



# September Parenting Notes

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In First and Second Kings we learn that many of the kings of Israel and Judah followed the example of their fathers, frequently in negative ways.<sup>1</sup> Truly the example we set is often more powerful than our words of instruction. Paul understood this clearly and called both Timothy (1 TI 4:12) and Titus (Titus 2:7) to set an example for the believers. Can you say to your children, like Paul in 1 CO 11:1, “follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ”?

## **Being an Example in Purity**

COL 3:5-9 “Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. <sup>6</sup> Because of these, the wrath of God is coming... <sup>8</sup> But now you must rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. <sup>9</sup> Do not lie to each other...” How are you modeling purity of heart for your children?

**Tip 1:** Do you struggle with lust, pornography, or other impurity? This will destroy your family (1 Peter 2:11). Flee from sexual immorality (1 CO 6:18). If this is a temptation that you struggle with, talk to others about it. Have them pray for you and hold you accountable. Humble yourself before the God of all power (James 4:7, 10) and ask Him to give you victory through God’s divine power (2 CO 10:4).

**Tip 2:** Do you struggle with evil desires, greed, filthy language, or other vice? It’s easy to be influenced by the world which accepts and even honors such behavior. Commit to yourself that you will not allow the pollution of the world to enter your mind and home. For example, you may decide to block certain video games, radio, TV, or web material (you can use free software such as ProCon Latte with Firefox). Additionally, you can refuse to see, or allow in your home, movies that are not pure (MovieGuide.org has reviews by moral critics).

**Tip 3:** Controlling our thoughts is important (MT 5:28). If an impure thought arises in your mind, be aware of it and bury it with scripture. Take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ (2 CO 10:5).

PHP 4:8 Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable--if anything is excellent or praiseworthy--think about such things.

## **Being an Example in Righteousness**

In relationships, righteous actions are the actions that promote the peace and well-being of others. PHP 2:3-4 “Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. <sup>4</sup> Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others”. How are you modeling love and service to others?

**Tip 1:** In John 13:12-17 Jesus modeled love by washing his disciples’ feet. He told his disciples that they would be blessed if they loved in this way. Have your children seen you serve others? Could you take a meal to someone, write an encouraging card, chaperone a play-date, or serve in some other way?

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<sup>1</sup> For an example, see 2KJ14:3