

Senior Challenge

Ephesians 6:1-3

Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. Honor your father and mother (this is the first commandment with a promise), that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land.

Proverbs 20:13

Whoever walks with the wise becomes wise, but the companion of fools will suffer harm.

If you were to ask me: ‘what has been your most significant means of grace over your high school years?’ I would say without hesitating that my parents have been the greatest means of grace in my life. Your parents have been placed in your life for a reason. They are not here just simply to keep you accountable or to correct you when necessary. Don’t get me wrong, both those things are very beneficial and should be practiced, but there is another purpose parents are to play in their teen’s life. Because your parents have lived far longer than you, and know a whole lot more than you do, they possess a wealth of knowledge and experience that a teen should benefit from. One of the primary reasons God has given us parents is because they are able to train and provide us much wisdom and insight for living. Honestly, I am indebted to my parents for all they have contributed to me over my high school years. Proverb 20:13 tells us to walk with the wise. In our season of life as youth, we are to be pursuing our parent’s wisdom so that we can grow in becoming more like Christ. I can remember numerous times when I have asked for my dad’s help in managing school, relating to friends, and simply making day to day decisions. When I think about what my high school life could have been like without my parent’s wisdom, I know I would not be at the place I am now, and I am so thankful for their

involvement and counsel in my life.

My second reason for pursuing my dad is to get his input. I know for a fact that my heart is sinful and the doctrine of sin tells me that I don't see my sin as clearly as my dad sees my sin. This is another reason parents come in real handy. I can remember a time when I was feeling especially godly, so I decided to ask my dad for his input on where I could grow. I was then rather shocked when my dad then kindly shared several observations with me that I did not expect to hear. I was quickly made aware of how unaware I am of my sin. Your parents know you the best, and they can help you see your sin, fight it, and put it to death. I would encourage you to pursue their continual input in your spiritual walk.

Lastly, pursue your parents as friends by building a close relationship with them. When you have a close relationship with your parents opening up with them will be so much easier. And if you don't have a close friendship with your parents, than this is the perfect way to gain one. I have so many great memories of hanging out with my family and friends at my house. Because my parents enjoy being with my sister and me and our friends, my high school years have been filled with many special memories that we've shared along the way. So in closing, I just want to encourage you teens to open your whole lives to your parents, and experience the grace of God in doing so.