is, the Bible talks of the passing pleasure of sin. Don't let the devil deceive you in the short-term, at the expense of the long-run.
remember, material things do not bring happiness, no matter how many you own.

Relaxation.

- ◆ Have fun. The people least fun to be with are bitter, angry, grudge-filled people who do not remain young at heart, whatever their age. Hang around younger people, at times, to feed off their vibrant energy and to continually have a dream for which you are working.

Thinking.

- ◆ Don't believe everything you hear or read. Think critically, and analyze and evaluate whether what you are hearing is true.
- ◆ Test every piece of advice by the Word of God, the Bible. Keep the good, throw away all else.

Attitude.

- ◆ Be optimistic, accurate, reasonable, always curious and learning, and never let your estimation of yourself get too big. Stay humble, and rely on God.
- ◆ Don't be old-fashioned. Stay informed. Only get in ruts that are good ruts to be in life-long; Otherwise, be open to change and adaptation (save in moral areas).

Morals.

- ◆ Live at peace and with a clear conscience, even when no one else is around to witness your honest behavior vs. the opportunity to "get away with something" that no one would know about. God is watching, knows, and rewards and punishes.
- ◆ Don't lie. Don't idolize money. In all business (and personal) transactions, consider and do the ethical thing, even when temptation not to do so arises. Enron should have taught all Americans this truth, but still there are men who cut corners and are not honest.
- ◆ Lead by example and ethical living. In the short run you may be ostracized, but in the longer view, you will be respected.
- ◆ Do not condone or turn a blind eye to injustice or evil-doing, for in so doing, you participate, by inaction.
- ◆ As has been said, the only thing needed for evil to triumph in this world is for good people/men to do nothing (or words to that effect).
- ◆ Avoid the two moral errors and extremes of machismo and feminization. Be a man—a man who can do and make decisions, as well as a caring man who is not self-absorbed. In a word, be like Christ.
- ◆ Be a person of your word. Try to say what you mean, do mean what you say, and, most importantly, do what you say you will do. Your word is your bond, even if modern culture requires you to put it in writing.
- ◆ Don't divorce (especially if you have kids), cheat, steal, lie, etc.

Disclaimer.

Do as I say, not always as I do. That is to say, I may not perfectly live up to all these principles, but that should have no effect on your or my future attempts to implement them, as they remain true, none-the-less. As Paul said, 'follow me, as I do Christ.' Only imitate things in others that should be imitable, as no one is perfect, except God.

Take-Aways.

- ◆ Learn from your mistakes, and try not to repeat your sins, once you have asked forgiveness for them.
- ◆ Speak straightforwardly.

The truths I have shared with you are not the easiest road to follow, but, as the Robert Frost poem indicates, the road less travelled is truly the most rewarding! If you apply these principles, I assure you a successful adulthood (and life)!

For what it's worth, I try to teach my three kids to be creative and intelligent, and my oldest and I have a code of two whacky phrases I used to think of in grade school, which I leave *him* now:

- ◆ The pastor passed your pasture. [rhyme with little value]
- ◆ It makes sense to make scents since it makes cents. [rhyme with only slightly more value]

Almost everything—all external expectations, all pride, all fear of embarrassment or failure—these things just fall away in the face of death, leaving only what is truly important.

Remembering that you are going to die is the best way I know to avoid the trap of thinking you have something to lose. You are already naked.

There is no reason not to follow your heart. —**Steve Jobs**

Well, I've been afraid of changing cause' I've built my world around you.

But time makes you bolder, children get older, I'm getting older too. —**Fleetwood Mac**
(Landslide)

TIPS FOR TEENS & POINTERS FOR PARENTS

(TWEETED @JAMESMERONEY)

The following are tweets (or other tidbits) we have given @JamesMeroney in recent years, to help teenagers enjoy more successful lives (and especially high school years)....

There are wise young people & unwise adults.
Length of stay on earth does not equate to width of wisdom.
Listen to your parents (Ex. 20:12; Pv. 1:8; 4:1; 6:20-21),
& to their punishments (Pv. 13:1). A longer life it will bring you.

BODY IMAGE

It's not good to be fat but it's not good to make fun of those who are.
Encourage & help them—don't ridicule & stay away from them. (I Sam. 16:7)

72% of girls feel pressure to be pretty. That pressure is NOT from God, but man.
As has been said, "God don't make no junk!" [Listen to Try, by Colbie Calliat]

BULLYING

As my 11 year old says, "Violence is never the answer—learn it, love it, live it."
Initiators are the culprits—not victims.

Self-defense IS in the Bible (strong man verse) even though liberal Political Correctors
don't often respect that source (till they will too late in Hell).

Political Correctness will NEVER deter myself & others from teaching our kids
never to fight but to end it if walking away doesn't do so & they didn't initiate.

Bullies are NOT scary. As my bro-in-law says, it requires someone standing up to them
& calling their bluff, as they're really cowards inside.

Bullies are insecure wusses & pansies with no life & little-or-no afterlife.
I dare you to face your crime(s).

Bully Beat Down should be expanded to a high school program—not just a television program.

Report EVERY instance of bullying IMMEDIATELY to authorities.
Anonymous if need be, but ignore any claimed "ratting out-ness!"

EASY to say the victim never ratted out bullies. How convenient! Much harder to do your job as
teacher or administrator to SEE the abuse & stop it. Cowards!

Public school administrators: FIX your BULLYING problem! Problem? What problem?
Don't sully our reputation with the TRUTH.

EVERY teacher & administrator who does not CATCH bullying on their campus,
like Donald Trump says, SHOULD BE FIRED. Tax payers are their boss.

The parents of bullies share equal responsibility for their sins, &
many non-Baby Boomer parents are too lenient—not real parents.

Just contacted TX House Rep pushing anti-bullying legislation & volunteered to
publicly speak about our case any time needed & I can fit it in.

PLAN to fight in Austin for bullying as crime & conning elderly;
school swatting & fight initiators (vs. self-defense) as the only ones punished.

Rest in complete peace God will judge the bullies, even if school administration may just slap bullies' wrists. The law has been on our side & with us.

Bullies will have their day in the Lake of Fire & their irresponsible parents are often to blame.
Come, Lord Jesus & establish Your reign!

BULLYING TESTIMONY

I was bullied. I guess when you're TALL, teens get JEALOUS they're so wimpy short.
Builds up their miserable self esteem. Foolish ones!

GREAT movie—Bully. I still remember Mike Wilson, Bruce Larson, a toe kissing, a false broken nose loss, Brian Duff, Bruce Brown, two black twins & a homeless thug @ Edison Junior High. Get Jesus!

CLIQUES

You got your high brow switch in your walk...
You think you're cooler than me. —Mike Posner

Cliques are formed by insecure, unfriendly people THINKING they have something special to keep from others (which is only a special SIN).

Un-open social cliques will be judged by God. Ultimately, teenage friendships almost all fail & are more worthless in the long haul.

CONFLICTS & FIGHTS

If confronted with a conflict, 1 biblical option is to walk away (Pv. 17:14) or report them to authorities. Never take abuse from ANYONE.

DATING

You are NOT a loser if you don't have a girlfriend or boyfriend.
God says being single is a BETTER state than the married IF lived for Him.

Generally speaking, guys don't like to be chased,
nor do they like desperate- (vs. confident) seeming gals.

DECISION-MAKING

Think before you act. You can think fast, but always act in accordance with wisdom.

There may always be another way to do things, but there are also good, better, best & bad ways.
Doing things the right way the first time saves time, money & effort/energy.

DEPRESSION & SUICIDE

NEVER consider suicide! Forgivable sin for Christians but rewards are lost & your family suffers long after. Virtual suicide of my ma.

DIET

As HARD as it is, I suggest parent instill in their kids great life habits early on, like eating healthy, doing chores/work ethic, exercising, knowing manners, etc.
It's MUCH harder to break bad habits later in life.

DIFFERENCES

My daughter's a straight A student. Being popular or an athlete is often MORE valued in some social circles. That DOESN'T bode well for U.S.A. being #1 again; Teens do also need people skills—not the nerd type either. Range of alternatives and balance.

DIVORCE

Parents: God hates divorce & the children of divorce certainly do too.
Their world is turned upside down from no fault of their own. (Mal.2:16)

When you divorce, BOTH spouses ought to stay in their children's lives, and NO child should EVER have to raise their younger sibling(s). This is common sense parenting 101. There ought to be penalties for parents who don't! DO YOUR JOB or never get pregnant (or married)!

DREAMS & EFFORT

NEVER give up on your dreams & don't expect (or need) many-if-any to support you in that quest.
Nay-sayers are a dime a dozen.

Never listen to those who say you "can't."
They're usually those who would not try themselves, & misery loves company.

Life is NOT all about fun & games. It's often hard,
& requires work, but sometimes with great rewards.

Living vicariously through others' (Ex.: celebrities') success
does NOT make you any more worth-while or successful!

Youth love aspiring to be famous. You need an extraordinary skill,
because being average entertains no one. Pursue excellence & work hard!

Research says GenY wants wealth MORE & wants to work LESS.
Learn to be MOTIVATED to work hard (i.e., the Protestant Work Ethic-Col. 3:23).

EMOTIONS & COMMUNICATION

Do not hold in your feelings, lest they build up into an uncontrollable volcano that can
damage you severely. Learn to talk & open up—you have important things to say.

Remove frustration & anger from your life, as life is short
(& you are not invincible). (Ecc. 11:10)

DON'T issue "cries for help"—communicate CLEARLY! You're smart.
The most misunderstood messages often are subtle "signaling."

EMPLOYMENT & ACHIEVEMENTS

Employers can see if you are over-competitive on grades & lack well-rounded
social (& athletic & civic) skills. Balance vs. obsession = success.

ETHICS

The Bible says in evil be immature but in your thinking be mature
(& when you became an adult, you do away with childish things).

Turning the other cheek is NOT doormat-ism, & forgiving 70 X 7 is conditioned upon REPENTANCE.
Innocence & purity are NOT naiveté.

EXERCISE

Teens: Stay in shape. You may last a long time, but keep your machine well-tuned. (I Cor. 6:19)

FRIENDSHIPS

Want friends? The Bible says a man of many friends comes to RUIN.

Develop intimacy with God to overcome that youthful insecurity.

Hang around with good people! Bad company corrupts good morals. (I Pet. 4:1-5; 1 Cor. 15:33)
"A man is known by the company he keeps."

The Bible says that a friend loves at all times. If BFFs (& others) abandon you in tough times, they were only fair-weathered & only SO-CALLED "friends."

A USER hangs around you for what THEY can get from you (or from hanging around you).
Don't be abused. Sincerity is harder to discover.

FUTURE

When you endure the struggles of high school life gets better in college & beyond.
The IN people & bullies are NOTHING even in the medium-term!

I had FEW friends in high school despite being in football & basketball.
College will give you a new perspective, especially thereafter.

GRADES & HOMEWORK

Making great grades is one way employers can distinguish candidates.
It shows smarts & hard work. NEVER drop out!

Homework teaches going the extra mile & exceeding expectations.
You don't have to like something to do it well & help yourself.

Many a high school star has gone on to greatness or turned into NOTHING.
It's NOT your class rank but your CLASSiness without RANK effort.

Compare yourself with less-smart kids and you may feel more confident but you may slack off.
Compare yourself to smarter kids and you may feel inferior, but you may be bettered by the association. Make no comparisons (i.e., 100% independence), sounds wisest, but is rarely done.

GROUP THINK

The crowd is not always right. Have the courage to think for yourself and be independent.
Contrarian thinking can often serve you well.

HEALTH

Get your sleep (& get enough sleep). (Ps. 127:2)

Stay in shape. You may last a long time, but keep your machine well-tuned. (I Cor. 6:19)

INDEPENDENCE

You DON'T have to be like everyone, care what others think of you or follow the crowd.
Dumb sheep do that as they go off a cliff!

Make decisions independent of others' opinions of you,
as there are always nay sayers & group thinkers who love more company in their misery.

Learn to be INDEPENDENT without being REBELLIOUS.
Parents want you out of the nest—not out of our lives! Spread your wings & FLY!

"Make me," "prove it," "that's your opinion" & "what are you 'gonna do about it?"
are sure proofs your teen is in the rebellion years.

On judgment day, NO ONE can be hidden behind.

Make godly decisions for yourself before God alone & you will NEVER be ashamed!

MATURITY

Teenage years: No longer a child not yet an adult.
Transition to maturity not having yet arrived. Keep the good of childhood & jettison bad.

Babies are cute & cuddly but when a human becomes a teenager,
they start to really understand the world. A very significant time in your life.

MONEY

Do not idolize wealth. There are good rich & evil rich in the world. (Pv. 11:16, 25-26)
You can be POOR in Heaven with WRONG priorities.

Riches don't benefit ANYONE on judgment day (Pv. 11:4) & "you can't take it with you." (Ecc. 5:15)
Righteousness is a HIGHER priority!

NERDS

It is not cool to be "nerdy," but it is also not cool before God to be mean to others.
God cares more about MORAL than COOL.

OUTCASTS & NEWCOMERS

Ostracizing newcomers to school may make you feel important & powerful,
but GOD SEES ALL, life-inexperienced ones. Befriend a stranger!

Not fitting into a group or the "in" crowd? No worries.
One plus God equals a majority! Find ETERNAL friends with believers as your group.

PARENTS & FAMILY

Listen to your parents (Ex. 20:12; Pv. 1:8; 4:1; 6:20-21),
& to their punishments (Pv. 13:1). A longer life it will bring to you.

Your parents would correct you less if you would do smartly & rightly more often.
We DON'T enjoy the process any more than you do!

As you are feeling your oats, remember there's
NOBODY ON EARTH who loves you or cares for your needs MORE than the parents you may tire of.

Make memories with your family! You NEVER know how long they'll be here.

Never discourage youths' dreams, but give guidance for practical realization.

OVER-punish you can create a bitter, mean person; UNDER-punish you can create a spoiled,
arrogant brat. Punishment to fit the crime. JUSTICE

Parents: The Bible doesn't promise your teen won't abandon your upbringing—for a time.
Be patient. If he or she lives long enough, they WILL return. (Pv. 22:6)

Role model, repeatedly teach, and discipline. God never promised kids will do as you say—
until they're OLDER! Pv. 13:23, 22:6 23:13 #PerilsOfParenting

Kids are DIFFERENT, even if they are raised the SAME. God made us all unique.
See the good, even if different good from a sibling! #ParentingPointers

IF you do everything for your kid, they're NEVER-to-rarely going to know how to do anything.
There WILL be failures, but that can be SUCCESS!

There are MANY decisions your kids will learn only by falling on their face.
There are also times you can't let that happen—for their own good!

If you want to lose your kids, and ensure they don't like you, later on N life, be a workaholic.
Society idolizes it, but the devil causes it!

Differences: We OFTEN hate them, and want everyone to be like us, and to like us!
(in an ego-centric society). My daughter LOVES fashion; it means LITTLE to me, and that's OK!

Parents: Your kids are DIFFERENT, even if they were raised the SAME.
God made us all unique. See the good, even if a different good from a sibling!

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until they're OLDER! Pv. 13:23, 22:6 23:13

#ChildSuccessTraits Think, work, curiosity, responsible, memory, knows the value of money,
planning, prioritized, independent, asks experts, urgency, and motivated.

PARTIES

Drugs dull brains, & intoxication often leads to poor judgment,
sometimes making one a baby momma (or kill fetuses). Always act SMART—Think!

PEER PRESSURE

Kids can be so cruel, stepping on others to advance their own (lacking) self-esteem,
never knowing the way up is down. (Mt. 20:16

We often HATE differences, and want everyone to be like us (in a ~ego-centric society)!
My daughter LOVES fashion; it means LITTLE to me, and that's OK!

Perhaps MORE powerful than laws is peer pressure. MOST people want to fit in, even if the herd is
going off a cliff! Be yourself. Be real. Stand alone, if needed!

POLITICAL CORRECTNESS

Political Correctness has bred a generation of youth who are awed with reproof as being
owned, poned, dissed & told—as if it's BAD/terrible/crushing.

POPULARITY

You're not POPULAR? Many people would NOT associate with the apostles
but they respected them (& a friend is NOT a Facebook button click).

PROBLEMS

Youth are so preoccupied with entertainment & fun they waste their energetic years
acting unwisely with knowledge ever before them in the Bible.

SCHOOL

You may forget almost everything you learned in high school
but the wisdom is still there as are the skills you learned in the process.

Teenagers listed friends & teachers as the top 2 things they liked about school.
Why can't teachers teach more enjoyably or interestingly?

SELF ESTEEM

You are uniquely special & a gift from God to your parents & this world.
NEVER let ANYONE tell you otherwise, as they're wrong & evil.

You are worth so much to God that Christ would have died on the cross JUST FOR YOU!
You don't have to FEEL it for it to be TRUE.

INSECURITY & lack of confidence must be the number 1 reason(s) poor choices are so often made.
Read the Bible to gain confidence from God.

SEX

Premarital sex disappoints God & your one spouse & exposes intimacies to one likely not that spouse; & sexting & porn pics can last online forever.

Teenage girls: Do not LESSEN yourself by trading sex for attention, love or self-worth derived from a GUY! Have Jesus as your True BFF.

Teenage girls: Beware of the guy who says "I love you" to secure sex. Talk is cheap & your dignity (& virginity) are more valuable than anything.

Mocking virgins is a trick out of Hell, adding public peer pressure shame to try to convert the committed to immorality. Follow God, not man.

NO one can be re-virginized, even by God. Purified of your sin—yes. So keep this sacred treasure precious for the ONE spouse God has for you.

Any 'player' who keeps notches in his belt or bed post is SINNING. He may be something to immoral peers, but not to his Maker & Judge.

Be proud (vs. ashamed) of your body is the snake's smooth speech luring young women into immorality. Prudence need not show what it is proud of.

SKILLS

#TeenSkills to be mastered: Focus, intensity, perseverance, planning, selflessness, timeliness, thoroughness, accuracy. #MillennialsInTraining

SOCIAL MEDIA

It does not matter how many followers you have.
Hitler had 4 million; Jesus had 12. –Anonymous Also, a "friend" is not a Facebook button!

At least 70% of a message gets lost with texting, yet our youth adore it.
Don't develop a fantasy crutch with technology (or social media) to escape life's tough times, or lose social skills in the process.

A "friend" is not a Facebook button anymore than a "follower" is someone who clicks a Twitter button & never sees or reads their tweets. Truth.

Having "followers" on Twitter CAN mean NOTHING—certainly NOT fame!
Some are automatically generated & many NEVER air your posts!

SOCIAL SKILLS

Social skills: Eye contact, smile, hand shake, use their name, speak of their interests
And maybe a gentle touch of their shoulder. Duh 101

SPIRITUALITY

Involve God in ALL parts of your life! (Ecc. 2:24-25, 5:18, 12:1)

Be watching for our life lessons video on YouTube soon. WillYouLiveForever.org

Kids committed to Christ need to unite in support of like-minded ones in public school,
as pressures contrary to Christ's morals are immense!

If your Youth Minister entertains you, find jollies.
If he or she DISCIPLES you—THANK them. They've helped you a LOT more!

SPORTS

Always keep perspective. Sports heroes are to be respected for accomplished goals.
They are masters of a play event. Honor HIGHER heroes!

STATUS SYMBOLS

What you wear, own, who are your friends & where you live is NOTHING to God,
& only what HE thinks of you matters. Remember this!

STRESSES & PRESSURES

With peer pressure, technology, bullies & grade competition, it's harder than ever to be a teenager.
Christ is the friend who'll always be there.

Depressed from stresses & peer pressure?
Read how DAVID, Job & many prophets endured these struggles successfully
(Ex.: Ps. 6:2, 13:2, 42:6, 116:3, 130:1, 139:11, 142:6, 143:4, 7, etc.).

UNIQUENESS & INDIVIDUALITY

God has a unique plan especially for YOU. Find & follow it!
Learn more @ our discipleship materials @ WillYouLiveForever.org

Dare to be different or conform & be dull. Even Vault.com says
employers need to see a distinction in you from all other candidates.

WISDOM QUIZDOM

As our book on Idioms shows, many a life truth has been coined into a phrase men often use to justify decisions. To start your own walk down the road to wisdom, consider the following lesser-known proverbs, and figure out by yourself what meaning (and applications) they convey:

A drop of ink may make a million think.

A fair exchange is no robbery.

A friend to all is a friend to none.

A problem is a chance for you to do your best.

A sly rabbit will have three openings to its den.

A squirrel is just a rat with good PR.

Age is a very high price to pay for maturity.

All lay loads on a willing horse!

Better an open enemy, than a false friend.

Better to be alone than in bad company.

Constant dripping wears away the stone.

Good and quickly seldom meet.

He is an ill companion that has a good memory.

He is rich enough that wants nothing.

He that will not be counseled cannot be helped.

He who laughs last, thinks the slowest!

I had no shoes and complained, until I met a man who had no feet.

If the wind will not serve, take to the oars.

If wealth is lost, nothing is lost. If health is lost, something is lost. If character is lost, everything is lost.

If you are planning for a year—sow rice, if you are planning for a decade—sow trees, if you are planning for a lifetime—educate people.

It takes two to make a quarrel.

Lend your money and lose your friend.

Never be afraid to sit awhile and think.

Patience is bitter, but it bears sweet fruit.

Smooth runs the water where the brook is deep.

Some are wise and some are otherwise.

Sympathy without relief is like mustard without beef.

Tell me who your friends are, and I'll tell you who you are.

The old believe everything, the middle aged suspect everything, the young know everything.

The one who tells the stories rules the world.

To the world you may be one person but to one person you may be the world.

ON BULLYING

Victim Relief Process:

1. Since you can rarely change others—only yourself—try ignoring or smiling and laughing off their taunts, and by so doing you give them no satisfaction that they are affecting you at all. If it continues, or increases...
2. Verbalize opposition.
3. Report to teacher(s).
4. Report to Administrators (Principals, or their bosses).
5. Report to the police (can be contemporaneously).
6. Take them to court (sue them and their parents).

Dealing with Bullies:

1. Document events (name, comments and date).
2. Turn evidence into sympathetic administrators. Go over their head if ignored or not enough action.
3. Ally with good teachers and coaches (Ex.: bread baked for supportive personnel).
4. Dad go to school (Ex.: lunch) and stare down bullies. (1/14/13)
5. Seek out and communicate with the bullies' parents (Ex.: Elmo to Faulkners).
6. Teach your child retorts/come backs (See below).
7. Explain circumstances to sympathetic people (and students) who talk a lot.
8. Give your student courage-inspiring Bible verses to read upon incidents (list below).
9. Law suit (or turn evidence into another government agency based on anti-bullying policies or statutes).
10. Do nothing—NOT an option! You want your child to grow up and stand on their own two feet—but not to be abused.

Bully &/or Victim School Alternatives:

1. Alternative school for trouble-makers.
2. Alternative school NOT for trouble-makers.
3. Another school within the district.
4. Move to another district or city.
5. Home schooling.
6. Private school.
7. Dropout.

Bully Behavior Modification Alternatives:

1. Counseling. Can you say, “how do you feel, how did that make you feel, what did you do after that?” Don't expect a lot of assertive advice, and the quality of care varies greatly!
2. Support groups (church?)
3. Alternative schools (for academics or behavior).
4. Online schools, private schools, home school.
5. Scared straight programs.
6. Behavioral schools and boys “camps.”
7. Juvenile detention (& truancy officers).
8. Military prep schools.
9. Boarding schools.
10. Boot camps, etc.

See also: TheBullyProject.com (“Everything starts with one!”)

BULLY ATTACKS

1. Appearance

You're ugly.
You have zits.
You have a baby face.
You're fat.
You're too skinny.
You're flat. You're ugly.
You're too endowed (or fake).
You're too tall.
You're too short.
You have (attack physical deformity or abnormality; Ex.: big feet, droopy eyes).
You dress bad.
Your haircut's weird.
Your hair's too long.
Your hair's too short.

2. Brains

You're stupid.
You're a nerd.

3. Social & Athleticism

You don't date.
You're a virgin.
You're a slut.
You don't drink.
You're an alcoholic.
You're weird.
You're un-cool.
You're not athletic.

4. Wealth

You don't have a smart phone.
You're poor.
I don't like your car.

5. Morals

You're too religious.
You're a goody two-shoes/prude.
You're a bully/thug.
You're a crook/criminal.
You don't have any tattoos.

6. Teachers

You're a nark.
You're a teacher's pet.

7. Other

You're gay.
You're a failure.
You're a Yankee.

You're a poser.

GENERAL RESPONSES

(Positive & Negative; ADD your own suggestions on our Blog!)

Religious

- ▶ I'm not perfect, but at least I'm going to Heaven.
- ▶ I'm going to Heaven—are you?
- ▶ You're unsaved, and that's Hell when you die.
- ▶ I may be ____, but you're unsaved, and it will be Hell for you when you die.
- ▶ Untrue, and all untruths ultimately are from Satan.
- ▶ Do not answer a fool according to his folly.
- ▶ A fool is as a fool speaks (and acts).
- ▶ May God judge you/between you and me.
- ▶ God don't make no junk, but you may be an exception.
- ▶ If I didn't follow Christ, you'd be toast/a pancake.
- ▶ You're evil, and I am NOT under the judgment of God like you are.
- ▶ Liars and adulterers will have their day in Hell.
- ▶ You think you're a tough guy? You can't endure judgment day.

Other

- ▶ That's your opinion.
- ▶ I'm sorry you feel that way.
- ▶ It s_cks to s_ck.
- ▶ I takes one to know one.
- ▶ I know you are, but what am I?
- ▶ I'm sorry your feelings don't match the facts.
- ▶ You're insecure—that's why you say such things.
- ▶ Why don't we go discuss this with the school principal?
- ▶ Opinions are like butt holes—everyone has one—and yours stinks.
- ▶ Opinions are like butt holes, and some people are too.
- ▶ I may have ____, but ____ (worse or unchangeable problems)
- ▶ Glad to see you have now learned how to express your emotions/feelings.
- ▶ Did I hear something? I thought I heard something.
- ▶ Your parents must have raised you wrong.
- ▶ Small people try to tear others down to their size.
- ▶ Did anyone ask your opinion?
- ▶ How are your grades when you act so stupid in real life?
- ▶ I can lose weight, but you'll require plastic surgery
- ▶ Did you hear—today's the last day I'm taking any crap from you.
- ▶ Little people try to tear down people they're jealous of.
- ▶ Cut the crap, butt head.

Taunting (less appropriate)

- ▶ Prove it.
- ▶ Make me.

- ▶ Don't frick with me.
- ▶ What you 'gomna do about it?

SPECIFIC RESPONSES

(Examples only)

You're ugly.

---I may not be (celebrity), but neither are you if you care to look into a mirror.

You have zits.

---I can fix that, but nothing can change that face and brain.

You're fat.

---I can change that, but only plastic surgery can change that face.

You're gay.

---Believing lies isn't going to get you far in life.

I don't like your hairstyle.

---I don't like yours either.

---Well, I can fix my hair, but only a plastic surgeon can fix your face.

---I can fix my hair, but only a brain transplant can fix you.

You're flat.

---You're ugly.

You have big feet.

---All the better to stomp you with.

You dress bad.

---So says one who freely advertises for name brand companies and is too stupid to earn a

You're a religious nut.

---I'd rather be a religious nut than a Hell-bound nutcase.

You're a nerd.

---You're a dummy, and employers hire nerds much quicker than dummies.

You don't date.

---You don't know what I do after hours because I don't let you know.

You're a virgin.

---I will please my wife on my wedding night—you'll only disappoint.

You don't drink.

---You don't know if I do or not. Jesus did, John the Baptist didn't—are you following either of their examples?

You're an alcoholic.

---I may take a drink or two, but it's quite a stretch of a dumb mind to call that an alcoholic.

Hey, there's going to be a (illegal) party this weekend with drugs and alcohol.

---Well, let me go invite the principal if it's going to be that good.

---Your life must be pretty miserable if you have to keep escaping it so often.

---My parents raised me better than yours apparently did.

---I have a permanent party being sober that you'll know nothing about until it's too late.

---God is watching you and I fear for you.

We smoked weed last night, man, and it was awesome.

---Well, congratulations—why don't you put that on your college application or resume?

You're weird.

---I'm unique and authentic—not a cookie cutter duplicate sheep in a herd.

You're un-cool.

---Maybe to you, but I'm not trying to impress you, because you're a nobody.

You're poor.

---I can change that, but you can't change that face and brain.

I don't like your _____ (Ex.: car).

---I don't like your character, and neither does God.

---I don't like your attitude (or priorities).

You're a goody two-shoes/prude.

---You must be saying that because you can tell your moral standards are lower than mine.

You don't have any tattoos.

---My body is the temple of God's Spirit.

You're a nark.

---Telling the truth is not "narking," but lying is a punishable sin.

You're a teacher's pet.

---I can't help it if I'm a likeable person—unlike you.

You're a Yankee.

---Where I come from is nothing, but where I'm going, as I leave you in my dust.

Did you hear _____?

---Did you hear that the wicked will burn in Hell?

---I heard your momma did _____.

---(name), I'm supposed to care—WHY?

---(name), I don't care what you like because you're not important to me.

---(name), I don't like your character, but I don't express that feeling like you do.

---(name), If I thought you had worth, your opinion about my car might matter to me.

---(name), I did not ask your opinion, and I'll get a better one if 'yo momma wants to pay for it.

---(name), I don't live to please you, but God, Whom you likely don't know.

TEEN TEES

We are looking for some creative graphic artist to make the following content into excellent, modern T-shirt art style, to promote our cause of ending bullying in public schools. Anyone so skilled please contact us, and we look forward to meeting you. Sincerely, Jim and Hunter Meroney

1. TEEN VALUES

Youth

(Generation X, Y & Z)...

This is the generation of those who seek Him, who seek Thy face. (Psalms 24:6)

It is by his deeds that a lad distinguishes himself if his conduct is pure and right. (Proverbs 20:11)

So, remove vexation from your heart and put away pain from your body, because childhood and the prime of life are fleeting. (Ecclesiastes 11:10)

Self Esteem

Charm is deceitful and beauty is vain, But a woman who fears the LORD, she shall be praised. (Proverbs 31:30)

For God sees not as man sees, for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart. (I Samuel 16:7)

Exercise

For bodily discipline is only of little profit, but godliness is profitable for all things, since it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come. (I Timothy 4:8)

Materialism

Sheol and Abaddon are never satisfied, nor are the eyes of man ever satisfied. (Proverbs 27:20)

But godliness actually is a means of great gain, when accompanied by contentment. For we have brought nothing into the world, so we cannot take anything out of it either. And if we have food and covering, with these we shall be content. (I Timothy 6:8)

Popularity

A man of many friends comes to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother. (Proverbs 18:24)

For am I now seeking the favor of men, or of God? Or am I striving to please men? If I were still trying to please men, I would not be a bond-servant of Christ. (Galatians 1:10)

Woe to you when all men speak well of you, for in the same way their fathers used to treat the false prophets. (Luke 6:26)

Cliques

Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap. (Galatians 6:7)

He who walks with wise men will be wise, but the companion of fools will suffer harm. (Proverbs 13:20)

Friendships

A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity. (Proverbs 17:17)

Iron sharpens iron, So one man sharpens another. (Proverbs 27:17)

Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brothers to dwell together in unity! (Psalms 133:1)

Gossip

When there are many words, transgression is unavoidable, but he who restrains his lips is wise. **(Proverbs 10:19)**

The one who guards his mouth preserves his life; the one who opens wide his lips comes to ruin. **(Proverbs 13:3)**

Cussing

Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, that it may give grace to those who hear. **(Ephesians 4:29)**

Anger

BE ANGRY, AND yet DO NOT SIN; do not let the sun go down on your anger, **(Ephesians 4:26)**

Do not associate with a man given to anger; or go with a hot-tempered man, **(Proverbs 22:24)**

Cease from anger, and forsake wrath; do not fret, it leads only to evildoing. **(Psalms 37:8)**

Violence

Do not contend with a man without cause, if he has done you no harm. **(Proverbs 3:30)**

Keeping away from strife is an honor for a man, but any fool will quarrel. **(Proverbs 20:3)**

He who assaults his father and drives his mother away is a shameful and disgraceful son. **(Proverbs 19:26)**

The LORD tests the righteous and the wicked, and the one who loves violence His soul hates. **(Psalms 11:5)**

Entertainment

He who loves pleasure will become a poor man; he who loves wine and oil will not become rich. **(Proverbs 21:17)**

Drinking

For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, 'He has a demon!' The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Behold, a gluttonous man and a drunkard, a friend of tax-gatherers and sinners!' Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds. **(Matthew 11:18-19)**

Do not be with heavy drinkers of wine, or with gluttonous eaters of meat. **(Proverbs 23:20)**

Wine is a mocker, strong drink a brawler, and whoever is intoxicated by it is not wise. **(Proverbs 20:1)**

And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit. **(Ephesians 5:18)**

Dating

Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled; for fornicators and adulterers God will judge. **(Hebrews 13:4)**

Do not be bound together with unbelievers; for what partnership have righteousness and lawlessness, or what fellowship has light with darkness? Or what harmony has Christ with Belial, or what has a believer in common with an unbeliever? Or what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; just as God said, I WILL DWELL IN THEM AND WALK AMONG THEM; AND I WILL BE THEIR GOD, AND THEY SHALL BE MY PEOPLE. Therefore, COME OUT FROM THEIR MIDST AND BE SEPARATE, says the Lord. AND DO NOT TOUCH WHAT IS UNCLEAR; And I will welcome you. **(II Corinthians 6:14-17)**

Parents

A wise son makes a father glad, but a foolish son is a grief to his mother. **(Proverbs 10:1)**

A wise son makes a father glad, but a foolish man despises his mother. **(Proverbs 15:20)**

A foolish son is a grief to his father, and bitterness to her who bore him. (Proverbs 17:25)
A fool rejects his father's discipline, but he who regards reproof is prudent. (Proverbs 15:5)
Cease listening, my son, to discipline, and you will stray from the words of knowledge. (Proverbs 19:27)
Whoever loves discipline loves knowledge, but he who hates reproof is stupid. (Proverbs 12:1)

Perspective

Every man's way is right in his own eyes, but the LORD weighs the hearts. (Proverbs 21:2)
Man is like a mere breath; his days are like a passing shadow. (Psalms 144:4)
So teach us to number our days, that we may present to Thee a heart of wisdom. (Psalms 90:12)

2. MONEY

A Sermon You May NEVER hear Elsewhere...

Do not weary yourself to gain wealth, Cease from your consideration of it. When you set your eyes on it, it is gone. For wealth certainly makes itself wings, like an eagle that flies toward the Heavens. (Proverbs 23:4-5)

But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added to you. (Matthew 6:33)

He With the Most Toys LOSES.

And He said to them, Beware, and be on your guard against every form of greed; for not even when one has an abundance does his life consist of his possessions. (Luke 12:15)

Fiscal Cliff--You Can't Take it With You.

Do not be afraid when a man becomes rich, when the glory of his house is increased; for when he dies he will carry nothing away; his glory will not descend after him. (Psalms 49:16-17)

For riches are not forever, nor does a crown endure to all generations. (Proverbs 27:24)

Rich Now, but Poor in Heaven?

But woe to you who are rich, for you are receiving your comfort in full. Woe to you who are well-fed now, for you shall be hungry. Woe to you who laugh now, for you shall mourn and weep. (Luke 6:24-25)

Money--THE real 'American Idol.'

Do not love the world, nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world. And the world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God abides forever. (I John 2:15-17)

Proud of Your Prosperity?

Thus says the LORD, Let not a wise man boast of his wisdom, and let not the mighty man boast of his might, let not a rich man boast of his riches; (Jeremiah 9:23)

The rich man is wise in his own eyes, but the poor who has understanding sees through him. (Proverbs 28:11)

The Poor and Middle Class are Missing Out?

Better is a little with the fear of the LORD, than great treasure and turmoil with it. (Proverbs 15:16)

Better is the little of the righteous than the abundance of many wicked. (Psalms 37:16)

A good name is to be more desired than great riches, favor is better than silver and gold. (Proverbs 22:1)

How much better it is to get wisdom than gold! And to get understanding is to be chosen above silver. (**Proverbs 16:16**)

Want to Make a Quick Buck?

A man with an evil eye hastens after wealth, and does not know that want will come upon him. (**Proverbs 28:22**)

Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow, we shall go to such and such a city, and spend a year there and engage in business and make a profit." Yet you do not know what your life will be like tomorrow. You are just a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away. Instead, you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we shall live and also do this or that." But as it is, you boast in your arrogance; all such boasting is evil. Therefore, to one who knows the right thing to do, and does not do it, to him it is sin. (**James 4:13-17**)

Loving Money is a Sin.

Let your character be free from the love of money, being content with what you have; for He Himself has said, I WILL NEVER DESERT YOU, NOR WILL I EVER FORSAKE YOU, (**Hebrews 13:5**)

But those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a snare and many foolish and harmful desires which plunge men into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil, and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith, and pierced themselves with many a pang. But flee from these things, you man of God; and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, perseverance and gentleness. (**I Timothy 6:9-11**)

A Fool is Never Financially Satisfied.

There was a certain man without a dependent, having neither a son nor a brother, yet there was no end to all his labor. Indeed, his eyes were not satisfied with riches and he never asked, 'And for whom am I laboring and depriving myself of pleasure?' This too is vanity and it is a grievous task. (**Ecclesiastes 4:8**)

Keep deception and lies far from me, give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with the food that is my portion, (**Proverbs 30:8**)

Restraint Trumps a (Donald) Trump-Like Luxury Lifestyle.

but this I say, brethren, the time has been shortened, so that from now on those who have wives should be as though they had none; and those who weep, as though they did not weep; and those who rejoice, as though they did not rejoice; and those who buy, as though they did not possess; and those who use the world, as though they did not make full use of it; for the world is passing away. (**I Corinthians 7:29-32**)

Do Your Investments Pay Eternal Dividends?

Do not lay up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But lay up for yourselves treasures in Heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal; for where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. (**Matthew 6:19-21**)

Be Rich in Giving Back to Others.

Instruct those who are rich in this present world not to be conceited or to fix their hope on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy.

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. (**I Timothy 6:17-19**)

Money or Morality—Which is YOUR Higher Priority?

No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will hold to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon. (**Matthew 6:24**)

Riches do not profit in the day of wrath, but righteousness delivers from death. **(Proverbs 11:4)**
He who trusts in his riches will fall, but the righteous will flourish like the green leaf. **(Proverbs 11:28)**

Money Matters.

- ▶ It is not a sin to be wealthy—but it can be **(Ecclesiastes 5:10)**
- ▶ Wealth is deceitful **(Matthew 13:22)**
- ▶ The rich are held hostage to their money, as life's ransom. **(Proverbs 13:8)**
- ▶ The rich are in a humiliated position; the poor an exalted one. **(James 1:9-12)**

Remember: 'The Millionaire Next Door' May Go Undetected.

There is one who pretends to be rich, but has nothing; another pretends to be poor, but has great wealth. **(Proverbs 13:7)**

3. BULLIES

You have enemies? Good. That means you've stood up for something, sometime in your life. **–Winston Churchill**

Courage.

Why should I fear in days of adversity, when the iniquity of my foes surrounds me, even those who trust in their wealth, and boast in the abundance of their riches? **(Psalms 49:5-6)**

In God I have put my trust, I shall not be afraid. What can man do to me? **(Psalms 56:11)**

The LORD keeps all who love Him; but all the wicked, He will destroy. **(Psalms 145:20)**

Stand Your Ground.

Like a trampled spring and a polluted well is a righteous man who gives way before the wicked. **(Proverbs 25:26)**

Many are my persecutors and my adversaries, yet I do not turn aside from Thy testimonies. **(Psalms 119:157)**

Depart from me, evildoers, that I may observe the commandments of my God. **(Psalms 119:115)**

Turn the Other Cheek (but Don't be a Doormat).

But I say to you who hear, love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. Whoever hits you on the cheek, offer him the other also; and whoever takes away your coat, do not withhold your shirt from him either. **(Luke 6:27-29)**

If your enemy is hungry, give him food to eat; and if he is thirsty, give him water to drink; for you will heap burning coals on his head, and the LORD will reward you. **(Proverbs 25:21-22)**

BUT IF YOUR ENEMY IS HUNGRY, FEED HIM, AND IF HE IS THIRSTY, GIVE HIM A DRINK; FOR IN SO DOING YOU WILL HEAP BURNING COALS UPON HIS HEAD. **(Romans 12:20)**

Endurance.

Therefore, since Christ has suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same purpose, because he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, so as to live the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for the lusts of men, but for the will of God. **(I Peter 4:1-2)**

Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of Heaven. Blessed are you when men cast insults at you, and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely, on account of Me. Rejoice, and be glad, for your reward in Heaven is great, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you. **(Matthew 5:10-12)**

But even if you should suffer for the sake of righteousness, you are blessed. AND DO NOT FEAR THEIR INTIMIDATION, AND DO NOT BE TROUBLED, but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence; **(I Peter 3:14-15)**

The Ultimate ‘Bully Beatdown.’

Because the sentence against an evil deed is not executed quickly, therefore the hearts of the sons of men among them are given fully to do evil. **(Ecclesiastes 8:11)**

It is time for the LORD to act, for they have broken Thy law. **(Psalms 119:126)**

Requite them according to their work and according to the evil of their practices; requite them according to the deeds of their hands; repay them their recompense. **(Psalms 28:4)**

Let sinners be consumed from the earth, and let the wicked be no more. Bless the LORD, O my soul. Praise the LORD! **(Psalms 104:35)**

For he who does wrong will receive the consequences of the wrong which he has done, and that without partiality. **(Colossians 3:25)**

For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad. **(II Corinthians 5:10)**

To the Victor Go the Eternal Spoils.

But thanks be to God, who always leads us in His triumph in Christ, and manifests through us the sweet aroma of the knowledge of Him in every place. **(II Corinthians 2:14)**

You are from God, little children, and have overcome them; because greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world. **(I John 4:4)**

For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses. We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ, **(II Corinthians 10:3-5)**

Prayer Power.

The wicked plots against the righteous, and gnashes at him with his teeth. The Lord laughs at him; for He sees his day is coming. **(Psalms 37:12-13)**

Contend, O LORD, with those who contend with me; fight against those who fight against me. **(Psalms 35:1)**

Who understands the power of Thine anger, and Thy fury, according to the fear that is due Thee? **(Psalms 90:11)**

Justice.

It is time for the LORD to act, for they have broken Thy law. **(Ps. 119:126)**

He will recompense the evil to my foes; destroy them in Thy faithfulness. **(Ps. 54:5)**

Pour out Thine indignation on them, and may Thy burning anger overtake them. **(Ps. 69:24)**

Behind Every Bully is a Coward. –G. Staats

Bullies God will Beat Down! (Psalms 11:5, 54:5)

HOW TO HAVE THE BEST LIFE

In America, many parents indoctrinate their children with the following plan for them to have great lives (often called “the American Dream”): Make good grades, graduate with a high class rank, go to a name-brand (or Ivy League) college, get a job at a big firm (Fortune 500-2000) and work your way up the corporate ladder. Nothing wrong with the advice, per se, if that plan is what God wants for you (and if you also add service to mankind, and spiritual ministry, as selfless and balancing, high priorities).

But just what does God want for your life, and does He have a specific plan He wants you to pursue? Let’s answer that question by starting at the beginning...

The most important issue in all of life is where you will go after you die—Heaven or Hell. If you don’t know the answer to that question, all other issues of life really lose their meaning and perspective. Wondering or worrying about it is NO stable foundation upon which a solid life can be built. So we must address and conclude this initial question before any advice on how to live your life can have relevance to you.

We all will end up in one of two places, and the deciding factor is NOT how good we were or how hard we tried to please God, but whether we have personally received Jesus Christ—by faith—for the forgiveness of ALL their sins. We do so through prayer, based on His work on the cross (and it is a free gift). All humankind either pays the penalty for their sins ourselves (in Hell), or they allow Christ to graciously pay that punishment for them (by applying His life sacrifice to our account, before God), because—rest assured—God WILL punish sin, one way or the other [**Please See:** The Gospel, at WillYouLiveForever.org].

This is the threshold question of life that makes all other questions and problems pale by comparison—NOTHING matters more! You have to be certain that God has saved you and that you are rightly related to God before you can assess the priorities which are important for the remainder of your stay on earth! I pray that you have trusted Christ for ETERNAL salvation, or that if you have not yet, you do so TODAY.

For those who HAVE made that decision, the next step in establishing your best life possible is to figure out what type of life God rewards, and therefore wants us to live. Succinctly stated, life can be summarized as “be saved and be sanctified.” (I Tim. 2:4). We’ve covered what it means to be saved (above). What does it mean to be “good” and how do we go about it? How do we identify and then live within God’s will, or plan for our lives, and what is that plan relating to all aspects of our lives—not just our moral decision-making?

For starters, if the Bible is NOT true, you should BURN it, or *at least* rip out its erring parts. If it IS true and it is what it claims to be—the ETERNAL word (or message) of God Himself, you should base your entire life on it. (Mt. 7:24-27). Let’s think about life from a purely logical perspective for a moment, in light of that assertion... You may live, say, 80 years (maybe more, maybe less (Ps. 90:10), and none of us know WHEN we are going to die—just that we all will (Heb. 9:27). When that event occurs, we immediately go either to our final destination, and if we are going to Heaven (because we have trusted Jesus Christ to save us), there are rewards to be had and a life much longer than 80 years that we will live there. Depending on how we lived our lives down here, some will experience at least initial shame (I Jn. 2:28), but those who, like the Apostle Paul, lived faithfully unto God (finished the course), there will be infinite gladness and rewards awaiting our arrival (I Cor. 3:10-15).

God is the One who came up with the idea to promise rewards in Heaven (Heb. 11:6, etc.), so seeking them is NOT an evil ambition—in fact, it’s one of the ways God incentivizes us to live holy for Him. The wisest person would invest in eternity much more so than simply making earthly investments (as in the stock market). (Mt. 6:19-21).

Some truly saved Christians are going to live in (possibly golden) OUTHOUSES—those who lived sinfully (or what the Bible calls carnally and worldly), and they will barely cross life’s finish line (I Cor. 3:15 vs. I Cor. 9:24), while other believers’ works are of the gold, silver and bronze variety (I Cor. 3:10-15), for which they will be rewarded.

Just think of the logic behind this system: When your focus is primarily (or only) on this life, you live for this life (Col. 3:1-4), and the consequences will be worse, both in this life and the next. A Christian either walks by faith (II Cor. 5:7); that is, makes decisions based on the truths contained in the world of God) or they live their life based on what they see (II Cor. 4:18; the material world). And everybody makes decisions based on some authority source.

The way, therefore to have the BEST life on earth is to live it in light of your future life in Heaven. I call this working your way backwards from the future state to the present (Ps. 90:12). You know the end game, and plan accordingly. This is NOT being “so Heavenly-minded that you’re no earthly good (Ecc. 7:16),” but being so Heavenly-minded that you are very earthly good. And, again, this lifestyle is NOT all focused on morality—God cares about ALL aspects of your life, and wants to guide and lead you into His will for all areas you will face. And Christianity is NOT a rule book religion, but a daily, personal (and intimate) relationship with God through Christ, where He directly leads your decisions and actions, as you remain in constant communication through prayer, Bible study and His ever-present Spirit’s empowering.

If your goal is to please God (II Cor. 5:9) and be wealthy for eternity (Jn. 14:1-3, etc.), you live holy and evangelize. If you don’t love yourself (Eph. 5:28-29; Mk. 12:31), or love sin more so than God (I Jn. 2:3-6), and thereby show little concern for the quality of your AFTER-life, you will only live for the here and now (Phil. 3:17-21)—like many people do (Mt. 7:14). You cannot have it both ways, or try to “balance” the two (or have equally-competing priorities of serving God and money, or yourself).

Teenagers: Sometimes, the longer people have lived on this earth, the more they are aware of their own mortality, and the more seriously they can feel they need to take preparing for the next life—or not. NOT allowing life immaturity dictate our decision-making is the KEY to being both young and wise (or as some might view it, having the best of both worlds). Wisdom comes from God, through the Bible, and there is NOTHING keeping you from that wisdom, even as you still have a lifetime of experience to learn how it plays out in real life. (I Jn. 2:15-17)

God wants to bless you and give you an eternally satisfying abundant life, and He knows that WHERE the things you value ARE is where your life focus and commitment will be (Mt. 6:21). So, Christian: Decide TODAY that you will trust God’s leadership in your life, so that you can be certain you are working where He would have you to, married to whom He would have you, having the children and doing all the other things He would have you to.

I have likened living the Spirit-filled life to an astronaut logging hours on a spacewalk. We believers are in the world, not of it, and it is morally foreign territory to us. The more time we spend “in the Spirit,” rather than making decisions based on our old nature—the “flesh”—the more we are pleasing to God and racking up points for blessings that extend beyond our short time here on earth.

For a more extensive understanding (and more thoroughly biblical defense) of this message, I invite you to read (and meditate on—especially on the verses cited) our highly prioritized and researched Discipleship Materials at WillYouLiveForever.org. The better you understand what the Bible teaches about all these matters, the better you will enjoy life, and a much better future it will provide you, as you claim God’s promises daily, and see Him work in miraculous ways.

This IS the life God has for every person, but due to challenges distracting us from its fulfillment, so few ever actually experience it. Do not let yourself miss out on what God has in store for you, so that you live the best life possible for yourself. May He indeed bless you as you follow His blue print for your life.

RELEVANT BIBLE VERSES

Life Goals.

The thief [the devil] comes only to steal, and kill, and destroy [from you and your life]; I [Christ] came that they might have life [not just being born], and might have it abundantly [high, spiritual quality]. (Jn. 10:10)

This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved [salvation] and to come to the knowledge of the truth [sanctification]. (I Tim. 2:3-4)

Life Perspective.

Who understands the power of Thine anger, And Thy fury, according to the fear that is due Thee? So teach us to number our days, That we may present to Thee a heart of wisdom [you are wise if you prioritize your life according to how short life is]. (Ps. 90:11-12)

Worldliness.

Do not love the world [the world system based on sight—not God’s truth], nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh [sex lust] and the lust of the eyes [money/assets/possessions lust] and the boastful pride of life [often related arrogance], is not from the Father, but is from the world. And the world [our earth and its world system] is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God abides forever. (I Jn. 2:15-17)

Greed.

And He said to them, "Beware, and be on your guard against every form of greed; for not even when one has an abundance does his life consist of his possessions [having “the life” is NOT being rich." (Lk. 12:15)

You’ve Sinned Enough.

Therefore, since Christ has suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same purpose, because he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin [as a habitual practice], so as to live the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for the lusts of men [sin nature], but for the will of God [the opposite goal]. For the time already past is sufficient for you to have carried out the desire of the Gentiles [you’ve sinned enough], having pursued a course of sensuality, lusts, drunkenness, caroU.S.A.s, drinking parties and abominable idolatries. And in all this, they are surprised that you do not run with them into the same excess of dissipation [past friends will notice and maybe mock your lifestyle change], and they malign you; but they shall give account to Him who is ready to judge the living and the dead [God will judge them]. (I Pet. 4:1-5)

God Rewards Holiness.

Let not your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many dwelling places [mansions and rewards]; if it were not so, I would have told you [Christ didn’t lie]; for I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also. (Jn. 14:1-3)

Discipleship/Commitment.

Enter by the narrow gate [salvation and life in Christ]; for the gate is wide, and the way is broad that leads to destruction [Hell], and many are those who enter by it. For the gate is small, and the way is narrow that leads to life, and few are those who find it. (Mt. 7:13-14)

And He was saying to them all, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me. For whoever wishes to save his life shall lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake, he is the one who will save it. For what is a man profited if he gains the whole world, and loses or forfeits himself? For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words, of him will the Son of Man be ashamed when He comes in His glory, and the glory of the Father and of the holy angels. (Lk. 9:23-26)

Faith-Walking.

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen [sure about things you can't prove outside God's word]. And without faith it is impossible to please Him [trying to be holy, alone, does NOT!], for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him. (Heb. 11:1, 6)

Obedience.

For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments [obedience shows the quality of your relationship (or fellowship) with God]; and His commandments are not burdensome [obeying God is not extremely difficult, though impossible in the flesh]. For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith [Walking by faith is how we obey God's commandments successfully though imperfectly]. (I Jn. 5:3-4)

If you love Me, you will keep My commandments [obedience proves your love for God]. (Jn. 14:15)

Evangelism.

If you're not evangelizing, how can you say you follow Christ?

And He said[^] to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men. (Mt. 4:19)

Eternal Life.

And this is eternal life, that they may know Thee, the only true God [knowing God IS experiencing eternal life in this life], and Jesus Christ whom Thou hast sent. (Jn. 17:3)

Self-Delusion.

There is a way which seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death [some people will go to Hell fully convinced otherwise]. (Pv. 14:12)

Shame in Heaven.

And now, little children, abide in Him [stay filled with and led by the Holy Spirit], so that when He appears, we may have confidence and not shrink away from Him in shame at His coming [some believers will be poor and ashamed in Heaven, at least for a while]. If you know that He is righteous, you know that everyone also who practices righteousness is born of Him [holiness demonstrates your relationship to God]. (I Jn. 2:28-29)

Judgment Day.

And inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment [everyone is judged after physical death; Christians for rewards; lost people for Hell], so Christ also, having been offered once

to bear the sins of many, shall appear a second time for salvation without reference to sin, to those who eagerly await Him. **(Heb. 9:27-28)**

God Rewards Holiness.

According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I laid a foundation, and another is building upon it. But let each man be careful how he builds upon it. For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if any man builds upon the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each man's work will become evident [different quality rewards for different quality works]; for the day will show it, because it is to be revealed with fire; and the fire itself will test the quality of each man's work [God judges the quality of our works, like gold tested in fire]. If any man's work which he has built upon it remains, he shall receive a reward [God rewards holiness]. If any man's work is burned up [low quality or bad works, for the Christian], he shall suffer loss [lost rewards]; but he himself shall be saved [not go to Hell], yet so as through fire [though through severe judgment on those deeds]. (II Cor. 3:10-14)

Nevertheless, the firm foundation of God stands, having this seal, "The Lord knows those who are His," and, "Let everyone who names the name of the Lord abstain from wickedness." Now in a large house there are not only gold and silver vessels, but also vessels of wood and of earthenware [there are differences in Christians' commitment and works quality], and some to honor and some to dishonor. Therefore, if a man cleanses himself from these things, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified, useful to the Master, prepared for every good work. Now flee from youthful lusts [some strong, evil desires are natural for youth], and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart. **(II Tim. 2:20-22)**

How to be Holy.

How can a young man keep his way pure? By keeping it according to Thy word [A Christian is not automatically holy, especially if he ignores God's word]. With all my heart I have sought Thee; Do not let me wander from Thy commandments. Thy word I have treasured in my heart, That I may not sin against Thee [A Bible avoiding Christian is a God-avoiding Christian]. **(Ps. 119:9-11)**

Mind Renewal.

You're not really living if you don't daily ingest the Bible.

But He answered and said, "It is written, 'MAN SHALL NOT LIVE ON BREAD ALONE, BUT ON EVERY WORD THAT PROCEEDS OUT OF THE MOUTH OF GOD.'" **(Mt. 4:4)**

This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have success. **(Josh. 1:8)**

I urge you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind [Bible ingestion], that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect. (Rom. 12:1-2)

Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God [pray anytime you're anxious]. And the peace of God which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, let your mind dwell on these things [this is NOT positive mental attitude, but biblical mind renewal]. **(Phil. 4:6-8)**

If then you have been raised up with Christ [saved], keep seeking the things above [spiritual things, as found in God's word], where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory. (Col. 3:1-4)

Prayer

Absent a knowledge of the Scriptures, our prayers are less effective, and they become merely an emotional expression of our desires from God.

casting all your cares upon Him, for He cares for you [pray to God any time you have concerns]. Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. But resist him, firm in your faith [resist the devil when you're under attack], knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world. **(I Pet. 5:7-9)**

Temptation.

No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able [you can, through Christ, successfully resist every temptation], but with the temptation will provide the way of escape, so that you will be able to endure it. **(I Cor. 10:13)**

Victory.

Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you [the devil has to leave if you choose to not cooperate with him]. **(Jas. 4:7)**

You are from God, little children, and have overcome them, because greater is He who is in you, than he who is in the world [the Holy Spirit within is more powerful than the devil without]. **(I Jn. 4:4)**

For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses. We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ [don't let your mind dwell on anything contrary to God's word], **(II Cor. 10:3-5)**

For specific issues teenagers face, **See:** Tips for Teens & Pointers for Parents (above).

CAUTION & COMFORT

Solely for the comfort they may bring to struggling youth in today's pressured world, that their teen troubles are NOT unique to their generation, we offer the following old-school lyrics, so you learn that bad times do not last forever, can be overcome, and there is hope out there, especially as you communicate and associate with like-struggling people whom you'll never know are also agonizing until you speak with them. Even the Bible hero David suffered defeating and disillusioning times. In their awkward insecurities, teenagers can be so cruel, as they seek to be adults, but aren't there yet. Depression, self-harm and worse are ALWAYS the wrong and bad choice, and solutions ALWAYS exist. Seek God and call a friend. Call me—I've endured clinical depression before!

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VMUz2TNMvL0>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=82wU5NfRfr4>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=So15b6XNuK0>

TEST-TAKING TIPS

Most American youth will graduate from at least high school (though many less than we would like). However far you take your education, in our competitive society, success on quizzes and tests always helps the student. Following are some time-tested methods to make that stressful event more effective:

1. Read the questions first (to know specifically what you will be required to find/know).
2. Read the first sentence of every paragraph, to see what each paragraph is primarily about.
3. Skim read some paragraphs and in the margins summarize what each paragraph is about.
4. Circle or underline key words as you read, especially words in the questions.
5. Re-read the article before making final choices of correct answers.
6. Answer the easiest questions first. Go back to the hardest ones if you have time.
7. Scratch through all answer options you know to be clearly wrong, to make correct selection easier.
8. Double check all your work, if possible.

#COLLEGECHALLENGE

The goal is grades that impress employers to pay you a lot, and meet people connected to such employers. Extra curricular activities shows commitment.

Your first class test shows you what type of tester your teacher is. Prepare like they're all out to trip you up, knowing they must distinguish between A, B and C students!

Unless you've at least skim read class materials two to three times, you are NOT prepared to take any quiz or test!

Highlight your notes, and record your classes (if allowed), to get info you may have missed. Re-read those notes. Have someone quiz you on what you know; master your subjects.

Know when tests and quizzes are scheduled, and prepare before/early so the last two days are only review. Use study groups and tutors. as needed.

How you feel after a test is NOT always how you did! Do your best, learn where you're weak, and double down in those areas.

How you do in college significantly impacts the total amount of money you'll earn in your life, unless you start a great business, or become a professional athlete, celebrity or win the lottery.

If you have open book tests, make an A-Z topic and page index to easily confirm answers. Copy all online courses into MS Word to control information and cut out peripheral material.

As I learned in PhD studies, the first time through reading is to grasp concepts; second time is for familiarity; third time is to know the subject. Study so you can teach it to others, to get an A.

If class lectures spoon fed you all the answers so all students got A's, the professor might lose his/her job. A's are earned, NOT gifted. Study the book also.

If a class is online, open book, THOROUGHLY identify every fact (name, book, date, city, concept) with page and paragraph number listed on an A-Z Excel spreadsheet for EASY answer reference.

HOW TO READ BOOKS

(& remember them—without falling asleep)

With prevalent technology, America's younger generation often only reads books in schools—where they have to. If we are to leave our nation in their capable hands, at least some among their ranks are going to have to re-discover the value of learning from books more than just hearing (or reading) news sound bites. It is for the purpose of making that transition easier and more fun that this segment is presented:

1. Don't judge a book by its cover. I found great info from Why We Hate the Oil Companies, though, being from Houston, I do not hate them at all. It's called objectivity.
2. Review the table of contents (inside book leaf or prologue) for *interesting* chapter topics. Hopefully the titles are more descriptive than attention-seeking or entertaining. This also gives you the flow of the book's argument.
3. Read the first sentence (or two) of each paragraph, and especially the sub-topic titles (read where it is interesting to you). Ignore (skip) stories and authors' career-bragging parts.
4. Use your pencil to mark in the columns where the material is interesting, factual or important. Extend the mark so long as the sentences draw you to reading beyond the first sentence.
5. Look for any summary sections or introductory sections (like the preface, describing the chapter contents).
6. Quickly assess the political bias of the author to take biases with a grain of salt. Ex.: About the author often tells where they have worked or gone to school, or important activities they may have engaged in that could produce a political bias.
7. Summarize your pencil marks into a cliff notes sketch book (what was needed by the author all along). Put everything noted into your own words (paraphrase), except quotable sentences.
8. Re-read all your pencil markings till you understand the issues and facts you are concerned about (given any bias to statistics and claims).

P.S.—Please note, our book, Dumb as a Donkey, Fat as an Elephant can hardly be read this way, as it was not written in traditional fashion, because, as Ellen Degeneres called politics is “boring,” I chose not to add to that pain the boring traditional writing style.

P.S.S.: A great resource for determining what career you'd be good at is MajorEdge.com.

DATING DO'S & DON'TS

If your parents let you, the following are sound suggestions for successful dating interactions:

- a) Communication (talk—honestly share your feelings and ideas).
- b) Mutuality (it can't be a 1-way street; you both have to be interested in each other).
- c) Marketing (what assets do you offer for the other to be interested in?—looks, skills, personality, humor, wealth, etc.).
- d) Diversification (if you get heart-broken/rejected, remember there are always plenty of other fish in the sea).

In summary: If the gal shows interest in you (engages conversation—not just a 1-way street—smiles, raises eye brows/show enthusiasm, doesn't walk away right away, etc.), you have a better chance of not being turned down when you ask them out (for males fearful or lacking confidence). Use humor, speak of her interests, don't 'smother' her or only talk (or brag) about yourself.

TEEN TWEETS

BODY IMAGE

Millennial BOYS: I suggest after age 12, you must lift weights, especially if you're skinny!
It will help your self-esteem, it's a great anti-bully defense, and it's the ONLY way
to counter a svelte frame. Muscles don't grow on trees (or sticks; i.e., thin people).
Advice for you to endure high school better, from a dad.

BULLIES

#Teenagers: Bullies pick on your being short, fat, ugly, having zits, being un-athletic, nerdy, dumb.
GOOD people never do. ONLY hang with GOOD people! (I Cor. 15:33)

Teenagers: Report EVERY instance of bullying IMMEDIATELY to authorities; anonymous if need be,
but ignore any claimed "ratting out-ness!"

CLIQUEES

CLIQUEES are formed by insecure, unfriendly people, THINKING they have something special
to keep from others (which is only a special SIN).

#Teenagers: Cliques are from Satan. Those people do NOT have power to exclude you
from anything of value. These are mirages you (often) consider too valuable... DON'T!

COLLEGE

#Teenagers: COLLEGE changes everything! High school is a myth and mirage!
Your looks and wealth and clothes are NOT what God cares about. Never commit suicide!

COMPETITION

TEEN STUDENTS: What you own, wear, and who your friends are, and where you live is
NOTHING to God, and His priorities decimate yours, in value.

#Teenagers: Keeping up with the Jones' clothes is following sheep off a cliff!
MOST of them are going to Hell. Don't try to follow anyone. Lead by being yourself

CONFIDENCE & INDEPENDENCE

Teen-aged: The time where you feel you know it all and are invincible,
just as you're barely beginning to experience life. Rough times at Ridgemont High.

CONFORMITY

Should you 'fit in?' Yes, and no—NOT one or the other. It ALL depends on what you fit in with,
or to! Being weird is bad. Being different isn't always so. And common sense
can take one further than book sense, and OFTEN does!

Weird vs. different... NOT in the norm behavior can either be spurned by the crowd,
or just considered odd, or even respected, if not admired. Part of it is how you play it,
and part is the content itself. Read body language and facial expressions,
and stop if too many, *credible* rejections, to spare your reputation.

DATING

#Teenagers: Having a girlfriend/boyfriend is NOT the epitome of high school!
You will NOT marry that person, in most cases. These things shall PASS!

Dating interest cues: Twisting hair, batting eyes, excited eyes or vocal tone, pat on hand (touch),
speaking of YOUR (vs. their) interests, revealing things about themselves, NOT looking away,
NOT dull facial expression(s), and leaning in, physically. #CommonSense dating tips for guys.

DECISIONS

Think before you act. You may think very fast, but always act in accordance with wisdom.

ECONOMICS

Enterprise Rent a Car's TV ad mocks Millennials' sharing economy, when it's ONLY smart.
You're relegated to the lowest rung on economic totem pole rungs,

so save expenses (and our environment). Brilliant! <http://bit.ly/2nIFdcG>
(‘We can share a car, just like a real Millennial’)

EMOTIONS

Youth: Don't hold in your feelings, lest they build up to a volcano that can damage you.
Learn to talk, and open up... you have important things to say!

Teenagers: DON'T issue "cries for help"—communicate CLEARLY! You're smart.
The most misunderstood messages often are subtle "signaling."

EMPLOYMENT

#Teenagers: When you get your first real job, you will look back on high- and middle school
as a JOKE! It's all a FAKE experience of emotions and mirages!

Research says Generation Y wants wealth *more* and wants to work LESS.
Learn to be *motivated* to work hard (i.e., the Protestant Work Ethic—Col. 3:23).

GRADES

#Teenagers: Making all A's is NO guarantee that you will be successful in life.
There are many ways to skin a cat. Learn your talents, and milk them to the max!

HIGH SCHOOL

#HighSchoolIn5Words Peer pressure, bullies, studies, sports. NEVER forget,
your peers know LITTLE at that age, and they are NOT God; be your own person!

INTEGRITY

#GiveAdviceToGenZ Do good. It will do you some good. Don't be a do-gooder, but a good doer.
Do the right thing, for it's the right thing to do.

KNOWLEDGE

There are wise young people and unwise adults.
Length of stay on earth does not always equate to width of wisdom.

PARENTS

Teens: Unless your parents are complete goof balls, express your independence by coming
to your own decision to do what they taught you in your own way—NOT the opposite!

Teenagers: Your parents would correct you less if you would do smartly and rightly more.
We *don't* enjoy the process any more than you!

PEER PRESSURE

Do you feel pressure from work peers, neighbors, or classmates, to have a certain house,
car, or clothes? That pressure is NOT from Christ, but the WORLD.

Peer pressure is effective only against those weak in character & conviction...
the sheep & herd mentality, not thinking for themselves.

PERSONALITY & TALENTS

Young people NEED to take the Myers-Briggs personality profile, and online skills and interest tests,
and utilize the career counseling department at your college! God has given EVERYONE talent(s).
You need to find your niche. You will be best at what He's equipped you to excel at.
Mine seems to be innovation, and writing. What's yours? Find out, ASAP!

PERSPECTIVE

Teenage years: Too little life experience & too much naïve bravado.
What a horrible few years to endure! GROW UP, & never look back ashamed.

POPULARITY

Teenagers: The "IN" crowd is not necessarily "IN" with God! They may very well be "IN" trouble,
& "IN" over their heads heading to HELL.

PRIDE OR ARROGANCE

There are two types of "pride" in life: Sinful arrogance, and healthy/good pride in your decisions/self/appearance. Too much of the latter can lead to the former, but NOT caring what people think of you can be (wrongly) taken to disdain for decent rules of normalcy (i.e., a BAD thing).

SELF-CONCEPT

Teens: You DON'T have to be like everyone, care what others think of you or follow the crowd. Dumb sheep do that as they go off a cliff!

SELF-INTEREST

Millennials and Generation X: Adults in Washington are acting like kids in a candy store, then sending YOU the tab, and you're just starting out in life. FIRE ALL who do that to you!

SOCIAL MEDIA

Kid advice: Whatever you place online, make it be EXCELLENT, for it represents you and your reputation. You're socially exposing yourself thereby! #Quality

TEACHERS

#Teenagers: FIND the teachers who care about you more than just earning a pay check, by ignoring bullying. Turn in bullies harming anyone you know! Be their champion/hero!

MILLENNIALS MESSAGE

(1/21/18)

Millennials get MOCKED for wanting things for free—often called "Socialists." WHO wouldn't take free over paying, if given the chance, or found a way? ONLY business owners wouldn't like it! The establishment. The people around long enough to acquire and accumulate wealth. DON'T deride our youth—it's ingenious!

Ride sharing. These are just your hippie-era hitch-hikers. You can call them 'free-loaders,' but these choices save pollution problems, can cause more human interaction, and save money you don't get paid when you're low man on the totem pole.

Living with your parents? NOT good for emotional growth, among youth, but money smart (and many cultures now in America live that way).

It ONLY makes sense to share your excess, in exchange for another's. It's akin to bartering. There's even a NON-Millennial TV show about that way to save money: Barter Kings. Business owners are the only complainers, and if no taxes get collected.

Outsource good-paying jobs to China, and especially India, immigrate in out the wazoo, and automate what remains, and millennials are evil for thinking of ways to save money from entry level retail jobs, when YOUR generation KEEPs tacking on debt THEY and their children will have to repay to China, in some millennia? Here's a TV rent-a-car ad mocking Millennials' "sharing!" <http://bit.ly/2G33ex5>

How would you like learning that RICH people are getting tax rebates from debt a later generation will owe, Social Security will be dead when they're of age, and good jobs were sacrificed on the altar of U.S. business profits those Millennials will hardly ever see, or benefit from? It's DIS-couraging how we've treated our progeny!

Between Millennials and the Greatest Generation is the yuppie crowd, who have REALLY stuck it to the next generation. In our greed and selfishness, we STILL claim that any helping of any others is "Socialism." Fend for your own healthcare, even if it bankrupts you (or open a Go Fund Me account). I worship money and selfishness! Leave me alone, and stop treading on me. AWFUL!

OTHER BOOKS BY THE AUTHOR

We welcome you to inform yourself on some of the most important subjects of life—Religion, Politics, Business & Innovation. With that aim in mind, feel free to check out any of these helpful reads:

- **Wit & Wisdom: Don't Speak About Politics or Religion (A Voter's Manifesto)**

Our blockbuster live-tweeted book, that significantly changed American politics and Christianity from 2014 to 2018 (and which many of the world's VIP's have already seen written, and warmly received).

- **Dumb as a Donkey, Fat as an Elephant: Common Ground Through Common Sense for the Common Good**

Over 2,000 unique, new products ideas inside—FREE!

Our landmark book on how “We the people” can change Washington for the good (and to do good, both in policies and practice), using common sense to secure unifying solutions, efficiently and within budget.

- **The Way Things Ought To Be: A Global Vision for a Better World**

Over 500 unique, new products ideas inside—FREE!

Common sense solutions to most of the world's problems, both globally and domestically.

- **Building a Billionaire Business: Proven Principles to Propel Profits**

Over 500 unique, new products ideas inside—FREE!

Business and economy improvement primer, as well as aiding consumers and employees in maximizing their dollars earned and spent.

- **Design Your Future: Innovation Strategies for the 21st Century**

The ‘magic’ behind our over 4,700+ new product ideas (strewn throughout four books) is explained, including the best speech EVER to inspire and teach anyone (and any business) to become profitably innovative.

- **Practical Prophecy for an Unsuspecting World**

Over 500 unique, new products ideas inside—FREE!

Anyone interested in knowing the basics of coming/future world events will get simple explanations, as well as relevant predictions and trend analyses concerning prophecy timing.

- **Advanced Prophecy Handbook**

A more scholarly summary of most prophecy questions, including an encyclopedic covering of issues from A to Z, timetable and event detail explanations, etc.

- **Idioms for Innovators & Immigrants**

Anyone desiring to understand (or appeal to) America's pop culture, advertising and values, thousands of common expressions we use in everyday expression are defined in common usage.

- **The Gospel According to God**

The most thorough, Bible-based treatise on what it takes for a person to go to Heaven. Documenting and critiquing the two major views of the historic Lordship Salvation vs. Saviorhood Salvation controversy.

- **New Testament Color Charts**

These charts graphically explain the meaning and layout of God's latest Testament, using pictures, colors and text. It allows an easy understanding of context and perspective when studying the Bible.

- **Architecture Aficionado: How Anyone Can be Inspired to Admire (and Create) Architecture**

For an excellent summary of the most important topics of the Bible (which recently turned around a leading U.S. mega church), see our FREE web site, www.WillYouLiveForever.org

For a broad treatment of common sense, common ground solutions to politics-as-usual,
see our FREE website, www.AmericanAnswers.org