

Introduction:

- Property Laws According to a Toddler. How many of you have little brother or sister? Then you will be familiar with these property laws.
 - 1. If I like it, it's mine.
 - 2. If it's in my hand, it's mine.
 - 3. If I can take it from you, it's mine.
 - 4. If I had it a little while ago, it's mine.
 - 5. If it's mine, it must never appear to be yours in any way.
 - 6. If I'm doing or building something, all the pieces are mine.
 - 7. If it looks just like mine, it's mine.
 - 8. If I saw it first, it's mine.
 - 9. If you are playing with something and you put it down, it automatically becomes mine.
 - 10. If it's broken, it's yours.
- What do you suppose basketball great Michael Jordan would say was the luckiest thing that ever happened to him? Being born with the genes of an athletic superhero? Being drafted by the Chicago Bulls? Winning six (yes, six!) NBA championship titles? If you answered any of these you'd be very much wrong. Jordan spoke to his good fortune saying, "My heroes are and were my parents. You can't really depend on other people for guidance ... for setting an example you can see every day. ... **If you're lucky you grow up in a house where you can learn what kind of person you should be from your parents.**"
- *"Listen, O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. And you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your strength. And you must commit yourselves wholeheartedly to these commands that I am giving you today. Repeat them again and again to your children. Talk about them when you are at home and when you are on the road, when you are going to bed and when you are getting up."* (Deuteronomy 6:4-7, NLT)
- If it is possible, I am going to attempt to help you understand your parents this morning. Three things I want to look at with you this morning regarding parents: 1. What you don't know about parents. 2 What you think you know about parents. 3. What you should know about parents.

I. What You Don't Know About Parents Let me tell you some things you probably do not know.

A. Parents are responsible for you. Responsibility can be defined as: *"Involving important duties, the supervision of others, or the ability to make decisions with little supervision."*

American Heritage Dictionary. Being responsible creates pressure and stress in people's lives. Being responsible means that the weight of responsibility rests on you.

1. Parents are responsible to feed you, clothe you, provide shelter for you, train you, etc.
2. Parents are responsible for what you do. Your choices affect them.

3. And that is a lot of pressure. Let me show you what that is like. **le.** Back Pack with weights.
4. Be grateful! Say "thank you!" often.
- B. Parents love you more than you will ever know!
 1. I say this because there are so many times that some demon will whisper into your ear that your parents do not love you.
 2. Most times this happens right after you get in trouble for doing something wrong.
 3. And they seem to speak the loudest to you when you get blamed for something you did not do. **le.** When I was your age my little sister was always doing things to get me in trouble. Those were the times that I thought my parents did not love me but loved my sister.
 4. The truth is your parents would lay down their life for you if they need to...they love you so much.
 5. Sometimes life is not fair. Things happen, that again, causes us to think that mom and dad do not care. Mom and dad have 'surprise bills' and they can't buy you what you want. Some demon will try to convince you that your parents do not love you.
- C. Parents are wiser than you think. They have greater understanding of life because they have more life experience than you have.
 1. For example, if you live in Florida you assume: **IE.** Every lake has gator in it. Parents are aware of both dangers and opportunities because they are wise.
 - a) They want to protect you from dangers.
 - b) They want to help you recognize opportunities.
 2. You may have more experience with electronics devices that does not make your wiser than them.

II. What You Think You Know About Parents (Lies you believe about parents).

- A. You think you know better/more than your mom or dad.
 1. Every child is tempted to think that thought...especially teenagers.
 2. Every child has thought that since the beginning of time. **le.** It was Adam and Eve's down fall!
 3. Every child will think this thought at some point because they see their parents as to old fashioned.
 4. **le.** I have never seen an Emmy winning movie with a kid who is all wise. Wisdom is always portrayed by older people...even in cartoons!
 5. Absalom thought he was better than his dad. 2 Sam 14:25
 - a) Dad is dumb, used up, and no-one cares.
 - b) Absalom became rebellious. Rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft. And God opposes both rebellion and witchcraft.

- B. My Parents don't like me. Why would you think that way?
1. If you are thinking that way, then you are probably doing something that they do not like or are about to do something that they do not like. When they say "No!" You feel rejected and unloved.
 2. Because they have set boundaries for you that other kids do not have.
 - a) Ie. You don't get a phone and your friends do. "My parents hate me."
 - b) Ie. You don't get to stay out late and your friends do. "My parents hate me."
 - c) Your parents love and are protecting you from yourself and from others.
- C. Most parents realize how much they don't know.
1. Here is a life truth: The more you think you know about something the less you actually know. The more you know about something, the less you actually realize you know.
 2. Many kids think they know a lot but this proves how little they actually know.
 3. Ie. If a picture is far away you cant see blemishes/details but closer the picture comes the more easily flaws/details are seen. Ie. Mountain in the distant is beautiful but up close there are mountain lions, rock slides, cold temperature. Those who know about the mountain proceed with caution those who don't take greater risks.
- D. As technology changes it makes generational knowledge seem less relevant.
1. Our parents life will seem outdated. IE. Worries in my day will he get her pregnant. Worries in Joshua's day will she stay a girl?
 2. Generational wisdom seems outdated. Technology changes but wisdom does not. This is why the book of proverbs is still relevant today.
 3. Don't mistake technology for wisdom.

III. What You Should Know About Parents

- A. Their first duty is to love you.
1. We have been talking about Agape (A Bible word for love) love - Agape love seeks another persons good and often at its own expense.
 - a) Some parents work two jobs trying to be responsible for you.
 - b) Some parents will go in lack in order for you to be full, or do something fun.
 2. Sacrificially bring good into your life.
- B. Teach you to love God.
1. *"Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise."* (Deuteronomy 6:4-7, ESV)
 2. That is pretty much all the time.

- C. Train up in the way they should go. *“Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.”* (Proverbs 22:6, ESV)
1. What does this mean?
 - a) The word train means *“to dedicate or to start.”*
 - b) Instruction with application is what follows dedication.
 - c) Motivation must be able to see the desired end and want it.
 - d) The word child means dependent. However long that child is home you are to be pouring into them training them.
 - e) ‘In the way he should go’ means that at every stage of life he is getting instruction and motivation.
 2. Discipline is a part of your training. Pain has to be a part of your training. What hurts you, you avoid. I.e. If I know a candle is hot. I will not touch it. (Bring a candle.)
 - a) Therefore, you discipline yourself or someone else will discipline you.
 3. Parents have to teach you how to be successful in life.
- D. First time obedience
1. *“Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.”* (Eph 6:1, ESV)

Conclusion:

- Parents are like stakes put in the ground along side of small trees. They are there to give you strength to become what God desires you to be.
- *“I wish that I knew what I know now, when I was younger.”* Rod Steward, OooLaLa.